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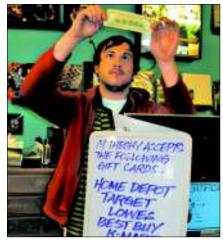
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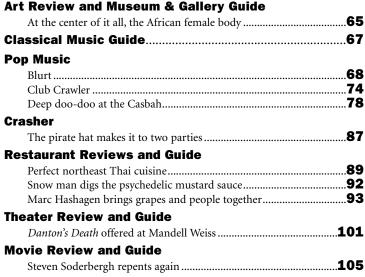
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# The Wiki Reader

"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 131.

**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* every week. Submit your comments at SDReader.com.

**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.

**High School Football and Basketball Blogs –** Anthony Gentile, the author of "Red Zone" (high school football) and "Fast Break" (basketball), has attracted fervent co-bloggers, including a food-fight between Cathedral Catholic and Oceanside High fans. 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 130.

**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 124.

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

**Story Comments** – A regular feature of the *Reader* website, some threads reach 100+ comments. Deletions are made only for gross obscenity and libel. Submit your comments 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.

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## CITYLIGHTS

Merrill Lynch. Household

net worth (assets minus lia-

bilities) has been declining

at a record rate. "House-

holds are shrinking their

balance sheets. Delinquen-

cies in prime and subprime

mortgages are at record

highs. One in ten house-

holds are in foreclosure or in arrears" on their debt.

not be talking about finan-

cial irresponsibility. It gam-

Merrill Lynch should

## **UNDER THE RADAR**

Changing of the guard If ex-superagent Jeff Moorad concludes his proposed deal for the Padres, local Republicans may send up a cheer. Current team owner John Moores is known for giving big money to California Democrats, who returned the favor by passing various bills bestowing financial favors on the multimillionaire. While he was in the legislature, ex-state senator Steve Peace, now on Moores's payroll and a member of the Padres' board, engineered an increase in rental car taxes to finance a \$25 million parking garage benefiting Petco Park.

But Moorad, the recently departed Diamondbacks owner who has homes near Phoenix



and in Orange County, has been a faithful giver to the GOP in both Arizona and California. Last year, he was one of John McCain's socalled bundlers, reportedly pledging to hit up friends and associates for at least \$100,000 in contributions to the Arizona

Ieff Moorad senator's ill-fated presiden-

tial campaign. His wife came up with an additional \$67,800 for the national GOP's separate McCain Victory 2008 committee, to which Moorad himself gave \$47,000.

Based on local demographics, one Arizona officeholder whom Moorad may try to distance himself from if he closes the Padres deal is controversial Maricopa County sheriff Joe Arpaio. Moorad and his wife gave Arpaio's 2008 reelection campaign at least \$740. The outspoken Republican sheriff has been accused by Democrats of racial profiling and is under fire from immigrant rights groups for raids during which illegal aliens were rounded up in predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods around Phoenix.

Lawyers' holiday How miserable is San Diego's hotel and convention business these days? So bad, apparently, that the grand old Hotel del Coronado has gone to court against a big Washington, D.C., law firm for canceling a posh partner retreat scheduled for five days at the end of April. In a complaint filed two weeks ago in superior court here, the Del, managed by KSL Resorts of La Quinta, alleges that Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP, signed a contract in July 2007 to "utilize 877 sleeping nights at the Hotel" for rates ranging from \$295 to \$895 per night, plus tax. The deal also required Akin Gump to plunk down "not less than \$166,870" plus taxes and a 22 percent service charge for drinks and banquet food. The complaint

says that if the law firm wanted to cancel out between 91 and 180 days prior to arrival, the con-

tract required it to pay "liquidated damages in

the amount of eighty percent" of the room and



"outstanding attention to issues affecting women in our community." Seating at the March 3 event is limited. ... "Men's rights" activists are threatening to protest at the world debut of The First Wives Club at the Old Globe this

movie about vengeful ex-wives, the musical by Motown legend Lamont Dozier and associates has been attacked by David Usher, a conservative who runs the American Coalition for Fathers and Children. He claims to have led picketing of the 1996 movie that reduced its box office take. — Matt Potter

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

## **Help Obama. Borrow. Buy.**

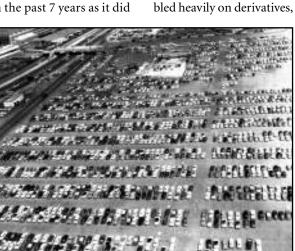
By Don Bauder

merican consumers and American financial institutions are suffering dyspepsia from an extended trip to Las Vegas.

The consumers drank and ate too much, and the banks gambled too much and lost big.

Now, to keep a deep recession from turning into a depression, the federal government wants the banks to lend money to the consumers so they both can get more dyspeptic. Understandably, the consumers don't want to borrow, and the banks don't want to lend.

Just a bit ago, U.S. households had 39 percent more debt than income. (That debt-to-income ratio has dropped slightly in the recession.) In 1962, consumers had 37 percent less debt than income. In 2001, they had only 1 percent more debt. "The U.S. debt-toincome ratio rose as much in the past 7 years as it did



Employee parking lot at Convair (southern view), 1950

in the previous 39 years," says economist David Rosenberg of Wall Street's

SDCERS Lowers DROP: Councilmember Carl DeMaio reports interest-rate drop to 3.54 percent on deferred retirements...

Read Don Bauder news updates like these every day at SDReader.com

particularly those tied to housing. In a shotgun marriage, Bank of America took over Merrill at a ridiculously high price — and now Bank of America is in the soup. In fact, it's crucial continued on page 8

#### **Neal Obermeyer**



to this point. We got no warning they decided to file a lawsuit." According to reports, Hotel del Coronado the firm cancelled out because

banquet figures, along with taxes and service

charges. The hotel says Akin Gump gave notice

on December 24 of last year that it wouldn't be

checking in, and so the law firm now owes

\$385,950, in addition to the \$40,000 deposit

already made, plus 1.5 percent monthly inter-

tor, told American Lawyer magazine that he'd

James Leary, Akin Gump's executive direc-

est until the bill is paid in full.

tried to work with the hotel

to reach a settlement. "I got

on a plane and flew cross

country to start negotiations

face to face. We are surprised

and disappointed it has come

it would be "unseemly" to take off for a luxury getaway by the sea, especially since 65 employees had just been laid off. It now plans to conduct a scaled-down one-day retreat in Washington.... Democrat Lori Saldaña, serving her last term in the state assembly, has already set up a campaign committee to run for a spot on the State Board of Equalization. Now, apparently taking no chances, she has registered an additional fund-raising vehicle: Lori Saldaña for Senate 2012. According to the filing, Saldaña is taking aim at District 39, where the seat is now held by her fellow termedout Democrat Christine Kehoe.

Attention deficit Ten of the 13 members of San Diego County's Commission on the Status of Women are appointed by the board of supervisors. According to the commission's website, there are currently 7 vacancies. But that hasn't stopped the group from scheduling its sixth annual "Salute to Supervisors," during which the people's five elected representatives

will be recognized for their

coming July. Based on the

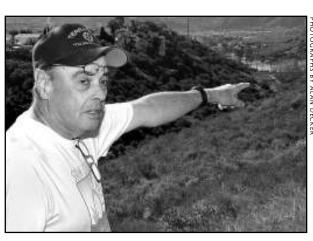
## Admiral Baker Says No!

By Joe Deegan

## ast spring, Lee Campbell was looking for an apt way that Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons might participate in River

Days. The celebration is staged annually by the San Diego River Park Foundation and was held in 2008 from May 10 to 18. After talking it over with friends, Campbell settled on two weekend hikes from southern Tierrasanta down to the clubhouse at the Admiral Baker Golf Course. His group could then have lunch at the clubhouse and hike back home afterward. Good views of the San Diego River are to be had along the way.

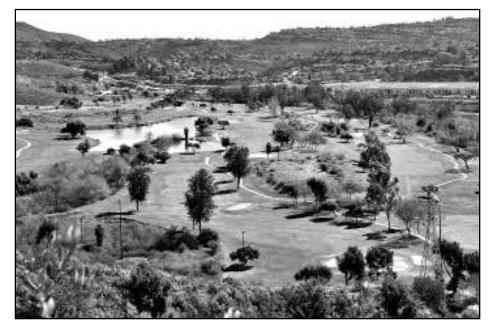
ting in the clubhouse and admiring a scenic horizon from Cowles Mountain on our right to the hills of Tierrasanta on the left. Behind us, guests are already sampling a buffet. The clubhouse sits above the river, which is in full view several hundred feet east. "So I came down here," Campbell tells me, "and checked with the restaurant folks if it was okay for our group to walk down here. 'Oh, sure, glad to have you. If



Lee Campbell points down Rueda Canyon toward the driving range

operated by the Navy and is open for golf to retired military and civil service personnel. The clubhouse, however, serves lunch and dinner to the general public. After a delay in reach-

ing the right person, who was traveling, word came back to Campbell that his wishes could not be accommodated because of "secu-



you have a large party, we

can put you on the patio,'

he'd better speak with some-

one who had more author-

ity. That's when things

became difficult. The golf

pros who run the club told

him that he'd have to sub-

mit a request letter that

could be passed further up

the chain of command. The

Admiral Baker course is

But Campbell figured

they said."

The Admiral Baker course is nestled in a low spot near the northeast corner of Friars Road and Santo Road. From Santo, an entrance road into the golf club takes you north along fairways to the driving range, where golfers tee off to the north. To the range's right lies the clubhouse with a large parking lot in front of it.

Campbell and I are sit-

Admiral Baker Golf Course

rity" concerns. "So I looked at the map to see if I could find another way down the hill, and I saw that the whole area of the driving range was on City open-space land." (Campbell says that another member of his community had been looking into the issue as early as 2007.)

The path that Campbell's group initially wanted comes down Rueda Canyon, west of the golf course, and empties onto a San Diego Gas and Electric access road that runs along the western, unfenced side of the driving range. A second trail, one he discovered through the map search, started at the end of Viacha Drive. But although it avoided the driving range, it was too steep for casual walkers. On the basis of this information, Campbell put in a second request to use his preferred route. It was denied for safety reasons.

"All it would take," says Campbell, "is for us to tell them the exact time we planned to walk by the driving range, and they could stop the driving for five minutes. We would still be on City land at that point. But no."

In the end, Campbell called all the people who had signed up for the hike and informed them of a change in plans. Eventually, they hiked halfway down the hill, crossing and recrossing a creek that flows into the San Diego River, to a picturesque viewpoint. Then they turned around and walked back to an Italian restaurant in Tierrasanta.

Although Campbell had told the golf pros he wanted to go only as far as the Admiral Baker clubhouse, he'd also mentioned that "in the future we want to have a trail that goes to the river." You might not have

wanted to mention that, I continued on page 10

## STRINGERS

#### Quick Response

By Chris Raney, 2/23/09 Logan Heights — At 1:31 p.m. on Sunday, February 22, at the intersection of National Avenue and 31st Street in Logan Heights, a



Accident at National Ave. and 31st

motorcyclist collided with a pickup truck, trapping the motorcyclist underneath the truck.

The motorcyclist was traveling eastbound on National Avenue when the pickup truck pulled in to the intersection traveling southbound on 31st Street. The motorcycle slid to the ground and hit the pickup truck while sliding, causing the motorcyclist, a Caucasian male, to become pinned underneath the rear wheel of the pickup truck. Upon impact, the front wheel of the motorcycle became detached from the front fork, and the motorcyclist's helmet flew off.

The first police car arrived at the scene at 1:33 p.m. The San Diego Fire Department arrived with the first fire engine at 1:35 p.m. By 1:40 p.m., there were four fire engines and at least six police cars at the intersection.

The fire department heavy-rescue team arrived to lift the truck so that the motorcyclist could be freed and taken to the hospital. At 1:50 p.m., after the truck had been lifted, the motorcyclist was placed on a stretcher and taken to the hospital.

#### Grampa and the Young Woman

*By Robert Crecco, 2/23/09 Mira Mesa* — I'm a parttime clerk at an am/pm in Mira Mesa. Saturday is busy, but at 8 p.m., the store was empty and my coworker and I relaxed behind our registers. The glass door swung open, and he entered — gray hair, stooped shoulders, and a smile. He was everyone's "grampa." Halfway through the store, passing in front of both of us, he stopped, went down on one knee, and toppled over. My coworker ran to him. I ran to dial 911.

They answered quickly and asked if he was conscious. I asked my partner, who was kneeling by his side, and she said, "no pulse." He was turning a bluish color. The operator said to hit his chest. I handed the phone to my partner, since she was next to him.

Suddenly the doors burst open and a young woman, sobbing loudly, ran in, jumped down, and started to compress the old man's chest. I asked her who she was. She told us she didn't know him. She was getting gas and saw what happened.

Four police cruisers drove up to the front doors, sirens screaming and lights flashing. The ambulance pulled up. They worked on him for half an hour, and as they left, one of the policemen said, "I think they got a faint pulse."

### For Whom the Bridge Tolls

*By Sheila Pell, 2/23/09 Coronado* — Seven years after the toll for the San Diego– Coronado Bay Bridge was



Coronado l

dropped, a controversial proposal to bring it back is in the works. The toll would fund construction of an under*continued on page 8*  CITYLIGHTS CITYLIGHTS CITYLIGHTS CITYLIGHTS CITYLIGHTS

## Help Obama

continued from page 6

to understand that the major banks and Wall Street investment banks (now simply called "banks") are dead broke. Busted. They hold these derivatives — popularly called "toxic assets" and there is no market for them. So you wonder why the banks don't want to make loans?

Banks resuming their lending to consumers would be like two drunks helping each other across the street — yet that's what the government wants. Consumers, even though they are tapped out, are the only hope to stimulate the economy. Stimulating residential and commercial real estate is out of the question. The first remains deep in the hole, and the second is plunging in right now.

What about manufacturing? In years past, when faced with a recession, the government would take moves to stimulate manufacturing. But look at the numbers: 50 years ago, manufacturing was 28.7 percent of employment, according to the Alliance for American Manufacturing. Now it's 9.8 percent, and there are one million fewer workers making things than there were half a century ago. We've shipped those higher-paying jobs abroad to jack up corporate profits and chief executives' obscene remuneration.

In San Diego 50 years ago, manufacturing was 27 percent of total employment, says Kelly Cunningham, economist for the National University System Institute for Policy Research. Now it's down to 8 percent. Half a century ago, San Diego had 74,000 manufacturing jobs, and 51,000 were in aerospace. Now there are only 6400 aerospace jobs.

The consumer dyspepsia is more acute in San Diego. Housing prices soared more rapidly than almost anywhere in the country. Then they crashed more traumatically. San Diego consumers had borrowed against that phony increase in the value of their homes. Further, more than in other cities, San Diegans had exotic mortgages with rates that rose through time. "Definitely, our households are more heavily in debt" than households in most other U.S. locales, says Cunningham.

And remember, even before home values began to soar, San Diegans were too deeply in debt. "San

### Stringers continued from page 7

ground tunnel or underpasses along 3rd and 4th streets in Coronado to ease traffic congestion. A panel discussion on the topic — an unofficial city meeting with only one council member present — was held February 19 at the Coronado Community Center. Jim Benson, Coronado Assistant City Manager, warned of "virtual gridlock" when a third Naval carrier arrives in 2010.

#### Attack Drones Land

*By Ken Harrison*, 2/21/09 *Carlsbad* — Beachgoers are noticing the changes on the sand at Seaside, Cardiff Reef, Ponto, South Carlsbad, and Tamarack beaches.

The old fiberglass towers are classic California architecture made famous by *Baywatch* and other TV shows. Not everyone likes the new, unevenly shaped towers. (Are those shining aqua-blue things lifeguard towers or attack

Diego housing costs are 46 percent higher than they are in the nation, and the cost of living is 31 percent higher," while incomes are only 24 percent above the national norm, says Cunningham. Now the boa constrictor is squeezing harder. drones from an upcoming Star Wars film?)

A section of Ponto Beach is now a graveyard of nine old towers. Lifeguards had advertised the free towers on craigslist for those wanting a unique playhouse or artist's retreat in their backyard. Higher-ups got wind of the giveaway and stopped it for reasons of possible liability, should a tower drop off of a private moving truck at 55 mph on I-5.

Estimates to send the old towers to the landfill were too expensive. Plans now call for transport down to Silver Strand State Beach in Imperial Beach.

#### Camp Gitmo, California

*By Dorian Hargrove*, 2/20/09 *Oceanside* — Several weeks ago, during the public comment portion of an Oceanside City Council meeting, a concerned citizen asked the mayor and four councilmembers to take a stand on the potential closure of the detention facility in Guantanamo

Businesses that rely on

consumer spending are feel-

ing the pinch. In 2005, there

were almost 43,000 retail

outlets (including restau-

rants) in San Diego. Two

years later it was barely

above 40,000, and this year

it could easily fall to 38,000,

Bay, Cuba. The citizen feared some of those detainees might be moved to the Marine Corps base in Camp Pendleton, just outside Oceanside city limits.

Shortly after the meeting, councilmember Jack Feller requested the city council hear the issue at the next meeting and pledge their opposition to transferring any of the 250 detainees to Camp Pendleton.

"I think the citizens deserve to be comfortable, and I believe this will be a target for possible, uh, terrorism," said Feller at the February 18 meeting. After Feller was finished, Mayor Jim Wood asked the other councilmembers if there was anyone willing to second the motion. No one spoke, but Councilmember Esther Sanchez asked to comment. Before Sanchez started,

Feller spoke once again.

"We don't need a comment if nobody is going to second it."

Show Me the Trust

By Dorian Hargrove, 2/19/09

says Cunningham. "Retail employment between December of '07 and December of '08 was down 8500 jobs, the biggest drop of any sector," says Alan Gin, economist at the University of San Diego. San Diegans' consumer confi-

*Chula Vista* — At a special budget hearing on ways the city could slash \$4 million from this fiscal year's budget and \$20 million from the budgets of the following five years, the crowd was so large, hundreds of residents were forced to wait outside the hearing.

At one end of the plaza, outside of the entrance, a group wearing green T-shirts held signs protesting the proposed closure of the Chula Vista Nature Center. A dozen feet away, parents of young children held signs pleading for after-school programs to stay intact.

Last month the city council agreed to send the issue to the voters in the form of a mail-in ballot. If passed, the measure would raise the sales tax from 7.75 percent to 8.75 percent for the next ten years, earning the city an extra \$20 million in revenue each year.

#### Comments

1. As I see it, the problem with continued on page 12

dence "is at an all-time low. The index is half of what it was a year ago. I don't see any positive signs for consumer spending right now."

Abe Lincoln said that government should only do what the people can't *continued on page 10* 





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# **PageNine**

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## Help Obama

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do for themselves. Ross Starr, University of California, San Diego economist, feels the same way. With broke banks not lending and consumers not willing to borrow, that leaves the federal government. It can still borrow, and it should do so to finance infrastructure investment, as well as other initiatives such as aid to states that are severely ailing, says Starr. Infrastructure projects should create jobs and boost consumer income. In time, depleted household savings will rise, and consumers might want to spend responsibly again.

In the meantime, the banking sector remains problematic. "We need a financial sector capable of channeling those private savings into investment. It is not doing that right now," says Starr. For several years, these banks have been gambling on derivatives "that are really poisonous. It's hard to tell how many booby

traps the financial sector is sitting on."

"There is no question that some capital was misallocated," says James Hamilton, also an economist at the University of California, San Diego. "You would have to be crazy to deny that. We put a lot of resources into building up the housing stock. Was that a mistake? You bet it was."

In my judgment, Wall Street was not only gambling on derivatives but also on counterproductive activities such as leveraged buyouts, a dubious process by which a public company is taken private, loaded up with debt, and brought public again — accomplishing absolutely nothing except making a few people rich

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and ladening a company's balance sheet with lowquality (often junk) leverage. Thank goodness leveraged buyouts have almost disappeared in the credit crunch.

Consumer spending is now more than 70 percent of the U.S. economy (and about the same percent in San Diego). "We were importing goods from countries that we promised to pay later. That was not sustainable. It has left us poorer today," says Hamilton. "We were borrowing hundreds of billions from China and other places. Was this constructive? It was not." He is concerned that the borrowing the United States will have to do to finance the stimulus program could worsen the deficit greatly and complicate the process of the Treasury raising money.

And, notes Starr, we will have all this additional borrowing at a time when the demographics are going against us. "The bulge in population currently aged from their early 40s to early



60s will be retiring over the next two decades, requiring increased medical care" and other entitlements such as Social Security. The U.S. has known about this for decades but has not prepared for it. "The balance sheet of the federal government is a pension fund with an Army and a Navy."

That should make you feel better. Go out and borrow and consume!

## Admiral Baker

continued from page 7 chime in. Maybe that scared

them off.

"It could have, but I'm not so sure," says Campbell. "From everything I've heard, when a community group wants access to or near a [nonsensitive] federal facility, the U.S. government is cooperative in finding a way to make it happen.

"Even the San Diego River Coalition wanted us to keep pursuing the trail all the way to the river. One of their key concerns is to give people access to the river once it's been developed and is in good shape again. "Of course, not every-

body in Tierrasanta will want the trail I'm talking about," says Campbell, who is also a member of the Tierrasanta Community Council. He tells me of a 2001 battle among residents over a plan, eventually defeated, to extend Tierrasanta Boulevard into a bike path to the



river. "It was even going to have a bridge over the river, and the City expressed interest. But the City's plan was too expensive, and they didn't think it through very well. People were afraid for kids because much of the path was not visible from above, the path was steep, and there were lots of switchbacks."

After River Days, Campbell pestered civilian employees of the Navy for a trail to the river. His phone calls, he says, were not returned. "If we could go out along the golf course entrance road all the way to Friars and then cut down to the river, that would be nice. After all, it would be on City land. I wanted them to know that I'm not arguing against the Navy using City land. I just want a trail."

The City may have long known that the Navy was encroaching on the open space. But to make sure, Campbell called the encroachment to the attention of the City's Real Estate Assets Department, the city attorney's office, and Bill Anderson, head of the planning department. At first, the efforts produced no action that Campbell was privy to. "They were probably doing a behind-thescenes thing to make this go away, and finally a response will come out saying that the military owns all the land, and there's nothing we can do about it." Campbell wondered if the City had already turned the land over in a quitclaim deed. A City employee, whose

name Campbell won't divulge, told him, "We ought to do a route slip. It gets a number, becomes an action, and can be tracked." So they approached Councilman Madaffer's office. When Campbell later asked about the route slip's progress, an official in the office told him not to worry because Bill Anderson claimed to be "on top of it."

The Navy might get lucky continued on page 12

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## Admiral Baker

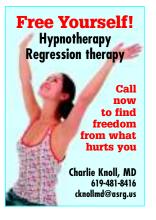
continued from page 10

if the City takes no action against the encroachment on the west side of the golf course, but that's not so likely on its east side. That's where the course also encroaches on property of the Superior Ready Mix's Mission Gorge plant. By phone, I reach the company's attorney, Arnie Veldkamp, who says he can't discuss negotiations that are now under way with the Navy. But Campbell says that, in conversations with company employees, he's

learned that Superior wants to build on the land, which is near the river.

At a meeting of the San Diego River Park Foundation in early November, Campbell ran into Bill Anderson and bent his ear over the encroachment problem. The encounter resulted eventually in Anderson's instructing the City's Real Estate Assets Department to investigate.

On November 20, real estate assets' Lane MacKenzie wrote to Chris Zirkle, director of the Park and Recreation Department's open-space division. The letter indicated that in two



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actions, one in 1944 and another in 1968, the federal government deeded to the City approximately 444 acres that now include the driving range and one hole on the golf course. But the exact boundaries of the land are unclear. MacKenzie indicated that he had spoken with Navy officials. "The Navy acknowledged," he wrote, "that if the question persists about this possible encroachment, the only way to resolve it, to everyone's satisfaction, would be to have the entire area fully surveyed. Such a survey could possibly exceed \$20,000."

Tierrasanta Community Council members do not want to spend that much on surveying. On January 22, the council's open-space committee decided to buy from a "photo bank" in Mira Mesa old aerial shots of Tierrasanta that might clear up the encroachment issue. One such photo currently hangs on a wall of the Tierrasanta Branch Library. After the photos are obtained, the committee plans to pursue negotiations further with the Navy over trail access from Tierrasanta to the San Diego River.

"I do not want to evict the Navy from the golf course or the driving range," Campbell writes me in an email. "The golf course is a great asset to Tierrasanta. Besides providing recreation for our military families, it also provides a won-

## Stringers

continued from page

one-cent is it puts too much extra money in the hands of at least three totally untrustworthy people. Councils have been fiscally irresponsible for years in Chula Vista, spending reserves in good times instead of building them. Now the City Manager is saying he wants to use the extra money to build the reserves during a recession! By thacerro 9:47 p.m., Feb 19, 2009

- 2. That was created by Ed Herrera, who is a member of the Southwest Civic Association and Chula Vista Taxpayers Association someone just trying to make a name for themselves by jumping on a soapbox. By chulavistian 9:02 a.m., Feb 20, 2009
- 3. The main concern is that Prop A will hurt Chula Vista families and businesses big and small. It's too much for too long and profoundly lacks safeguards. Sales taxes are regressive, economists agree, and harm fixed- and low-income families most. Not one cent of the tax is earmarked for public

derful view, a quiet zone, and a buffer area...that helps define Tierrasanta as the 'island in the hills.' "

Still, Campbell feels that his community deserves a trail to the San Diego River.

safety or anything that proponents state in the ballot the money would go to. City hall has recklessly spent at least \$270,000 in taxpayer money to make this special election — \$19,000 of it went to a consultant to poll 400 people to see if they would be successful in taxing us more. Not to mention city hall's many taxpayer money plunders from a so-called fire inspection tax in our businesses to the mayor paying over \$200,000 to her aide/chief of staff and refusing to give up full perks such as her car allowance.

By CleanUpChulaVista CityHall 10:48 a.m., Feb 20, 2009

#### The Wall

By Thomas Uriah Jarboe, 2/18/09

Downtown San Diego — To find a restroom, you can wander into hotel lobbies...and Horton Plaza has restrooms located on the top floor of the food court and at all the bars and restaurants.

But the mall's bathrooms close when the mall does. And you need to be a paying customer to use restrooms provided by downtown businesses, which leaves the only

The river park foundation wants as much public access to the river as possible. "And the foundation's plan," says Campbell, "encompasses little tributaries like the creek we followed halfway

down the hill last spring." Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons hope to participate in River Days again this May. This time, they hope to walk all the way to





public restrooms downtown on Third Avenue between C and B streets.

Anyone walking around downtown has seen the multitudes of homeless people. Over 30 people camp at the central library and post office on E Street (between Eighth and Ninth avenues) every night. If you're wondering if they all make it down to the Third Avenue restrooms every time nature calls, the answer is no.

The Five Star Parking lot at Ninth and Broadway is adjacent to the Library Lofts on Ninth and E Street. The wall of the Library Lofts has become a late-night latrine. Daily, parking attendants cover the ground at the base of the wall with kitty litter to help eliminate the odor. Five Star repaints the wall every month.

#### Comments

1. They should paint targets on the wall awarding points for level of difficulty! By bobkostlan 6:55 p.m., Feb 19, 2009

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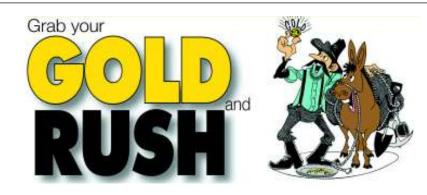
the river.



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## LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 460; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-231-0489; or use our web page at SanDiegoReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## Cockroach Brain Speaks

Maybe it is because I spent several years cold canvassing business firms that Cami Adair's piece rang true for me ("Please Let Me Sell Them Pest Control," Cover Story, February 12).

She acquired an education in human nature. The humor, anguish, suspense, and surprise that one encounters when dealing with individuals is presented by her in a sprightly way. Of

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24-month financing available! 8400 Miramar Rd. • San Diego 858-695-6670 • FirstStopMattress.com Mon.-Sat. 10 am-7 pm • Sun. 11 am-5 pm course, she is sprightly because she hops over fences, lands on her feet, while always being able to muster up a smile.

Humor — She imagined her crew as a bunch of cockroaches slipping into residences. We can only keep our sanity if we can laugh at our place in the world.

Anguish — Without a sale, she will have to post a zero on the sales board. The anticipation of pain will weigh on her for a whole day.

Suspense — Will she be nabbed by the evil homeowner's association operative?

Surprise — Richard Dreyfuss? Did she make this up? This is just too good! And he laughed at her impersonation of a snail. A star connects with a cockroach.

If that isn't enough for an A-plus grade, she puts in something profound. Relations with other humans depend, she says, not on the conversation as much as on the metaconversation.

I learned that too in my cold-call days. I think that it took me three years to discover it. Actually, with my small cockroach brain, that is fairly fast. Bravo, Cami.

Fellow Peddler Miramar Ranch North

## Bugman In Iraq

I really enjoyed Cami Adair's style of writing, dialogue, story-recounting, and overall point of view in her February 12 pest control article ("Please Let Me Sell Them Pest Control," Cover Story). I'm an entomologist with the U.S. Air Force. And I love integrated pest management. Were the pest controllers of the world one of the first groups, if not *the* first group, to go green? I wonder if this has hindered pest control as a business or helped due to several enviro-friendly products now hitting the marketplaces?

Iraq

## Graceful, Poetic

This week's "T.G.I.F." column entitled "Remarkable people were at the Carlsbad station that Friday" (February 12) was graceful, poetic, and refreshing. I don't usually write letters to the editor, but I'm so moved by the natural flow and imagery of Mr. Brizzolara that I had to sit down and write to you. You've got a talented writer in him. I'm already looking forward to next week's Reader. I've not seen such quality writing in any local publication anywhere I've lived (NY, TN, NM, MD...), so thanks, and keep it up!

> Matt Buchly via email

### My Other Plane's A Turbo

While your "Clipped Wings" piece ("City Lights," February 12) pointed out a few conspicuous examples of executive excess, it blatantly ignored the great majority of business aircraft that are used for legitimate purposes. Every day, hundreds of passengers from private and public companies, military organizations, and government agencies, along with several elected officials in state and federal government positions, travel in business aircraft. It's as though you decided to tar and feather everyone who owns or leases a car in America along with the 1 percent of fat cats who ride around in stretched limos, luxo SUVs, or \$200,000 European sedans.

For example, the considerably smaller and less expensive turboprop and turbofan business aircraft, based at local general-aviation airports, including Montgomery Field, Carlsbad's McClellan-Palomar Airport, Gillespie, and Brown fields, are much more representative of workaday business airplanes. Every day, hundreds of such aircraft enable people to reach destinations much more efficiently and with much greater schedule flexibility than they could on the airlines. These aircraft are anything but polished royal barges for coddled elitists who deem themselves too good for airline travel. Six out of seven of these aircraft are used. not new. They have useful lives of 35 to 45 years, so they aren't glamorous or gleaming like new models fresh from the factory.

"But, why do we need business aircraft at all, when we have the airlines?" you might ask. Just try taking the city bus — instead of your own car or a cab — to your next business meeting across town or another city in San Diego County. "That's a ridiculous comparison,"

continued on page 52



14 San Diego Reader February 26, 2009





### STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

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#### Heymatt:

Traveling down the freeway of life, the latest wrinkle on the road are sand and gravel trucks with a sign claiming, "Not responsible for damage to windshields." Huh? Did the truck-

ers' lobby manage to convince the legislature and governor that they shouldn't have to pay for dinged/cracked windshields resulting from carelessly loaded trucks? And if they are liable, how do I make a claim?

— Pitted, Dinged, and Cracked in Pine Valley

All the bad news is contained in Section 23114 of the state vehicle code. You'd expect 23114 to be good news since it set rules for trucks that haul dirt and aggregate. But when you're looking at it from the road in back of the truck, you see that the law's not a lot of help.

Since 1990, California companies that own trucks that move loads of dirt have had to meet certain specifications: no holes in the container: enclose cargo with four walls; seal the points where tailgates or bottom-release gates meet the container body; cover the tops of your tires with fenders and hang mud flaps behind each set of tires; and use shed boards when you load your truck so stones don't bounce out and build up on the truck body. So far, complete nobrainers.

When the legislation was written, it was dubbed "Stop the Rocks!" So is there anything in the law that might actually stop rocks? Well, it does say that the load must be covered by a tarp. Great! Well...not so great when you get to the exceptions: you don't need a tarp if the sand or gravel remains six inches below the upper edge of the container. And if your truck is filled (from a chute or conveyor) so the load mounds up in the middle, you don't need a tarp as long as the peak of the load is level with the upper edge of the container. Violation of 23114 rates a misdemeanor ticket.

But what about your claim for a cracked windshield? If you can prove that the truck is in violation and as a result broke your windshield, you might have a case in small-claims court. Your first and biggest problem is identifying the specific offending rock, then proving it came from the truck. You would have to prove that because of the final ugly exception

to the "Stop the Rocks!" law. Rocks thrown back by vehicle tires (either out of the treads or from the road surface) are considered road hazards, and 23114 doesn't apply to road hazards. Case closed.

> I've always dreamed of coming back to life as a towtruck driver with a

perpetual contract with the police department. If I can't have that, I guess I'll be an auto-glass replacer.

#### Hevmatt:

My friend's dog just died of cancer, and it got me to wondering what other animals (other than people) get cancer. I know cats do. But has anybody ever found a skunk that's died of cancer, or a squirrel or some-

thing like that? Linda, San Diego

Sorry about your friend's dog. According to the American Veterinary Medicine Association, at least 50 percent of all house pets over age ten (principally cats and dogs) will suffer from cancer. It's commonly a disease of older animals, including us, so your squirrel might be spared. Odds are, small tasty animals like that will be eaten by big hungry things like coyotes and hawks long before the small tasty animals can get old enough to worry about cancer.

Aside from cats, dogs, hamsters, rats, our furry house friends, the other category of animals that are protected from death by Buick or predator are zoo animals. They live longer than their counterparts in the wild, and an amazing herd of animal species has been necropsied at zoos and the medical results published in journals. Cancer has killed a list of species that reads like the manifest for Noah's Ark: snakes, pandas, giraffes, parakeets, tigers, fruit bats, kangaroos, ferrets, tapirs, frogs, lemurs, chickens, hedgehogs, geckos, zebras, whales, camels, rhinos, alpacas, elephants, and meerkats (awwwww!).

The list is longer. In fact, based on veterinary medical research, virtually all vertebrates are susceptible to cancer. Life span and exposure to common carcinogens seem to be the key factors. But apparently nobody's looked for cancer in squishy things such as snails and clams. They happen to make up most of the world's animals, and maybe one day we'll find out that they get cancer too.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com Got a question you need answered? Send an email to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

**SportingBox** 

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

# World Baseball Classic 2



he World Baseball Classic (WBC) had an uneasy genesis in 2006. A year earlier, baseball, along with softball, was voted out of the Olympics, ordered to make its last appearance at the Beijing Games. Baseball became the first sport to be dropped since polo was banished after the 1932 Olympics.

Baseball responded to the vote by saying, "Fuck you, we'll make our own party." And that, boys and girls, is how the WBC came to be.

TV didn't know what to do with it. ESPN paid \$5 million for the broadcast rights and wound up televising most games on their Spanish-language channel, ESPN Deportes.

ESPN's guy for programming and acquisitions, Len Deluca, told *The Wall Street Journal*, "We did this on three months' notice; we did it with no chance to sell it; we did it with barely a chance to schedule it."

MLB owners were not happy about having a tournament in the middle of their spring training. Athletes were not happy about risking injury for an attaboy and a medal nobody cares about.

Big-deal baseball statistician, newbie political blogger, and cable-news guest Nate Silver did a study on the 2006 WBC. He came to the conclusion that pitchers, particularly starting pitchers, were less productive back at their day job after playing in the tournament.

And the inaugural tournament was not that interesting. The U.S. was bounced out of the WBC after the second round. Japan won, but backed its way to the top. Nothing special.

WBC 1 was ignored by the media and despised by team owners. Big picture: not so good. Baseball-business picture: not so bad. Referring to the *Wall Street Journal* again, the 2006 WBC turned a profit of between \$10 million and \$15 million, had a total attendance of 740,000, and raked in pretty good TV ratings.

WBC 2 kicks off on March 5 and ends with a championship game on March 23. The extravaganza is produced by Major League Baseball/Major League Baseball Players Association, "supported by" all their partners, sidekicks, co-conspirators, and sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF), whoever that is.

So, 16 national teams in four pools:

Pool A: China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea; Pool B: Australia, Cuba, Mexico, South Africa; Pool C: Canada, Italy, United States, Venezuela; Pool D: Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Panama, Puerto Rico.

Major league professionals can play. Please.

Rule changes for Round 1 and Round 2: each pool will feature a six-game, double-elimination format. The first two teams in each pool to collect two losses will be dropped; the other two move on.

Round 1 games will be played in the Tokyo Dome, Tokyo; Estadio Foro Sol, Mexico City; Rogers Centre, Toronto; Hiram Bithorn Stadium, San Juan. Round 2 games will be played in Dolphin Stadium (Miami) and Petco Park. Finals will be played at Dodger Stadium.

I'm beginning to understand why owners, players, and fans say that nothing can kill baseball. To wit, the Black Sox Scandal. Chicago White Sox threw the 1919 World Series. The Dead Ball Era. Babe Ruth hit 29 home runs in 1919. The average number of runs scored per game was 3.4 in 1908. The Pittsburgh Drug Trials of 1985, starring cocaine. Eleven players were suspended, said suspensions were waived for community service and money. Pete Rose. Owner collusion. *Steroids*. Taxpayer subsidies. Constantly rising ticket prices. A national economic meltdown whose bottom no one sees. And baseball is making more money than ever.

Baseball's spring-training leagues, Florida Grapefruit and Arizona Cactus, have seen \$250,000,000 in new-stadium construction. The Chicago White Sox, moving into a new ballpark in Glendale, Arizona, said their ticket sales are up over 50 percent. The Cleveland Indians moved into a new \$115 million ballpark in Goodyear, Arizona. Their sponsorship is up 20 percent, and they sold 45,000 tickets before their box office officially opened.

Major League Baseball hides its numbers as well as any mob-run casino did in Vegas during the 1950s. Still, it's possible to get a hint of how well they're doing. *Forbes.com* reports baseball earned a half-billion dollars in 2006 through ticket sales, merchandising, and blah, blah, blah. But the key stat belongs to commissioner Bud Selig. He makes \$17 million per year. That's a number that screams, WE HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY!

So, if baseball wants to run a tournament with the likes of South Africa, Italy, and the Netherlands as co-equal participants, well, who's going to stop them?

MLB Network will televise 16 World Baseball Classic games. ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Deportes will televise 23 games, including the Semi-Final and Final Games. And \$19.95 gets you Round 1 and Round 2 live on http://web.worldbaseballclassic.com

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## fast break



Torrey Pines guard Spencer Klein shoots a runner over La Costa Canyon center Dennis Kramer

#### No. 5 Torrey Pines takes thriller and Avocado title from No. 2 La **Costa Canyon**

Posted February 21, 2009

Friday night's regular season finale between No. 5 Torrey Pines (23-4) and No. 2 La Costa Canyon (21-5) was for more than just area bragging rights — it was also for a league title. The Falcons jumped out to a third-quarter lead and held off a late Mavericks rally for a thrilling 44-43 victory.

"To play these guys for a league championship and to win, it's a great feeling," said Torrey Pines guard Trevor Newquist.

Newquist made the go-ahead free throw with 21.2 seconds left and forced La Costa Canvon guard James McCann into difficult shots at the other end that McCann couldn't convert, preserving the win for the Falcons.

"Anytime you win a league championship in the last game on the last second, it feels pretty euphoric," said Torrey Pines head coach John Olive.

Torrey Pines and La Costa Canyon finished their league campaigns with identical 9-1 records, which means the rivals will share the Avocado League crown.

'This senior group has won three straight titles," Olive said. "That's pretty impressive."

## The Rock Academy solid in second year of program

Posted February 19, 2009 The Rock Academy launched its high school in

Point Loma in September 2007 and finished 3-10 in its first varsity basketball season last winter. This season, the Warriors basketball program improved their record by 13 wins.

"We expected to be solid," said The Rock's head coach and athletic director Zack Jones. "I didn't know how good we were going to be."

The Rock (16-2) has done this without a home court or a court to practice on. The Warriors practice and play home games at the Salvation Army Gym in Clairemont, an 11-minute drive from their



By Anthony Gentile



The Rock forward Tyler Cross, a transfer from Horizon, is the team's leading scorer

Point Loma campus.

"When we have an evening game, it's full in here," Iones said.

The Rock has also had success this season in spite of their small enrollment. The nine players on the Warriors' varsity team make up 22 percent of the school's high school enrollment. The school was started as an extension of The Rock church in Linda Vista in 2002 with 38 students from kindergarten through sixth grade. One year later, the school added seventh and eighth grade, and in 2007 the high school opened its doors.

Jones said a lack of numbers and facilities are the program's biggest challenges. But neither of those factors held the Warriors back this season.

"The kids make up for that with attitude, and support from the parents has been tremendous getting rides back and forth from our facility to wherever we need to go," Jones said.

#### Eastlake evens score with Otav Ranch, clinches share of Mesa crown

Posted February 19, 2009

The Mesa League title was up for grabs Wednesday night when Otav Ranch met Eastlake - and neither of last year's co-champs wanted to give it up. In a back-and-forth game, the Titans won 57-52 to earn a split and capture at least a share of the league championship.

With four minutes to play, Otay Ranch guard Alex Perez broke a 46-46 tie with a three-pointer. The Mustangs did not relinquish that lead until the final 30 seconds, when Eastlake forward Robert Graves made a tough inside layup.

On the ensuing possession, Eastlake guard Martin Meza stole the ball at halfcourt. After two Meza free throws, Otay Ranch had a chance to tie the game, trailing by three with 15.2 seconds left. But Isaiah Hall could not handle the inbounds pass and Meza was there for another steal. Meza added two free throws to put the game out of reach.

"That's just working hard," Meza said of his steals in the final minute.

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

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**BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA** 

#### An urge to strangle some girl I've never met overtakes me for a moment.

I am writing this the day before that Godforsaken Hallmark idiocy, Valentine's Day, and it is Friday the 13th. This seems to spell doomed love. There are other kinds of real affection. I have several examples, personally. But as far as passionate romance goes, Gram Parsons once pointed out, "Some fools think of happiness, blissfulness, togetherness, some fools fool themselves I guess, but they're not fooling me... I know it isn't true."

Cynical? Sure, but I can't argue for a minute. I'm talking about romantic love, Valentine love, naturally, and not abiding, mature love.

My roommate at the moment is my son. He is 31 and longs for female companionship. Don't know if it's love or sex he wants, but he hasn't had a girlfriend for years. The last time he did, he was beaten with a bicycle chain by a stalking ex-boyfriend of the tender lass. It snapped him mentally. Still, he's a kind of genius,

especially with computers, and his friends are as well. One of them, a member of his local area network for role-playing games such as World of Warcraft, is here now. They are going out to look for chicks.

One chick in particular lives in the building, and they are going to call on her, "Just to see what happens," Lars shrugs. A good-looking lad, if a bit computer nerdy. A black Pharaoh-like goatee depends from his chin.

My boy puts on his best clean shirt, and they set off reeking of aftershave. Bantam struts are detected in their gaits. They are gone for maybe 20 minutes. Only my son returns. He is walking much slower and goes to the refrigerator immediately. He gets himself a soda and a cold chicken breast. He eats slowly as if it's his last meal.

> "What happened?" "Nothing." "She wasn't there?" "No" "No, she wasn't there? Or, no, that's

not what happened?" No response. It's left alone.

"I was listening to whatstheirnames, Jeff and Jer? Yesterday. They were fixing this guy up with three possible blind dates. But that wasn't the funny part. One of them was talking about wine-tasting. How you stick your nose in the glass. One guy was riffing on the imaginary odors, like pear and cherries and stuff. He says, 'Hmm...I detect corn silos and flat tires.'"

No response, except he takes the soda and chicken breast to his room. He slams the door. An urge to strangle some girl I've never met overtakes me for a moment.

Bitterness about love is not the result of some recent heartbreak. Just history. And not just mine.

A college-professor friend sometime ago - call him Barry — was devastated by a cute little thing. Half his age, maybe. Smitten, he did all the right things. She responded, dated him, accepted his gifts, put out.

Barry worked in the same La Jolla bookstore as I, waiting for his orals and doctorate. His prospects were excellent, and that was the draw to the Cute Little Thing. You don't get a Ph.D. overnight. He did, of course, get the title of doctor, but not before C.L.T. was seen smooching with another guy in the same bar/restaurant that Barry



and I frequented after work.

At the bar, Barry looked pale, even in the greasy lighting. He was shaking. I told him that young things like that look like delicious apples, but when you bite into them, they taste like wood. He looked up at me, abandoning his hangdog posture for a moment.

"What are you, gay?" he asked.

I shrugged."I guess. Except for the sex part." He laughed, and at that moment a 25-year

friendship was formed. It involves a real kind of love, too. Except for the sex part. That was Valentine's Day in 1984.

Another guy, Terry, became a Catholic priest after a bout of true love gone sour. I don't see him anymore. He's in one of those cloistered orders.

My brother (God rest his soul) became a drunk after his wife indulged in carnal knowledge with her photography instructor. My brother moved to Texas from Chicago. Every week or so he'd call, and I would be lucky if I could understand nine slurred words. A fierce and fast-moving cancer saved him from a bad alcoholic's death.

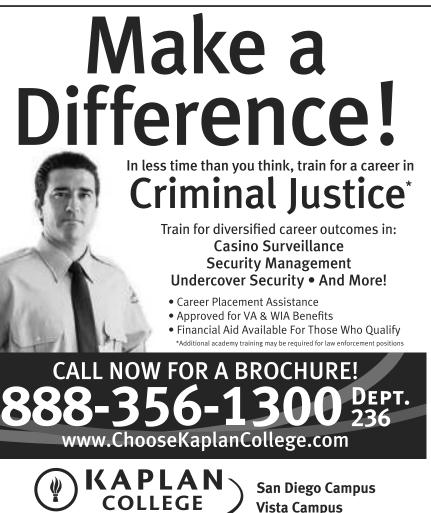
I loved him.

To paraphrase Parsons again: I'm not young, I know, but even so my heart's not strong anymore or tough enough to take a lot of pain... Love is like a damned thunderhead. I can smell rain about to fall, and it smells like wet ashes...it brings a hell of a lot of rain.

I expect a downpour any day now. We've had enough of them this winter.

It is now Saturday morning, Valentine's Day. Partly cloudy but cold. Colder than I remember in almost 30 years in San Diego.

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



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by Barbarella

Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate. — Barnett R. Brickner

t's not that I'm a disciple of the supernatural — it's only human to imbue moments of extraordinary coincidence with a sense of significance. What else but a sixth sense could explain the sudden skip of my heartbeat that drove me to interrupt my friend Jen mid-sentence so I could make a phone call? There are endless mysteries of the universe I will never fathom, great things beyond my mortal understanding. But when I picked up the phone and began dialing, just to hear his voice already on the line, talking over the digital tones, one thing was as clear as the glasses on my face — at some point in our relationship, my connection with David transcended the physical.

"That's so weird," I said into the phone. "I was just trying to call you." Jen, who was seated across from me in my living room and thus witness to the psychic occurrence, proffered a countenance of amazement.

"I'm going to have to do it all over again. My neck and shoulders are already aching." But David was not interested in analyzing happenstance. "My computer just crashed," he said. Then, in a near whisper, "I lost everything I did today — a vast amount of grueling, seriously unpleasant, painstaking work. All gone."

I knew it wouldn't help for me to voice what I was

## Without a Word

thinking — how awesome it was that I had precogged his distress - so instead, I let my voice fall to meet his sober mood and said, "Oh, beh beh, I'm so sorry." I knew what this meant, what he was thinking: with only a few weeks left before his photo exhibit in L.A., every minute counted, and now many hours were lost. And the way he works, each of David's hours can be as productive as a full day of toiling is for me.

"I'm going to have to do it all over again," he said. "My neck and shoulders are already tense and aching from being in the same position all day, working on this." His voice broke with frustration. "I just want to throw something."

"No, this is what you're going to do," I said in a calm but authoritative tone. "You're going to shut down the computer and gather up your stuff, then you're going to go outside and take a deep breath. I'll be right there."

Sensing my impatience to be at David's side, Jen politely declined my offer to drive her home — allowing me to hop in the car and head straight to David's studio. I'd dropped him there earlier so he wouldn't have to deal with the meters, an incidental fact in which I now sought relief, as I wouldn't want him driving in such an exasperated state. Intent on rescuing my man from what was surely a relentless bout of self-thrashing for not saving his work, I slipped into the driver's seat and took off.

I saw him from a block away, standing on the corner, his head down. David is a camel while he works, focusing all his attention on the trek before him, able to go for miles on reserves. I didn't need to ask if he'd eaten. I knew the answer. What I did say was, "Are you hungry?" Then, "Never mind. You need to eat. I'll take you somewhere. We'll get some food in you, a glass of wine. I know it's been frustrating, but the most important thing for you to do right now is relax. This stuff, the work, it sucks, but it's not the end of the world." With my right hand, I caressed his rigid neck. "You still have plenty of time. You can get it done. A good night's sleep and a fresh start tomorrow, you'll see. It won't seem so bad in the morning."

I took him to Taste of Italy for comfort food. Once home, I insisted he pour himself a nightcap, something to further dull his mind, help relax his muscles, and usher him into a sound sleep.

The next morning, I awoke first. With the back of my knuckles, I stroked David's cheek, down to his jaw, along the smooth

grain of his golden whiskers. He opened his eyes to see me smiling over him. "How'd you sleep?" He smiled back. He'd slept well. I gathered the comforter and made a pillow on his chest. "Here's the deal," I said. "Instead of rushing right back into it...I mean, popping out of bed and diving headfirst into the stress and task of recreating all that work, let's do this: first breakfast, then the gym — I know, you don't get the endorphins like I do, but your body will benefit from the stress release. Trust me. Then shower, and then, after all that — it won't take but a few hours — then I'll drop you at your studio and you can tackle that work with a clear head."

While David considered my proposal, I bounded out of bed and set about brushing my teeth. He followed me to the bathroom and pulled on his workout shorts by way of answer. "Great! I'll meet you downstairs," I said. When he made it to the kitchen, David thanked me for setting out his favorite bowl, a spoon, and a serving of instant oatmeal. "It's my pleasure, beh beh," I said.

While I alternated between bites of hot oatmeal and sips of chilled water, I could feel David's attention on me, like the Rover on Mars, finding a bit of inflection here, some facial twitch there, gathering it all up so that Mission Control could make an analysis. "What is it?" I said, extracting the bowl from his hand so I could rinse it in the sink.

"I'm not sure how to say it," David





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said. I knew what was coming. I can read his mind, after all. And I'd heard this tone before, seen this face. He didn't want to sound disappointed, didn't want to discourage my behavior, but he felt the need to point it out, just as he did the last time he'd faltered and I'd risen to the occasion, and the time before that. It wasn't my rising that bothered him so much as from where I had risen.

"I haven't seen you this cheerful in months," he said. My face fell, but David reached out to



catch it. "Don't get me wrong. I love seeing you like this. I just wish it didn't take me having a crisis to make you so positive. It's, like, by having to focus on me, all of your own troubles have been lifted. I'd like to see you this upbeat and lighthearted all of the time."

He was right, and we both knew it — we could read it in each other's eyes and suddenly shy smiles. I felt the need to tell him how much I wanted to feel this way all of the time too — capable, confident, carefree. That I'd try ----

I'd promise to try. I didn't have to speak. I could see in the crystal blue of his eyes that he'd heard my thoughts; without a word, he nodded and pulled me to him.

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

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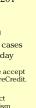
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Reader February 26, 2009 Ы

San Diego

# How much can you say in 7 letters?



My license plate is "WSKYBAR," after my favorite Doors song.



On the I-5, cars are flying by me with personalized plates. I can't catch up to them doing less than 80. There's a cute African-American girl in a Mustang with "GTTO FAB."



"I had one that said 'OG OFFCR.' My family is all in law enforcement, and they say that the first thing everyone says when they are pulled over is 'Oh, gee, officer, I didn't know I was doing 100.""

Continued from front page

he plate "1" was bought at an auction in Abu Dhabi in 2007, purchased by Saeed Khouri. In Middle Eastern countries, lower numbers are desirable, a sign of wealth. In the U.S., people personalize plates for a variety of reasons, and it is primarily the statement on a frame — "My other car is a Mercedes" — that indicates wealth (or the lack thereof).

In California, personalized plates aren't as



Debbie Blum, a sex education teacher, has a plate that reads "P WELL." I ask her if it means what I think it does. She laughs and says, "It sure does. My husband, who passed away in 1999, was a urologist."



"When I picked it up at the DMV, the woman said, 'Oh, is this that mythical club at Disneyland?' I told her it was real and that we were members. She didn't believe me."



"My '4 OKIE' plate says this because I'm from Oklahoma. I'm also a big Oklahoma University Sooner fan. While I was in the military, everybody started calling me 'Okie,' and the nickname kind of stuck."



How could the DMV have issued a plate that looks like "bitchin' ride"? Mike laughs and says, "We had some property at the beach near the 101, and one of the car-lot businesses had the name 'Beach N Rides.""

popular as you might think. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators says that Virginia has the highest percentage, at

16.2 percent of plates
issued. Vermont has the
lowest, at 6.1 percent. At
3.49 percent, California
ranks 22nd, with
1,136,772 personalized

plates out of 32,592,000 registered vehicles.

Certain models of car are more likely to sport personalized plates. The Mini Cooper, maybe because of its size, lends itself to creative messages. When Volkswagen

reintroduced the Beetle in 1997, you often saw



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vanity plates with "BUG" in them.

I don't see many Priuses with vanity plates, but in the parking lot of Hazard Center, there's one that reads "CB [heart] 2 TCH." It belongs to Carol Benesch of San Carlos. "Do you know what it says?" she asks.

"Uh, that you love to teach? I assume the first two letters are your initials."

She laughs. "Okay. I just have so many people that think it means 'love to touch,' and some people will say, 'What do you do that you love touching? Are you a masseuse?' Sometimes it'll be creepier. I guess it makes a good conversation piece."

Was this your first choice of a license plate? "Oh, no. I kept try-

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of gas prices. We just want to make a difference, and we care about the environment. He has a UCLA license plate that's personalized with 'JB UCLA.' That's a tradition in his family, and his parents bought it for him as a gift. But he has a bunch of Obama stickers on the car, and I won't drive it because of that. I think it can be dangerous because about politics."

something to do with

clean air or the environ-

ment. But all my choices

were already taken. My

husband and I both have

a Prius. It's not because

someone really wanted to mess with my car, they would just wait and see which car was mine. I'm at the school from 6:00 to 6:00."

The next time I'm at a stoplight on Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, I see a red Ford Explorer next to me with a plate that reads"4 OKIE." I roll down

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ing to get one that had

sity Sooner fan. While I of the way people get was in the military, everybody started calling me What about the dan-'Okie,' and the nickname gers of having students kind of stuck. I tried to know which car in the get a plate saying just parking lot is the teacher's? 'OKIE,' but there is another "I did think about car in California with that that. I teach in Encanto. plate, so I settled for '4 My philosophy was, if OKIE.' My other car has a plate that says 'OUGRMPS.' It stands for Oklahoma University Grandpa. I hope the above info is what you wanted. Take care and God Bless."

I send Flowers an email with follow-up questions but never hear back from him.

my window, hand him

my card, and say I want

to interview him about

his plate. He sends me an

email a few days later that

reads: "My name is John

Flowers, and I own the red Ford Explorer Sport

Trac with the license plate

'4 OKIE.' I was going to

a volleyball game with my

granddaughter. I don't

know what information

you wanted to know, but

here is the story behind

this plate. My '4 OKIE'

plate says this because I'm

from Oklahoma. I'm also

a big Oklahoma Univer-

The next day, on the I-5, cars are flying by me





SENIORS, VETS, DISABLED

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with personalized plates. I can't catch up to them doing less than 80. There's a "PHNXFLW." A cute African-American girl in a Mustang with "GTTO FAB." The fastest car is driven by someone who whizzed past at approximately 90 mph, with a plate reading "I SPEED." But pulling off the Sports Arena exit, I find a car that was easy to catch up with. A woman in her 70s is driving. I follow her to her place in Point Loma.

Debbie Blum, a sex education teacher, has a plate that reads "P WELL." I ask her if it means what I think it does. She laughs and says, "It sure does. My husband, who passed away in 1999, was a urologist. He had been asked by colleagues why he didn't get one that said 'CANT GO,' but he said that even though that's why you'd visit a urologist, he wanted to be positive."

Blum's daughter, in her mid-40s and living, along with her husband, with Mom, says, "People love the plate. They give us the thumbs up. Old men especially like it. They understand it. And if someone asks what it means, we just tell them to read it slowly, and they say, 'Oh.' "

Debbie continues, "We had our first plate say 'OOSIK.' That's the name of the penis bone in a walrus. Only four mammals have a bone in their penis. And it was only a few military men, or guys from Alaska, that knew what that meant. Now that Alaska is more in the news, maybe that's changed. An oosik is two feet long. It's an Eskimo word. But since [my husband] was in the medical field, he didn't like when people thought it stood for 'Oh, sick.'

"In the early '90s, the DMV was actually looking into foreign words, because a number of words had gotten by them. When my husband got the 'P WELL,' the lady at the DMV said sharply, 'What does this mean?'

a Company,' which at the time did deliveries here in San Diego. There was a fellow urologist named William that had a plate that said 'WET,' but it's

He quickly said, 'It stands

for the Pure Well Water

his initials that just happen to spell that.

"I've been reading plates for 20 years, and some are hard to figure out. A friend had the Tarzan call on his plate. It was just a series of vowels that was hard to figure out. My son got me a plate years ago that said, 'I RN DO U,' which means 'I run, do you?' An entire sentence all on a plate. I also have one that says 'OMA [heart] 8', and my

## RESEARCH STUDIES



Migraine Headaches

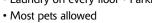
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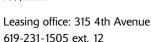
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### To possibly qualify for the study, must be:

- 18-49-year-old females, regularly having periods
- Surgical confirmation of Endometriosis in the last 5 years (operative report must be available)
- · Moderate to severe period cramps and pelvic pain

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### neighbor thought that was my favorite gambling number. But Oma is my grandma name. It means grandma in German, Dutch, and a few other languages. Nowadays, with the 'P WELL,' it seems to make people happy. They assume my husband's a doctor. A few times I've seen old ladies walk by

my car and wince. But the

majority like it."

This reminds me of the episode of Seinfeld where Kramer mistakenly gets plates that should've gone to a proctologist: "ASS MAN."

No way the DMV would approve that, because "ass" is one of the unacceptable words on the New York DMV's list. Also on the list of things

## RESEARCH STUDIES

## **Diabetic Foot Ulcer?**

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you can't get in the Big Apple are "NYPD" and "FDNY" — not even if you're employed by the police or fire department or had your life saved and want to show support.

Each state's DMV has different rules. The "WSKYBAR" plate I have wouldn't fly in Oregon. They won't allow plates referencing drugs, tobacco, or alcohol. Even something as innocent as "VINO" for someone that may be a wine lover or in the wine business is unacceptable.

Chip Franklin, a comedian who does the morning show at KOGO-AM, told me, "When I was in Virginia, for two years I had a plate that said '3M TA3.' Someone looked in their rearview mirror and saw me coming. Soon after, the DMV pulled it from me."

I ask a San Diego

## Constipation

## Feel Like Everyone's Going But You?



To learn more call:

Constipation.

research study if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Abdominal pain or discomfort
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- Have fewer than 3 per week

All study-related care will



## **PSORIASIS?**

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

We need participants:

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- With chronic plaque psoriasis

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## Trying to Control Your Type 2 Diabetes with Diet and Exercise? Sometimes, diet and exercise are not enough ... A clinical research study is being conducted at a doctor's office

near you to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication in controlling blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetes patients not taking medication for their diabetes

Eligible participants will meet the following criteria\*

- At least 18 years of age
- · Have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes
- · Are not taking medication for diabetes

\*There are other qualifications for this study. You will need to discuss them further with a representative from the research site.

If you are eligible and decide to participate, you will receive study-related medical care and study medication at no cost. carn more and see if you may qualify ...

> San Diego Sports Medicine Research Division (619) 229-3909



## Are you suffering from pain associated with Tennis Elbow?

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

#### To qualify, you must be:

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



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

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

## Are Your Waistline And **Blood Pressure On The Rise?**

If your waistline is over 35 inches, 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 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:

• Be at least 18 years old

- Have elevated blood pressure
- Have a waistline larger than 35 inches (for women)
- Have a waistline larger than 40 inches (for men)
- · Have abnormal lab results in at least one of the following tests: blood sugar, triglycerides or cholesterol

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care, including physical examinations, laboratory services, and investigational medication.

> For more information, please contact: **Medical Associates Research Group** 858-277-7177 www.MARGinc.com Volunteer For Your Future

## Depressed, Low energy, Uninterested, Guilt

## You are not alone..

1 in 6 people experience depression.

You may be suffering from a severe form of depression if you experience the following symptoms:

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- making decisions
- Strong feelings of guilt and/or suspicion
- Having unusual experiences such as hearing voices or sounds, or seeing things that aren't real

Medical researchers in your area are currently enrolling participants in a clinical study evaluating an investigational drug for the treatment of a severe form of depression. Participants must be 22-75 years old and be experiencing symptoms of depression. Participation will include a confidential evaluation by a psychiatrist, all study-related visits, physical exams, and study drug at no cost.

For more information, please call: 760-639-4378



## **CLINICAL RESEARCH** SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER

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

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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.



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# Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes and are Not Using Insulin?

Volunteers are needed for a research study of an investigational medication conducted by Profil Institute for Clinical Research.



## To qualify, you must be:

- A Type 2 Diabetic
- Taking metformin alone or in combination with other oral, anti-diabetic medications but are not taking insulin
- 35-65 years old

You may be compensated up to \$4,350 for time and travel. Up to 5 overnight stays are required.



police officer about offensive license plates. Can he pull drivers over and ticket them, or does he report it to the DMV? "No," he said. "The motorist is protected by the First Amendment and freedom of speech. [On bumper stickers] they can pretty much say what they want, like use expletives such as 'I Hate America' or 'F\*\*\* You!' I can only pull them over for having the bumper sticker affect their visibility. Or anything obstructing the actual license plate. But not for

something that violates their First Amendment right."

I follow Barbara Yeager, a 55-year-old, also from Point Loma. She works in the legal department of a credit union. It wasn't hard to guess her name or profession, as her plate read "BRBI LAW." She tells me, "I was treating myself to a nice car [Mercedes-Benz] when I turned 50. I felt I'd worked hard for it. I thought, Why not get a personalized plate? I had a naming contest with all

my friends, and Eli, another attorney, came up with it."

I said, "I thought it might be your name or that perhaps you were sued by Mattel, regarding Barbie dolls, since I recently read a story about them winning a suit against Bratz dolls."

"I actually love Barbie dolls," she replies, "and have collected them for a long time. And the Mattel Corporation is very aggressive in trademark violations, and I've had to deal with them before.

RESEARCH STUDIES

## Constipation Feel Like Everyone's Going But You?



To learn more call: Medical Associates Research Group 858-277-7177 • www.marginc.com

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.

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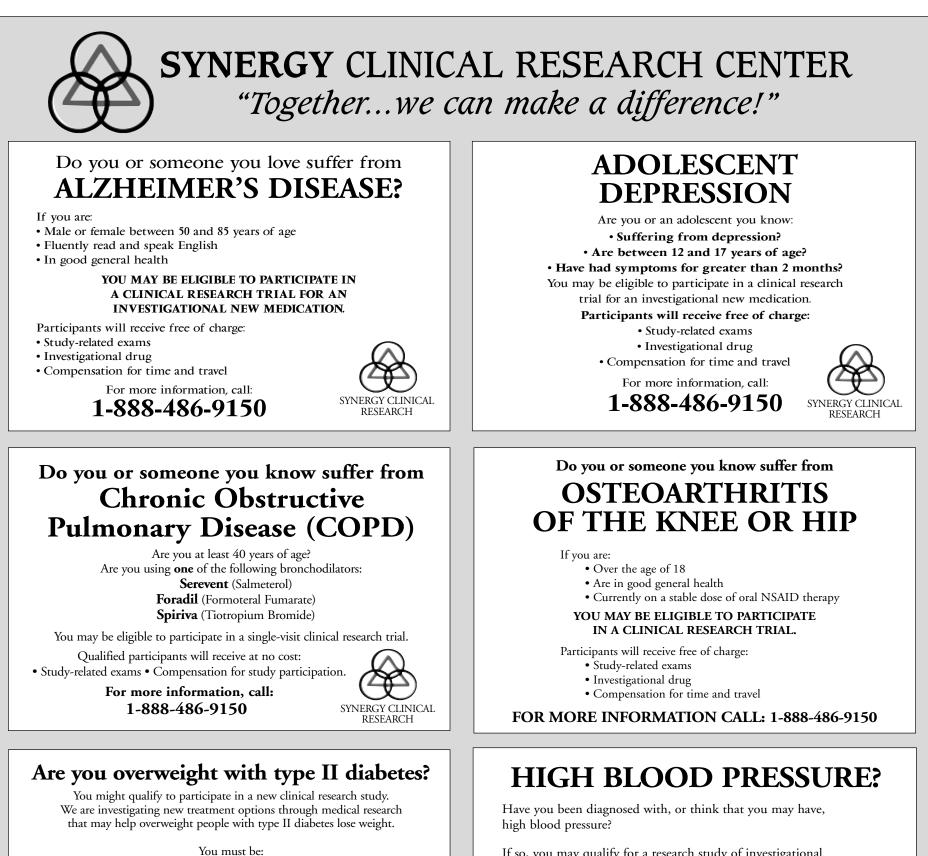
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San Diego Reader February 26, 2009 29

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is currently conducting a research study of an investigational oral medication for Type 2 Diabetes.

## You may qualify for the study if you are:

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Profil Institute for Clinical Research But my plate wouldn't be something they could enforce, because of my name. A benefit of these plates is when people see them, I don't think they tailgate me as close. They probably think it would be bad to rear-end a lawyer. I had to think a lot about the plates with my name because I was afraid it might sound

## RESEARCH STUDIES

pretentious."

with?

you do.' "

What were some of

"I can't remember

the other options that

your friends came up

them all now. Things like

'CU LAW' and 'CU

LEGAL' because of the

credit union. Other attor-

neys see it and say, 'There's

no question about what



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- Must be at least 18 years of age.
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1-888-814-0121 dcastane@sunstroke.sdsu.edu



Does anyone walk by

and call you by your name,

since it's on the plate? Or

are there safety concerns

because of having your

one call me Barb or Bar-

bie. As far as security goes,

I've never had an issue.

The 'LAW' part does keep

people at a distance. When

I first met my boyfriend a few years ago, he was quite intimidated when

he saw the car and the

plate. I am happy to say

we got past all of that.

"I have not had any-

name out there?



# Irritable Bowel Syndrome

...can't eat without runnin' to the bathroom!!

...bloated....uncomfortable...

...abdominal pain

A research study is underway for men and women, 18 years of age or older, suffering from **diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome.** For those women previously diagnosed or who suffer with **abdominal discomfort**, **bloating**, **and episodes of diarrhea or watery stools daily**, this research study using an oral investigational medication may interest you.

Participants may receive at no cost study-related:

- Colonoscopy (if not performed in the past 2 years)
- Examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
  Lab studies, EKG, and study medication
- Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call:

Medical Center For Clinical Research (619) 521-2841 No one has ever asked me for advice either. The only problem I ever had involved a misperception related to the car. I was on the way home from work, and a man was smoking in a car next to me. As a nonsmoker, the secondhand smoke was tough to take, so I rolled up the passenger's side window. The man thought it was a comment as to his presence, and he shouted, 'Oh, I see a Mercedes bitch can't tolerate someone in a Nissan.' Luckily, the light changed. There are more preconceived notions about Mercedes drivers than anything to do with the plate."

One of Barbi's coworkers comes out to the parking lot in Sorrento Valley and shows me her plates. It reads "FRDB-STR." Her name is Heather Herbert, and I ask her if anyone has asked if it stands for "Fred." She says, "Well, I have 'fraud buster' written on my licenseplate frame, for the mentally challenged people. I used to always have people asking me if it meant 'Ford buster,' and so now I don't have to explain it. A few of the benefits of being a financial-crime investigator and having that on my plate is if I brake-check someone that's tailgating. They seem to back off. And officers will ask who I work for. It's gotten me out of some tickets, and we end up talking shop. It doesn't always get me out of tickets, though."

Is this the first time you've had a personalized plate?

"No. I had one that said 'OG OFFCR.' My family is all in law enforcement, and they say that the first thing everyone says when they are pulled over is 'Oh, gee, Officer, I didn't know I was doing 100.' I have a jeep right

now that says 'CLYMDT.' That means 'climbed it.' And I did the same thing with the license-plate frame. That says, 'Been there, done that, climbed it.' Too many people thought it meant...well,

you know [chlamydia]." The DMV has said

that if they get just one complaint, they'll consider yanking your plate. They look for anything that might be slang for something else: for

instance, they won't issue the number "13" because it stands for marijuana. But sometimes, the owner has no intention of fooling the DMV. A San Diegan named Jeannine had a plate that said "TOOL

LVR," after her favorite band. When her husband drove the car, he got a completely different reaction.

I saw a car in San Diego with the plate "XTC FORV." There's a band called XTC, which is what

RESEARCH STUDIES

explained to the DMV. But DMVs have pulled plates with variations of what could be read as "ecstasy" because of the drug reference.

the owner probably

Another worker at the

# do you suffer from Schizophrenia?

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## Don't feel rested when you wake up?



Trouble

staving

asleep?

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



credit union is Sherrie Wilkerson, also in her 50s. She has an interesting story. Her black Thunderbird has a plate that says "BLKBYRD." She tells me, "My second husband, who has passed away, bought the car in 2002. I initially asked what the plate meant, and he said, "Think about it. What kind of car is it?"

"We had known each other since junior high, and we got together after my first husband passed away. I've kept the car and plate because there were so many coincidences. When my husband bought a house for us that I hadn't seen, it was on Raven Wood Drive. And I was told once by a Native American that my spirit was the blackbird or raven."

Have people ever asked if the plate is because of the Beatles song "Blackbird"? Have they made other comments?

"No. Everyone probably just assumes it's a plate describing the car. One gentleman saw me get out of the car and grimaced and said, 'Oh. I expected another driver.' Maybe he thought I was too old to be driving that car."

Have you had other personalized plates?

"I had a Porsche, but the plate was just 'BLUPRCH.' Not the most creative. My husband's family had a bunch with their names, followed by numbers. I had a 'vette that I tried coming up with plates for. I wanted 'FLVRBCH,' but the DMV wouldn't let me have it, because they thought my abbreviation for 'beach' was too much like the other B-word. But you know what's harder than getting a plate past the DMV? It's naming horses. My husband was in that business, and you'd have to submit five to ten names

to the jockey club. You couldn't use a name like Trigger. They wouldn't allow it, unless you were Roy Rogers. You couldn't use the name of a famous person or business, unless you had permission from them. And they wanted to make sure it was a name that wasn't used anywhere in the world, because during air transport, they didn't want it confused with another horse. With computers now it's easier, but back then, it was a real hard process getting the name. He'd often go to

buy the horse and ask what its name was. It was just so much easier."

As I leave this business park in Sorrento Valley, an SUV drives by with an "I [heart] Barbi" plate. It's a weird coincidence

## "I just tell people my wife's name is Barbi."

to see another "Barbi" plate. I follow the driver to her home but stay far enough back so that she won't dial 911. I see a PT Cruiser in her driveway lected Barbie dolls for about 17 years. And I got these plates about the time those symbols came out. They have a hand and a few other things. But the

that also has a personal-

Donaker. She's an account-

ant and tells me, "I've

never had personalized

plates before. But I've col-

The couple that lives here is Kitty and Kevin

ized plate.

### RESEARCH STUDIES



## Nighttime BPH Signaling You?

BPH, or enlarged prostate, with nocturia can cause a significant disruption in your lifestyle-day and night. Symptoms of BPH with nocturia include:

- Frequency of urination with urgency
- Waking 2 or more times a night to
- urinate
   Feeling bladder is not completely
- Realing blackers not completely empty

Physicians are researching an investigational medication to see if it can reduce nocturia symptoms associated with BPH. Men, 50 or older, diagnosed with BPH with nocturia (urinating 2 or more times a night) may be eligible to participate. Participants may receive investigational medication and study-related medical care at no cost.

> For more information call: (619) 521-2841 Medical Center for Clinical Research 9040 Friars Rd., Suite 540 San Diego, CA

BPH with Nocturia Research Study

## **Do You Suffer from Excessive Shyness?**

Have you experienced intense fear of being embarrassed or evaluated negatively by others in a variety of social and performance situations such as:



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

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

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## Are you currently diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

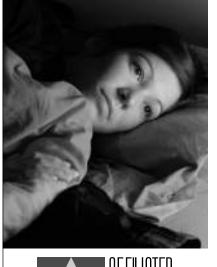
You may qualify to participate in a research study involving an investigational medication. Qualified candidates will be compensated for time and transportation up to \$1950.

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Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

## Is Waking Up Tonight Affecting Your Tomorrow?

Do you or someone you know have trouble staying asleep? Is it affecting daytime activities? A 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

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

Outpatient Clinical programs offered at Affiliated Research Institute include:

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

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

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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



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

## To qualify, you must:

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

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





heart worked best for what I wanted. Nobody ever comments on my plates or asks what they mean. Although, when Kevin is driving the car, we notice he gets some funny looks."

Kevin, a musician in his 40s, says, "I just tell people my wife's name is Barbi."

Kitty tells me her sisters also have personalized plates. One says "SO GOOFY," and Kitty mentions something about her liking the Disney character. "My other sister is named Deletta. Believe it or not, someone already had that plate. So she spelled it 'Dohletta.' "Kevin adds, "The 'Doh' part is a Simpsons reference."

I ask him about his plate, "CLUB 33." He says, "I had been looking on the DMV website. You can go on there and just check out all the possibilities of plates, put the letters in, and see what's available. CLUB 33 was

In Oceanside, I see a car with a plate that reads "PISTOLA."

never available. And then one day it came up."

I ask how that's possible, because when I worked in radio, our "ROCK 102" plates from the station van were stolen, and the DMV said we had to get different ones,

it goes back into the pool and they'll reissue it. That's what happened with this one. And I reserved it, even though I didn't even have a car to put it on yet. I had a truck but wanted something nicer for it. It was probably a month

because once a plate is

issued, they will never

issue it again. Even to the

same vehicle. We wound

up with the call letters

I think if someone dies

or just gives up the plate,

Donaker says, "Well,

"KIOZ FM."

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Extension 7030

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later when the PT Cruisers were coming out and getting popular. I bought one and put the plate on it."

Do people ever ask what it means?

"When I picked it up at the DMV, the woman said, 'Oh, is this that mythical club at Disneyland?' I told her it was real and that we were members. She didn't believe me. There are less than 500 members and a long waiting list to get in. But most Disney fanatics know what it means. I might get someone coming up and asking, 'Does your plate mean what I think?' "

I ask this guitarist if he ever had any musicrelated plates in the past.

"No, but my previous one said, 'PIRATE K.' I'm into pirates."

I follow an SUV down Mira Mesa Boulevard. It has a plate that reads "PJ [heart] USC," and the vehicle is even in the USC color, cardinal red. I approach PJ in her driveway and ask if she's a USC alum.

"No. My dad went there for a few classes before he was in the fire department. And my girlfriend went there. I just really like the campus. And I follow their football team. It's the only college game I watch. I'm more into the NFL. But I love so much about that school. The sculptures on each side of the building, they were done by hand, in recognition of the designer of the building. They have beautiful gardens. I do hate the area it's in."

P.J. Mohr works in accounting. I ask her if she goes up north to attend USC games.

"I used to go to a few each year. But I lost my husband and then moved to San Diego."

Do people that are from rival schools like

UCLA drive by and flip you off?

"No. I haven't had any road-rage incidents. People always say I must be a USC student or have kids that go there."

Have you had other

personalized plates?

"Yes. On my Ford Aerostar, I had 'AERO4PJ.' My mom thought of that one. My late husband was a ham-radio operator, and he had his call sign on his plate." I think that's common for ham-radio operators. I worked with a guy that did that and have seen others on the road. "They all do that. My

husband's was 'WB6RAJ.' All his friends had their

### HEALTH AND BEAUTY

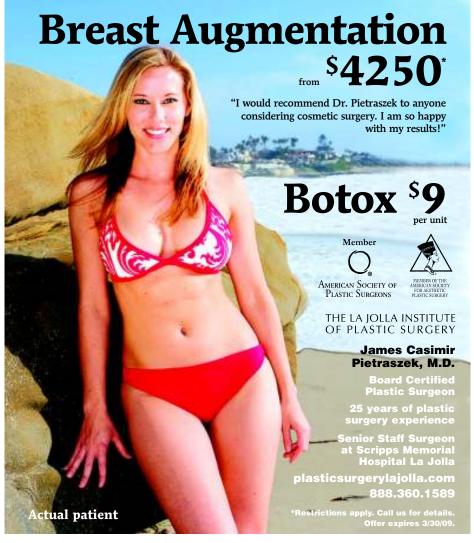
call signs on their cars, too. Someone at my church also has one."

Her USC plates got me thinking about a guy who played on my high school basketball team, football for SDSU, and a few years with the Washington Redskins. I'm told he has a Redskin plate.

But back in 2002, the State of California went after Dale Atkeson's plates. The former Washington Redskins fullback (now



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in his 70s) has had two vanity plates for years. One said "1REDSKN," and the other said "RED-SKN2." Atkeson says the word "Redskin" stands for pride, accomplishment, and toughness. But a group called Advocates for American Indian Children claims the word is "a bad, ugly term." The state agreed and took the plates back.

In Oceanside, I see a car with a plate that reads "PISTOLA."

North Park resident Ken Calloway tells me: "I had an officemate who had 'WRK NFL,' and everyone would always ask what he did in the NFL. Actually, the DMV screwed up and left a space out. It should have read WRK N FL, as in 'workin' fool.'"

I see Rose Ann Vossenkemper's Audi roadster in a parking lot in Escondido, near where she resides. Her plate is 'XHRDWORK'. She's a Filipina in her mid-30s who works two or three different jobs, and she tells me, "My old plates had my name, 'ROSEANN.' That was on my red convertible 180. But I wanted to be more original. I wanted the word 'work' in it. I first looked at 'WRKNPLY' and 'WRK4FUN.' I told my husband I would save up for the car, and I started working part time at Buca di Beppo. After a few weeks of saving tips for this car, I realized it would take longer than I thought. My husband then took me over to get it. But I wanted to dedicate it to work and working so hard. My dad doesn't like it. Maybe he thinks I work too hard and shouldn't have to. But when I'm at stoplights, I can see people reading it. And I see smiles on their faces. Once I was standing near my car, and a couple walked by and read it and said, 'Oh, that's cute.' I just didn't want the plates to come across like I was spoiled. And the way it's spelled is easy enough for people to read and figure out. Although my boss did ask me what it said. It's sort of become my motto now."

At a concert in Solana Beach, I see a car pull into the parking lot with "I [heart] DOORS" plates. Since my license plate is "WSKYBAR," after my favorite Doors song, I had to find out the story.

Ida Miller, a Doors fan in her late 50s, lives in Fullerton. She said, "I got these plates the first morning those symbols came out. I was there at 9:00 a.m., when they opened,

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HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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Have the three surviving band members seen your plate?

"Yeah, they all have. I think John [Densmore, the drummer] is the only one that's commented. He said, 'Boy, you must be a big fan.' I did have all three of them autograph the plate. I just told the DMV they were stolen, and they gave me more plates. So, I have a few extras."

I ask Miller if the Doors have the band name, or any songs, on their plates. She says, "I don't know about anyone other than Ray Manzarek [keyboardist]. He has a VW Bug with 'RAYMAN1.' " Is this the first car you've had with these plates?

"No, this is the second. And I'll use them again if I get another car in the future. Sometimes people wave or give me the thumbs-up. Other Island, New Jersey, where they have a summer home. My other sister has her initials and birthday. My son has 'SUPEDVE,' for his college nickname, 'Super Dave.' My mom has 'GRANKY,' the name she's called by her grandchildren."

One morning I drive past the Chevy's Restau-

# "I told the DMV they were stolen, and they gave me more plates."

times people hold up a Doors CD case as they pass in traffic. The plates have also resulted in conversations with strangers who are Doors fans."

Does anyone else in your family have personalized plates?

"I was the first. My older sister has 'BL2LBI,'her initials are 'BL' and the 'LBI' stands for Long Beach rant in Del Mar. I see a bunch of woodies in the parking lot, most with personalized plates. A number have the year of the vehicle, like "31 WOODI," "49 ALOHA," or "SURFN 47." Some combine the car with a profession. A dentist has a woody with "TOOTHPK." There are also "JAX OAK," "WUDN TOY," and "SPLNTR."

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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I talk to Mike and Meg Merkt, who have a 1946 Ford woody. As a 15-yearold, Mike bought his first woody for \$350. When the two married in 1977, they ended up finding one in Ramona that belonged to a surfer in P.B. They now own four of them.

Meg is a court reporter, and Mike's a microbiologist. The plate on this woody says "BCH-NRDE." How could the DMV have issued a plate that looks like "bitchin' ride"? Mike laughs and says, "We had some property at the beach near the 101, and one of the carlot businesses had the name 'Beach N Rides.' Nobody has had any negative comments from it. I think woodies are smile cars."

The president of the woody club comes over and tells me, "Last year their woody was in a car show in Huntington Beach. It wasn't just for woodies. There were over 400 cars there, and they won an award for the best license plate."

Have you had other personalized plates?

"When we had a spa business in Encinitas, we had 'SPATUB' and 'SPA N TUB.' "

Although putting the name of a business on license plates is popular, the most commonly seen plate is a person's name.

Andy Digerness, who owns Dig's Wheels in Escondido, said, "I get personalized plates on cars all the time. We remove and dispose of them, since personalized plate fees are \$35 a year, I think. The most common thing we see are names. I've removed a 'SXYLISA, CHASE D.' His name was D. Chase. 'DONS ZX,' I remember. Some we can't figure out. We removed a 'BNRLUVR.' A mechanic who's Mexican told me it had to mean 'beaner lover'"

After spending time in a car dealer's lot, customers sometimes invest additional hours trying to come up with the perfect plate for their vehicle. One woman has blogged about the California DMV not allowing the plate "BRSTFDR" (talk about something more dangerous than talking on the phone while you drive).

She posts that it was a violation of her civil rights: "I said it was ridiculous and that everything will offend someone. Either allow 'BRSTFDR' or disallow all personalized plates. It didn't have pro-

fanity in it!"

In La Mesa a few years ago, I saw the plate "OH THIT." But as the DMV states, something may slip by them. They always reserve the right to pull it. Even if a word isn't considered profanity now, it might become slang for something forbidden someday. And then it won't matter how long you've had the plate.

Just ask the Redskins. ■ — Josh Board

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PLASTIC SURGERY

# The Promised Land

Author: Valentine Cardinalis

Occupation: Software tester

Neighborhood:

Imperial Beach

Age: 23

Editor's note: This is the winner of

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January's \$100 third-place prize

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instructions to create a blog.

essay contest.

February 28, midnight.

Ever since the 1800s, people have been crossing the American West in an attempt to create a better life.

I grew up in the Mid-Atlantic,

and I am no different.

Most of the natural beauty where I lived had been choked off by city congestion and buried under the daily human grind. And it got *cold* out there. Between the concrete streets and the concrete winter skies it was a desolate, gray world to live in.

When I was a child I had the same repetitive dream of moving to California. It always involved packing up my stuff and setting out — by car, train, or foot, it didn't matter — and crossing the Appalachians, the Midwestern plains, the Rockies, and the western desert, at last set-



tling right here in San Diego.

I had only the foggiest memories of San Francisco and Los Angeles, and I had never visited San Diego before (or seen photographs). The mental image I had of the state was almost mythological: Southern California was where it was always sunny and everyone surfed. Hollywood was to the north, where all the people were beautiful, and to the south was San Diego, wedged comfortably between the ocean and the mountains. A city with everything you could desire: a fabulous nightlife and perfect weather and easy access to the great outdoors, if you were so inclined. Many of my friends across the country called California their home and their refuge.

I finally had my first glimpse of San Diego in the shots of an extraordinary local photographer I found online by total serendipity. I knew immediately there was something special about this place, or the person who had shot the pictures — or both. Photo after photo held a quality I had never

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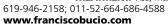
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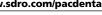
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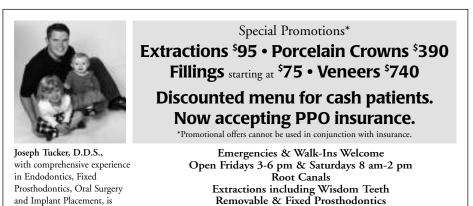
encountered elsewhere. It was a kind of...infinite expanse, found even in the smallest grain of sand, something that made flat surfaces look interminably, unfathomably deep. It was divine and otherworldly and perfect. It was Real.

Surely the keys to the universe were in these pictures. Maybe they were in California. Or maybe I could find them by shooting pictures of my own. So I started photo-

graphing my home state and posting my attempts on the Internet and trying to associate with my new hero — all the while thinking nothing I shot was worth a damn by comparison. And as hopes built up like a bridge against the cold Eastern skies, I finally reached a time in my life where I could move.

I struck out west, stopping first in Wyoming in the splendor of Yellowstone National Park. It was there I finally started to see that there was nothing wrong with my eyes or my camera and that the Infinite Expanse in that San Diego photographer's photos could be seen by me as well. The city I'd come from really had been impoverished of most beauty and joy. The

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desperate search for meaning I'd been on with my photography had been unnecessary. Meaning wasn't missing — it wasn't even needed. The longing I'd felt for it was a side effect of trying to really live among all the mundane tedium of destruction that passed for human life. I had spent four hours a day commuting through dark tunnels underground to work in an uninspiring, gray office with cruel, thoughtless people day after day after day. It was no wonder I had thought myself blind — what had there been to see?

In Wyoming the open skies were smote by fire at sunset, and the sky sparkled with stars after dark like a real-life planetarium. In the morning, mountains and canyons blazed with light.

But if Yellowstone was the promised land, I couldn't afford to live in it. I was there on borrowed time. I was barely breaking even with my finances, and with winter menacing with its wall of snow to shut out the sun, I was forced out. At last I moved to the place I'd fled to in my dreams: California. Perhaps there I'd find the promised land in that infinite expanse I'd seen in the pictures, and I'd be able to keep it.

But I'd already been to heaven, and San Diego undeniably wasn't it.

It is pretty here, but polluted. This is a desert covered up by a tropical mirage of false green lawns, kept alive by irrigation no one can afford. The grandeur of the mountains is thrust away behind the less impressive monuments of human making: skyscrapers and factories and construction. A beautiful city, as cities go. But this is not where the gods live.

I guess it's human nature to try to modify one's surroundings in order to feel safer or more comfortable. There is too much that does not go

according to plan in life: decay, disease, pain. Things break and die; people do, too, and no one wants to really face that fact, and everyone secretly hopes that there's an easy fix. It isn't surprising that over the centuries millions of people have moved west in hopes of finding a place that would welcome them more than the one they left behind, a place with a kinder, more temperate climate, one where the harsh winters of life would be tempered

somewhat by everlasting sunlight. And then they built cities, to try and feel safe. San Diego is such a city.

And it is natural to look to someone else for advice on how to live, someone you think might

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

have a keener eye, somebody more apt at photographing truth in the turmoil, of finding an infinite depth in seemingly flat surfaces and showing you the magic in everyday, cruel, ordinary life. A savior who can light a fire in the cold assault of winter.

But the more of those winters you endure, the clearer it becomes that a change in location isn't going to save your life, and no one is going to light that fire, no matter



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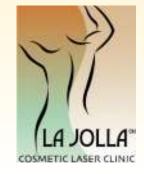
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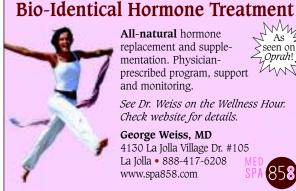
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how vividly that person can describe the landscape to you and no matter how bold their own creations. So often the ones you count on the most abandon you, or you find out they were never actually there for you in the first place, be they your own family or people you had mistakenly counted as friends. And the sun may be shining in Southern California, but the woman down the street is still dying of cancer and the

## HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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as I can, and for me

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things still wither and die

improved, but others have

faltered. I've met the per-

son who shot such glori-

of perfect weather, and

here like anywhere else.

My fortunes have

cries of anguish into any-

I've gone as far west

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ous pictures of this place. The person and the place both offered salvation, deliberately or unconsciously, and neither had it to give.

And San Diego isn't the promised land nowhere is. And that's okay.

Because I have friends. And the real promised land isn't a place you can go to. It is a place within you, and it consists of a single choice. That choice is: "Here I stop running and cursing at the dark. Here I light a torch and rejoice, because the eternal summer I yearn for and see traces of in others has only ever truly existed in my own soul, and thus I may create it and carry on. But first I must stand my ground and face that only I can do this, with the help of my real friends."

So here in San Diego I take my stand. It is January of 2009, and this is the year I stop running.



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nothing worth bragging about. The back yard was solid lawn. George had never

A few years ago a friend

of Lou's and mine planted

a vegetable garden for the

first time. George and his

wife Sally lived in an old

house high on a hill with an

ocean view. Their land

sloped south and was windy,

buffeted all day long by a salt

breeze straight from the

sea. Before George planted vegetables, all he had was a

lawn, practically nothing

else. There might have been

a few scruffy roses on the

north side of the house fac-

ing the road, a bit of hedge,

and a few camellias, but

been into gardening and neither was Sally. George was a lawyer like Lou. At the time I had the impression that all lawyers were nongardeners because Lou had never gardened and neither had any of his friends. (Lou and I even had an unwritten premarital agreement that he didn't have to garden, which was fine by me; I'd gardened since the age of three and loved it.)

"I don't know what possessed me," said George, "but one morning in March I woke up early, and I lay there wide awake listening to the birds singing, and I had this gut feeling inside me that I wanted to get up right then, go outside, dig up the ground, and plant vegetables. I guess I'd thought of it before but

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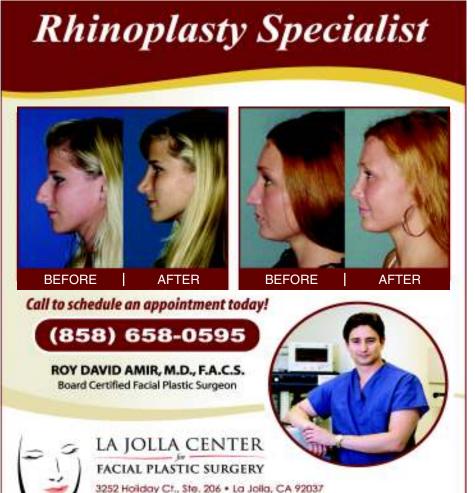
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A. A. B. A.

never seriously. Now all of a sudden I couldn't wait to start. I rolled out of bed, made a cup of coffee, and pulled on some old clothes. Sally mumbled, 'What on earth are you doing? Don't you know it's Saturday?' 'You'll see,' I said. I had a head of steam, and I didn't want her talking me out of it."

George rummaged in the garage for a tape measure, string, some pieces of wood to use as stakes, and a shovel. I like to call this kind of shovel a spade, but the typical American digging tool, by whatever name you call it, has a slightly scooped shape, a curved blade, and a long handle. Most people call it a shovel because it works as well for scooping sand, gravel, manure, or topsoil as it does for digging and spading the ground. In England, where I originally came from, spades have a shorter handle that's split on the upper end and finished with a hand hold at right angles to the handle. Most English spades are flat-bladed with a straight, sharp bottom edge and straight sides. (English shovels are used only for scooping and throwing and are also short-handled and flat-bladed; they're wider and lighter than spades, with sides an inch or two high, like a coal shovel, for example.) After many years of using both English and American spades, I'll have to admit the American spade works better for digging most American ground.

George dumped his spade and other equipment into a wheelbarrow and trundled it down to the bottom of the lawn. There was a wire fence all the way 'round the back yard, hardly an aesthetic touch, but it didn't cast a shadow and it kept the kids and dogs in ---and eventually the grandchildren. George wasted no time measuring out a section of lawn and surrounding it with stakes and string. It was a plot about 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, as I recall, not too big to handle. Instead of backing his vegetable garden right up against the fence as I might have done, George made a wise choice and left a swathe of grass at the back just wide enough for the mower to pass through twice. This served as a convenient grassy path. It might have been good to leave a grassy path down the middle too, but George didn't think of that.

As soon as he'd measured the space and checked to make sure the corners were square, he began to remove the grass. This is where a sharp, flat-bladed English spade might have come in handy. Luckily for George, the sprinklers had soaked the lawn the night before, so removing the grass wasn't the horrendous job it might otherwise have been. For a man who said he'd never gardened before,

s job very least. George's site had
have the best possible situation;
said no shadow fell on it from
efore, dawn to dusk. Additionally,

there were a few other lucky the strokes too. Vegetables need have full sun, which means morning to night, if possible, but six hours of sunshine at the very least. George's site had the best possible situation; hau no shadow fell on it from ner

the sloping ground might have been a disadvantage but, in this case it wasn't.

As George cut out the sod a section at a time, piled it into the wheelbarrow, and hauled it to the lowest corner of the yard as the start of a compost pile, he could-

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Call today for a free consultation: 888-642-6955 www.lvrsocal.com n't help noticing that the soil was sticky red clay. "Miserable soil?" you might wonder. Not necessarily. The disadvantage with clay is that it doesn't drain well; it takes a long time to get it wet, and once it gets wet it stays wet a long time before drying out again. Then, when finally it does dry, it bakes as hard as a terra-cotta pot and gets cracks on the top. Sounds ghastly, doesn't it? But the great advantage with clay soil is that it's very nutritious, and it doesn't dry out too quickly as sand or decomposed granite tends to do. Fix the drainage and add masses of organic soil amendment and you have it made. A slope can really help, since water tends to drain down the slope instead of standing in one spot. The disadvantage is that your irrigation water may roll off instead of sinking in, but you can fix that by amending the soil to make it more porous and by arranging rows and furrows at right angles to the slope so they hold your irrigation water, like contour plowing.

By breakfast, George had already removed most of the sod. He finished by midmorning and began working the soil. He dug it up to the depth of his spade, loosened it, and turned it over. "That was the toughest part," he said. "I sure felt it that night. Had to take a pickax to some parts, the ground was that hard. Rocky too. I didn't take out all the rocks. Just the big ones." Good thing too. A story told 2000 years ago by the ancient Roman Pliny the Younger follows a farmer who removed all the rocks from the corner of a field, and after that nothing would grow there. Fact is, rocks often help ground to drain, and sometimes they add valuable mineral content to the soil. A good rule to follow is "Never monkey with the structure of your soil."

This means don't take out all the rocks and don't add clay to sand or sand to clay. Work with the type of soil you've got. Believe me and the California Agricultural Extension. Don't believe those advice books or TV demonstrations where they dump wheelbarrows full of sand onto clay soil with the aim of working it into the ground to "lighten" it. Make that mistake and you'll end up with concrete instead of garden soil.

But you do have to add something to bare ground in order to make it suitable for growing vegetables or flowers, and that something is organic soil amendment. Luckily, George knew this. It's amazing to me how much he did know, since he said he wasn't a gardener. I don't think Lou would have known all this if he'd woken up one morning and said to himself, "Eureka! I want to grow vegetables!" But Lou grew up in an apart-

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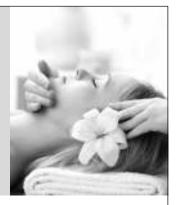
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ment in Chicago. George also grew up in Illinois but in a small town, and his grandfather had a farm. "I spent my summers there," said George. "It was neat. There was a creek, an orchard, all the usual farm animals, chickens and ducks, a pond, cornfields, and a vegetable garden with a few flowers around the edge. Grandma and Grandpa kept it up together, and Grandma canned all the vegetables and fruit and made marvelous jam. They used manure on the ground and that was all, but I figure you've got to use something."

Not having the benefit of livestock, George went to the nursery garden after lunch and bought about six bags of organic soil amendment and a bag of fertilizer recommended for vegetables. By organic soil amendment I mean nitrolized wood shavings. This stuff is bagged and varies in composition and name. Sometimes they call it "forest product" or "composted wood product" or "planting mix." By whatever name or description it's sold, make sure it's nitrolized, which means sufficient nitrogen has been added to allow it to rot in the ground without subtracting nitrogen from the soil. Don't go to the lumberyard and buy a load of sawdust and add that to your soil. Raw sawdust subtracts nitrogen from the soil in order to rot, so if you add raw sawdust to your ground without adding extra nitrogen, all your plants will die.

Luckily, George didn't buy raw sawdust; he purchased nitrolized wood shavings by the bag and spread this organic soil amendment on top of the ground. It formed a layer about four inches thick, the right amount for a first-time garden. Then he worked this into the soil with a spade. "Did you also add gypsum?" I asked. "Nope, didn't know about it then," he answered. "By now I've learned that it can help break up clay soil and vastly improve drainage and that I should spread it on every two years. But that first time, after I'd worked in the soil amendment, I measured out the fertilizer according to the package directions, and then I used the garden rake to mix the fertilizer into the top six inches of the ground. I even wrote down on my calendar to sidedress the rows a few weeks later, like it tells you to do on the label. My secretary came across my memo one day and said, 'Hey, what's this?' "

When George worked soil amendment into the ground, he was doing the right thing: plants need humus, which is partially rotted organic matter, in order to grow. In cold-winter climates, deciduous plants drop their leaves in fall, and these slowly rot on the ground and gradually add to the fertility of the soil, so the native soils often have

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

a high content of partially rotted organic matter. In our arid climate, however, few leaves have had a chance to fall and rot, so our soils have little if any humus. In gardens, it's up to us to give the soil what it needs. This is why it's such a good idea to mulch the ground with compost under shrubs and trees and other permanent plants. And it's why every knowledgeable gardener adds soil amendment in addition to fertilizer before replanting a flower bed or vegetable garden in spring





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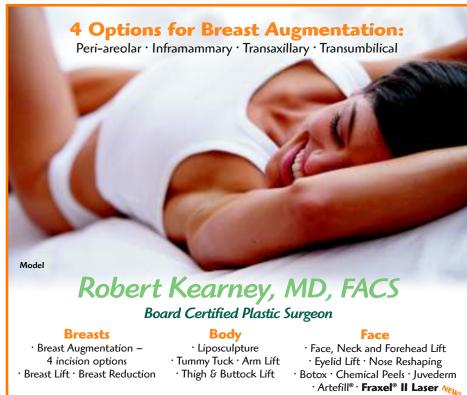


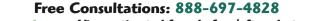
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or fall.

It's unfortunate that most people here are forced to garden on subsoil that's been pushed around by heavy machinery and compacted into little flat terraces. I've ached inside when I've seen bulldozers bury the natural topsoil on the north sides of San Diego hills. In some cases that topsoil is thousands of years old; it's rare and sacred stuff. When you regularly add soil amendment to the ground, you are giving back to Mother Nature what mankind has been taking away. You can feel good about your soul as well as your soil. That's part of what gardening is all about.

By evening George was dog-tired, but he managed to drag a hose over to his future vegetable garden and set a sprinkler, gently watering it for 20 minutes. Then he let the ground settle overnight, went to sleep in front of the TV after dinner, and the next morning,

he was raring to go again. Sally was astounded. I didn't tell you this before, so as not to complicate the story, but when George went to the nursery on Saturday, he also bought seeds for warm-season plants. March is the first month of the year for putting in summer crops, and George chose

# "Why don't you grow

# some herbs?"

the easy ones, a good way to begin. He bought seeds of Kentucky Wonder pole beans, beets, carrots, corn, leaf lettuce, New Zealand spinach, radishes, Swiss chard, and turnip. He also bought plants of tomatoes and a few potato sets and onion bulbs for scallions (green onions for eating whole; the varieties sold here as small bulbs won't make full-size onions).

On Sunday morning he planted all these, put-

ting his corn all together in a block, not strung out in a long skinny row, and leaving some seeds in the packages for future crops and some space in the garden for cucumbers, cantaloupe, eggplants, peppers, and squash, which he planned to plant in April, when the weather had warmed up. (I

don't plant my cantaloupe as early as April; along the coast it's better to wait until May and grow a variety such as Ambrosia, which takes fewer days to mature than most.)

Since you already know how few plants George had in the rest of his garden, you may be wondering what he used for bean poles. His neighbor had a stand of bamboo and was always cutting some culms, so that served. I used bamboo myself

HEALTH AND BEAUTY





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for years, but it does rot quickly, so eventually I switched to those metal poles that are shaped like bamboo and are covered with green plastic. Practicality wins over beauty.

I think it was in July when Sally and George invited Lou and me to dinner, and we had all this wonderful, fresh produce from the garden. By then there was a short chicken-wire fence surrounding the vegetable garden to keep out the dogs, and everything was flourishing. We had tomatoes with basil and a green salad with lovely lettuce and herbs — all homegrown. Sally had said, "Why don't you grow some herbs?" so they got crowded in. There were tiny new potatoes rolled in butter and parsley. (As soon as they bloom, you can take a few.) The first corn. Yummy! Fourth of July had brought a harvest. Lovely little zucchini with the flowers still on and Sunburst squash, an All-America award winner, round and yellow with a green end - picked young and succulent, it won us over too. It was a dinner to remember. Of course, there was a steak cooked on the barbecue, and then sliced, to go with it. But it was the homegrown vegetables that made that evening memorable. George had watered his garden overhead, with the sprinkler, about once a week, but it also got some runoff

from the lawn. "What amazes me," said George, "is that everything grew so well despite the wind. It must have blown the bugs away, because there were so few."

"Well, let's drink to next year!" cried Lou, and we clinked glasses. A wise toast, since pests often don't find a first-year garden; after a year or two they usually catch on. George, however, was undeterred. After that first banner year he continued to grow vegetables for many years thereafter. But that first harvest was the event never to forget. "You see what happened," said George. "I had beginner's luck!"

Pat Welsh

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# LETTERS

#### continued from page 14 you might respond.

Not so. Airline service is at its worst since the dawn of the jetliner half a century ago. The airlines now provide point-to-point service only between a dozen or so city pairs in the U.S. The airlines now serve less than 300 destinations with any frequency. They simply abandoned smaller cities

where their profit margins

were lower. To reach most of those 300 cities, you have to wait in a hub airport as though you were a piece of storeand-forward airfreight. Every year, stormy weather, traffic congestion, broken airplanes, and poor scheduling cause thousands of airline passengers to be stranded in hub airports, thus arriving hours or even days late at their final destinations. Their luggage also gets lost, they have to wait for hours to reschedule, and there may be no seats available on the next flight out.

The folks at Qualcomm, for example, used their business aircraft to support the relief effort for Hurricane Katrina. They carried engineers, tools, supplies, and portable cell phone station parts on their corporate airplanes. They never missed a flight. Qualcomm officials recently testified at a federal government hearing in Burbank, which I attended, that they got more done in three days to support the Katrina relief effort than they could have on the airlines in three weeks.

And while you're throwing darts at Qualcomm VIPs, you should note that the Jacobses do not use company airplanes for personal trips. They have their own airplane, along with their own cars, that they use for family transportation.

Am I jealous? The Jacobses have a much nicer airplane than my 1973 singleengine Beech. They also have much nicer cars than my 20-year-old Ford. And their home undoubtedly is much nicer than my 1978 Bay Park tract house. I say, hurray for Dr. Jacobs's enjoying the fruits of his labors. I'm proud that innovative, talented, and hardworking Americans, such as the Jacobses, still can do that in the United States.

I don't think America would be better off if we forced everybody to travel on the McJet.

Fred George Bay Park

#### **Seeking Smith**

Jeff Smith's work on theater features, reviews, and history columns are the reason I seek out the *Reader*. Thank you for him!

> Linda Libby via email

#### You Missed The Mission

In response to your "Sheep and Goats" article regarding Pastors Sergio and Georgina De La Mora of Cornerstone Church of San Diego (January 29).

With all due respect it was apparent that your purpose to visit Cornerstone was not to receive God's word but simply to write this article; an article that lacked meaning and insight, which this church lacks none of. Your piece of about 95% quotations was neither informative nor descriptive of the true purpose of my church. Our pastors and church leaders have made it their mission to turn the hearts of families to God, to develop our God-given potential and to advance in the kingdom of God. If we lack tradition, we sure have made up for it in creative and inspirational ways to spread the true message of a church. It's never too late to start new traditions.

So I invite you, Mr. Lickona, to return to Cornerstone with a different purpose. Come with an open mind and heart remembering those dark valleys you have walked through in your life and instead of drudging through them how great it would have been to be carried through them. I hope that on your next visit you will see and experience the passion of our church from our energetic, Spirit-filled pastor to the 3000 souls, enthusiastically ready to receive their spiritual gift.

Sophia Martinez via email

## I Miss The King

Every week, the first (and sometimes the only) articles I read were "Remote Control King," "Best Buys," and "Tin Fork." I'm sorry to see that column go. It was usually weird but also usually entertaining and funny. Maybe you'll bring it back? Christiane via email

Highlight Disappears

May I add my voice to the many, many others who are lamenting the (involuntary) departure of Ollie. His column ("Remote Control King") was indeed the highlight of the *Reader* each week. Clever, irreverent, funny...Ollie! We miss you! Mary

via email

#### Comments from Reader Website

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

#### Best Buys Published February 18

Posted by Vincent on February 19, 11:09 a.m.

Nice article! I've seen Twyla Cecil's work, and it's the best I've seen anywhere. She is very caring and meticulous, and she's been in the photography business for quite a long time. With her years of experience, she knows exactly what works and how to make photos that look beautiful and really last.

#### Theater Review Published February 18

*Posted by HenrySloanIII on February 22, 8:11 p.m.* 

Wonderful article. It's been a long while since I've read a theater feature as evocative. It certainly makes one contemplate what we have lost with the closing of



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the Carter. At the same time, it inspires one to get out to see more live drama.

#### City Lights, by Don Bauder

#### **Published February 18** Posted AriArk on Febru-

ary 19, 11:54 a.m.

Herbert needs a little more then jail time. After all he did try this twice on the same elderly person. Apparently because he thought that he could get away with it both times.

For people like Herbert that have been fully and justly convicted in a public court of law we need to bring back public stoning and execution...

It would only take a few public executions to be broadcast on the local nightly news for every idiot that was ever thinking of perusing a life of crime and doing something mean and cruel like this to completely drop what they were doing and go in a different life direction...

Posted dbauder on February 19, 2:35 p.m.

And remember, Herbert had pulled the same stunt on a number of elderly persons when he got nailed by the DA's office in 1999. The Kendall St. home was only one of his targets. From the court information, it appears that Herbert greatly enjoys getting stoned but not in the way you suggest. Best, Don Bauder

#### **Cover Story Published February 18**

Posted by heather\_m on *February 21, 1:09 p.m.* 

This article disgusted me. What a waste of paper and ink. The writing and story-telling are mechanical and filled with statements that are meant to shock, not inform. The article seems to end with the one-sided tone that "oh, ain't it great: people are still protesting familyplanning clinics. The world can be saved, after all". It describes horrible side effects of these illegal procedures, but doesn't seem to \*actually\* give a damn about the health/safety of these unfortunate women.

Yes, doctors who perform "medicine" illegally are not doing the right thing. Yes, abortion is a very weighty and difficult issue. Do we need to read page af-

ter page after page filled with the names of these people and the clinics they worked at? What does this "information" actually give us? Oh, that's right- nothing. Absolutely nothing except a disgusting feeling that i couldn't shake after putting this paper down. Way to print a wholly uninteresting and disgusting (and seemingly biased) article. You should have nixed this and expanded on the vermiculture article instead, which only got a measly couple of pages. Now \*that\* was informative! It made me interested in the world again, not saddened by it. Shock journalism needs to go. The Reader is seriously slip-sliding away.

Posted by reddragonfly on February 21, 5:30 p.m.

If this article upsets you and you are annoyed at

"The Reader" for publishing this article and are criticizing the writer's style of reporting I would like to say - Don't shoot the messenger. It reads like a police blotter and it should since the people involved were breaking laws. I repeat they were breaking laws. Whether you are pro-choice or pro-life, I would think that having the names of these doctors would be valuable so that you might not want to use them if they were to be practicing in another area of medicine or back at abortion clinics. "The Reader" may not have been able to help these women but at least they cared enough to tell their story unlike the doctors who exploited them and, because the women were minorities and low-income, they weren't worth being

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treated humanely. By "The Reader" outing these doctors, they may be saving some women today. As for bias... if the doctors and clinic employees have been sanctioned by the state board and the courts, I'm

not sure what other spin you'd want to see to make their actions be acceptable. I suggest this article be read without politics; only with humanity. I regret my abortion





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What will your Barona moment be?

# Calendar

February 26-March 4

AND WELCOME TO I

# Thursday | 26

# THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

What began as a one-woman performance by the show's creator, Eve Ensler, has become a monologue montage, with new material added for each show. In this iteration of all things female, 23 women will perform. The show and subsequent gala will raise money to help end violence against women. See **THEATER**, page 102.

## SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF **DESERT CRITTERS**

Oh, the lengths to which a bug must go to persevere in extreme

🤞 conditions. UCSD biological sciences professor Therese Markow discusses the adaptations of

creatures that thrive where few humans can survive. See **LECTURES**, page 60.

# Friday | 27

## CHILDCHEWERS, **BLOODBOTTLERS, AND FLESHLUMPEATERS**

The BFG (big friendly giant) is the only one of his man-eating kind who refuses to chomp on "human beans." The San Diego Junior Theatre presents the tale of the BFG and Sophie, the girl the giant befriends.

See FOR KIDS, page 58.

## **TURN BACK THE CLOCK?**

"Healthy living" is as positive a term as "anti-aging" is negative. This expo brings the two together with experts who offer tips for conquering stress,

losing weight, and taking control of hormonal issues, while vendors tout products to assist in each venture. See **SPECIAL**, page 63.

# Saturday | 28

## JUANITA GOES TO REHAB



Juanita LaRue is a "Trailer Park Queen," an Imperial Beach biker chick dreamt up by singer-songwriter and social activist Teresa Gunn. Gunn will communicate Juanita's story using songs and spoken word at

Sushi Performance & Visual Art. See IN PERSON, page 58.

## SOUTH BAY KAYAK-FISHING TOURNAMENT

Fish tend to feed at dawn, so successful anglers hit the water while it's still dark. The competition begins at 5 a.m., pitting kayakers against each other in three categories. When the fishing is finished, the barbecue begins. See SPORTS, page 64.

## **ONE OF THE FUNNIEST**

"If you don't believe in same-sex marriage," says Wanda Sykes, "then don't marry somebody of the same sex." The actress and comedian brings her stand-up to the Pala Casino in North County. See IN PERSON, page 58.



# Sunday | 1

## LOVE NEGOTIATED

It may not always seem like it, but lawyers have feelings, too. In this comedy by Kevin Six, legalities hobble love as four couples seek to overcome their fear of that offensive "c" word: commitment. See THEATER, page 102.

## THE INVISIBLE ONES: **HOMELESS COMBAT VETERANS**

A Stand Down is a one- to three-day event at which the Department of Veterans Affairs provides food, shelter, clothing, and health screenings to homeless veterans. For their documentary, Mark Schulze and Patty Mooney filmed the 20th anniversary Stand Down in San Diego. See FILM, page 56.

# Monday | 2

## FROM RHODE ISLAND TO **AFGHANISTAN**

What is required of an officer to lead soldiers in war? In his book The

Local Events page 56 | Art Museums & Galleries page 65 | Classical Music page 67 Pop Music page68 | Restaurants page89 | Theater page101 | Movies page105

Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education, U.S. Army captain Craig Mullaney shares his story of personal evolution from a blue-collar upbringing to a West Point and Oxford education and, ultimately, to the front lines of Afghanistan. See LECTURES, page 60.

# Tuesday | 3

**ROOM SERVICE** 

The show must go on, even when the money runs out. This screwball comedy was first produced as a Broadway show in the decade of the Great Depression and is now a situation fit for today's Hollywood — a movie producer, desperate to make ends meet, tries to convince a young playwright to fake his own death. See **THEATER**, page 102.

# Wednesday | 4

## NEW SOURCES OF WATER -**DESALINATION TO RE-USE**

Good enough to drink? Forget about the "baby." The Greenovation Forum - composed of experts in academia, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations - is trying to figure out how to keep the bathwater. See LECTURES, page 60.

# GPEAT ESCAPES 619-235-8200 TO PLACE AN AD



**Cupid's Castle B&B** 1/2 price Monday-Thursday. Fairytale castle near Harrah's Casino. Jacuzzis, balconies, TVs, breakfast. Voted most romantic getaway. Near wineries. Wedding facility. Game room/billiards. www.adreamcastle.com. 760-742-3306.



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## Romantic Getaway Dancing, Music Circus Junkies Band

Saturday 2/28/09. Includes breakfast. Fine dining & cocktails. Lodge. Internet. Near Golden Acorn Casino! 2-story A-frame cabins, fireplaces, HBO, refrigerator. Live Oak Springs Resort: 37820 Old Highway 80 (60 minutes east of downtown San Diego, 2 miles south I-8). Massage package available. Certain restrictions apply. www.LiveOakSprings.com. 619-766-4288.



## Rosarito Beach Hotel South Of The Border Getaways From \$69

Two nights and the third night free or free upgrade to a suite. Beautiful ocean view room. Apply for a 25% discount at Xploration Amusement Park. Limited Availability. Restrictions Apply. Valid until March 19, 2009. Reservation required. Call 1-866-Rosarito or visit www.rosaritobeachhotel.com.

# Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

#### HOW TO SEND US YOUR

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

## DANCE

**"Dance 'n' Dine"** The PGK Project performs contemporary dance "in a program between a prix fixe meal." Fee includes prix fixe dinner, dance. Reservations: 619-474-3222. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$45. Café La Maze, 1441 Highland Avenue. (NATIONAL CITY)

Max Batsheva Dance Company (described as "Israel's premier cultural export") presents this piece playing with "balance between individual expression and collective force" for ArtPower series. 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, February 26, 8 p.m.; \$10-\$39. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Balkan Night** Events begin with dance teaching by Denise at 7 p.m., followed by live dance music made by Dromia Balkan band (8 p.m.). Bring snack to share. 619-281-5656. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Beginning Swing and Salsa** Six-week progressive course in "fun and popular ballroom dances." 619-861-6260. Thursday, 6:15 p.m.; through Thursday, April 2, \$70-\$75. Attire by Lea Dance Studio, 7202 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite A. (COLLEGE AREA)

**Beginning Tango and Rumba** Six-week progressive course in "sensual and romantic ballroom dances." 619-861-6260. Thursdays, 7:15 p.m.; through Thursday, April 2, \$70-\$75. Attire by Lea Dance Studio, 7202 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite A. (COLLEGE AREA)

**Dance Like the Stars!** Eightweek beginning ballroom session includes basics of fox-trot, waltz, tango, cha-cha, and swing. No partner or experience required. Fee: \$120 for entire session. Registration: 619-299-6387. Tuesdays, April 14, \$120. Metro Dance, 5304 Metro Street, Suite B. (LINDA VISTA)

David Patrone \$10,000 Swing Dance Extravaganza David Patrone Productions, 2toGroove, Viejas Casino host "biggest single 'top cash prize' swing dance competition in the world." Registered couples may compete in any number of nine weekly qualifying rounds in order to advance to semifinal round on March 22. Top two couples from each of nine qualifying rounds move on to semifinals; of 20 couples in semifinal round, ten couples move to final round on March 29.

Enjoy music by the Carl Sonny Leyland Trio plus James Harman and Nathan James on March 1; weekly dance contests take place during band breaks. Registration: 4-4:45 p.m., swing dance lessons with Jim and Margie at 5 p.m., live music swing dance: 6-9 p.m. 619-517-2719. Sunday, March 1, 4 p.m.; free. Ages 21 and up. Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, 5000 Willows Road. (ALPINE)

**English Country Dancing** Judee Pronovost calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, March 1, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**Hip-Hop, You Don't Stop!** Latest dance steps taught by instructor/dancer Prince on every Thursday. 858-635-1211. Thursdays, 7 p.m.; \$10. Dancing Unlimited, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Java Jive Swing dancing in Claire de Lune's Sunset Ballroom. Beginner lesson 9-9:30 p.m., followed by dancing (9:30-midnight). All ages. 619-255-1319. Thursdays, 9 p.m.; \$5-\$8. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Latin and Ballroom Dance Party DJ plays Latin, ballroom, swing, and nightclub for dancing. For singles and couples of all ages. Swing lesson: 8 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; free. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

**Mardi Gras Social Dance** USA Dance hosts Mardi Gras-themed ballroom dance. Samba dance lessons offered (7 p.m.). Dance to wide variety of music, including ballroom, Latin, swing, salsa, more (8-11 p.m.). All ages and ability levels, singles, couples welcome. Casual dress. 760-525-5124. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$7. Synergy Dance Zone, 7480 Miramar Road. (MIRA MESA)

San Diego/Tijuana DANCEon-FILM Festival Enjoy "international collection of experimental short dance films" screening in SDSU's Studio Theatre. Program includes Shake Off, Fresh, Inearthia, Black Ice, many others. 858-405-9555. Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.; \$8-\$12. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Swing Dance Now Dance Lindy, East Coast, jitterbug, and swing during "Jam" community swing dance. Beginners' lesson at 8 p.m. (dance is free if you take the class). 619-291-3775. Friday, February 27, 8 p.m.; \$8. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

The Ancient Art of Belly Dance Leilainia offers mixed-level class on Thursdays "focusing on balancing and invigorating through dance." Stretch, tone, strengthen your body. Drop-in fee: \$15; \$60 for six weeks. 619-884-7707. Thursday, 6 p.m.; through Thursday, February 26, \$15. Rock Paper Scissors, 4967 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Tunes by Ranting Banshee

Caller is Steve Barlow during San Diego Folk Heritage contra dance. Evening begins with optional potluck supper at 6:30 p.m.; bring food or beverage to share. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Dances taught and called, 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, February 28, 6:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

### FILM

**Al Otro Lado** International Film Series showcases Gustavo Loza's 2005 from Mexico, delving into lives of three young children whose fathers have left their countries in search of work. Catch film in room 204; film repeats at 7 p.m. on Oceanside campus. English subtitles. 760-757-2121 x7737 or x7806. Friday, February 27, 1 p.m.; free.



56 San Diego Reader February 26, 2009

MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

Al Otro Lado, Again International Film Series showcases Gustavo Loza's 2005 from Mexico, delving into lives of three young children whose fathers have left their countries in search of work. Screening offered in Little Theatre (room 3601). English subtitles. 760-757-2121 x7737 or x7806. Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Castle in the Sky Animation director Hayao Miyazaki's film is "charming story of a lost princess, airships, golden-hearted sky pirates, and a lost civilization in the clouds." Screening is part of Steampunk series. 619-527-3430. Monday, March 2, 5 p.m.; free. San Carlos Library, 7265 Jackson Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land See this documentary, subtitled U.S. Media and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, examining differences in coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Discussion about current situation follows. 619-820-5321. Sunday, March 1, 1:30 p.m.; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

The American Ruling Class See this "morality tale set to music about of two Yale students who seek their opportunities after graduation" during screening hosted by Activist San Diego. "The subject is our country's most taboo topic: class, power, and privilege in our nominally democratic republic." Donation requested. 858-459-4650. Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.; Joyce Beers Community Center, 4065 Vermont Street, (HILLCREST)

The Invisible Ones: Homeless **Combat Veterans** There are now "more than 200,000 veterans who are homeless." Mark Schulze and Patty Mooney shot footage of the 20th anniversary of Stand Down in 2007 for their documentary. The filmmakers will be on hand for discussion. 619-236-5821. Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

The Truman Show San Diego Architectural Foundation Film Series continues with Peter Weir's film starring Jim Carrey and Laura Linney. Did this flick foretell "the rise of reality television and the New Urbanism"? Screening followed by conversation on consequences, experiences determining how we choose to live. Donation. 619-232-1385. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; \$10. Luce Loft, 1037 J Street. (DOWNTOWN

DIY Moxie! Aaron Rose and Joshua Leonard's documentary Beautiful Losers offers "portrait of like-minded artists who emerged from the underground art, music, and skateboarding scenes of the early 1990s." Featured artists include Harmony Korine, Mike Mills, Ed Templeton, Shepard Fairey, and Cheryl Dunn, others. 858-454-3541. Thursday, February

26, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$7. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Darwin at the Movies Series offers glimpse into Darwin's personal life, as well as his significant career. See Angels and Insects, directed by Philip Haas, with Mark Rylance, Kristin Scott Thomas, Patsy Kensit, in which an 1800s naturalist marries into a family of British aristocrats who reflect Darwin's theories. Films are introduced by SDSU history professor Edward Beasley: open discussion follows. Student Services room 1500. 619-594-1105. Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m.; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Domestic Help for Stan and Ollie Saps at Sea Tent of Laurel and Hardy fans gather for films including Soup to Nuts, the newly discovered short The Cook (starring Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and Buster Keaton), and Nothing but Trouble. Donation. 619-417-9032. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$6. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3902 Kenwood Drive. (SPRING VALLEY)

Food for Thought Film Series Scott Hamilton Kennedy's documentary The Garden tells story of 14-acre community garden in South Central Los Angeles whose farmers fought back when their garden was threatened with destruction by city hall. Event includes discussion about local food movement, ways to support return to locally grown, fresh, healthy

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

Fish Creek Wash is the gateway to a fascinating labyrinth of rugged canyons, twisted arroyos, and mud hills covering the stark and desiccated Carrizo Badlands in a remote corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Why the name Fish Creek for a sand-filled desert wash mostly devoid of water? Apparently this was once a sluggish creek strewn with large potholes — some containing desert pupfish — worn into its bedrock floor. A huge flood in 1916, it is surmised, smothered the creekbed with a thick coating of sand and destroyed the habitat for the fish.

Today's Fish Creek supports only scattered smoke trees, desert lavender, mesquite, and other shrubs, plus a sporadic stream of travelers by foot, off-road vehicle, and bike. Over a distance of about 13 miles, the wide, nearly flat floor of the wash ascends some 1000 feet of elevation, a rather easy-going gradient for an out (uphill) and back



Fish Creek Wash after the rain

food. 619-255-0345. Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.; free. Chula Vista Civic Center Library, 365 F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

How About a "Cheeky Satire"? Charlie Wilson's War, directed by Mike Nichols, screens for Film Forum. Stars Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, and Philip Seymour Hoffman. 619-236-5800. Monday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego/Tijuana DANCEon-FILM Festival Enjoy "international collection of experimental short dance films" including Shake Off, Fresh, Inearthia, Black Ice, many others. 858-405-9555. Sun-

(downhill) trek by means of riding a mountain bike. However, soft sand here and there may make the ride strenuous and a bit frustrating at times. Muddy conditions following a heavy rain could make forward momentum a messy and glacially slow process, and that goes for motor vehicles as well. The ground is firmest when it is only slightly damp — a not uncommon situation in February and March.

To get to the starting point, drive east on Highway 78 to the desert town of Ocotillo Wells, then go eight miles south on the paved Split Mountain Road to the dirt-road turnoff for Fish Creek Primitive Camp. That turnoff is where you can start riding your fat-tire bike. Be sure to bring along copious quantities of water, especially if the weather is warm.

day, March 1, 4 p.m.; \$8-\$10. La Paloma, 471 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

## FOR KIDS

City Mouse, Country Mouse Puppet Express Productions of-

By the time you've passed the primitive campground, the portals of Split Mountain loom on both sides. There, the waters of Fish Creek Wash (during many floods over geologic time) have worn their way through a fault zone, creating sheer walls on both sides. Don't miss, on the right, just before the walls of Split Mountain begin to part, a spectacular anticline (an inverted "U") of sandstone layers embedded in the canyon wall.

Next comes a landscape dominated by "mud hills" strewn with sparkling chips of gypsum crystal. Stick with riding on the main Fish Creek route, and don't ride in areas not open to motor vehicles. Off-trail exploration is allowed in the state wilderness zones surrounding Fish Creek, but only on foot.

> fers the mouse fable, paired with The Monkey and the Crocodile. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; and 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Thursday, February 26; Friday, February 27; Saturday, February

ally upward — if you have the strength and determination - all the way to the confluence of Sandstone Canvon, some 13 miles from the pavement of Split Mountain Road. The Fish Creek route continues north, but through less-interesting terrain, so this a good place to turn around and take advantage of a modest assist from gravity on the return.

Work your way gradu-

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

> atre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

High School Musical 2 - On **Stage!** Young Actors' Theatre presents "high-energy musical" with choreography and direction by Jean Isaacs and Sara Roberts. Tickets: 619-670-1627. Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m.; \$15-\$18. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Childchewers, Bloodbottlers, and Fleshlumpeaters! Enjoy The BFG (Big Friendly Giant) when San Diego Junior Theatre brings this Roald Dahl classic to the stage, directed by Will Neblett. Performance on Saturday, March 14 is ASL interpreted. Reservations: 619-239-8355. Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, March 15, \$8-\$13. Ages 6 and up. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

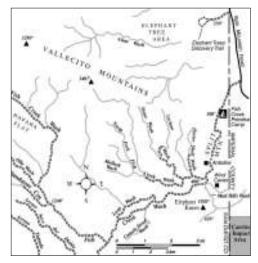
I Think I Can! Big Joe Productions presents The Little Engine That Could, in which a little engine finds strength to make it up a big hill carrying a load of toys. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, March 4; free. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

What's a Steampunk Lamp? You're invited to "create an electric light that looks like it came from a 19th-century laboratory, complete with clear bulbs, wood, brass, and a variable-intensity control dial." Take your creation home. Required reservations: 619-527-3430. Thursday, February 26, 2:30 p.m.; free. Ages 13 and up. San Carlos Library, 7265 Jackson Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

#### **FISH CREEK MOUNTAIN-BIKE RIDE**

Explore Anza-Borrego's Split Mountain and Fish Creek Wash on self-propelled wheels.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 102 miles Biking length: 26 miles round-trip Difficulty: Strenuous



## **IN PERSON**

"Black History Month Gospel Festival" Concert with House of Metamorphosis Choir, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir San Diego, North Park Apostolic Church Choir, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Men's Choir, and New Creation Church Choir, as well as Bavview Baptist Church Dance Troupe. Performance in room #220, 619-644-7600. Friday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.; free, Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive. (EL CAJON)

"Disney Fantasy" Annual varietv show by San Diego Choraleers adult mixed chorus. Inflections vocal jazz group, Women of Note with Serra-Naders, Men of Note. Dinner catered by Old World Restaurant. Tickets: \$20 for show and dinner, \$8 for show only; children pay \$10 for show and dinner, \$4 for show only. Reservations: 619-501-7298. Saturday, February 28, 4:30 p.m.; \$4-\$20. Patrick Henry High School, 6702 Wandermere Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

"From Darwin to Dawkins: 150 Years of Debating the Evolution of Human Nature" Pulitzer Prize winner Edward J. Larson, author of Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion, discusses his work. Montezuma Hall. 619-594-1105. Monday, March 2, 4:30 p.m.; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

"In the Mood: A Swinging 1940s Musical Revue" Swing to big-band-era music of the '40s with "In the Mood" dancers and singers and String of Pearls big band. Program includes music by Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Erskin Hawkins, the Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra,

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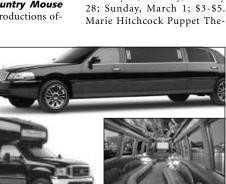
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more. 619-570-1100. Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; \$30-\$50. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Jewish Poets — Jewish Voices" Featured poets are Stephen Baird and Natasha Josefowitz. Open-mike readings follow. Requested RSVP: 858-362-1174. Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.; free. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

#### Laughter, the Best Medicine

Comedy show benefiting Leukemia Lymphoma Society, with entertainment by Chris D'Elia and other local and Los Angeles comics. 805-305-0377. Thursday, February 26, 8 p.m.; \$10-\$25. Ages 21 and up. 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**"Love Is for Suckers"** The six writers, memoirists, and dramatists of the "Extraordinarily Tortured Writers Guild of Literary Intent" take stage "to tell true stories about why love is for suckers." Donation. 619-887-2856. Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; \$2-\$3. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**"Lyme Aid"** Comic Stephen Glickman (of Broadway, Nickelodeon, and Comedy Central) hosts comedy benefit show for his sister Natalie London, who suffers from Lyme disease. Joining Glickman: Kyle Kinane, T.J. Miller, Nader, Jeff Richards, Ian Edwards. Donation. 858-454-9176. Tuesday, March 3, 8 p.m.; ages 21 and up. The Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

**"Olio the Show"** Live jazz and dance supper club revue, following "evolution of jazz music and its dance forms starting with traditional West African dance and drums all the way to hip-hop and everything else in between." Reservations: 619-869-1663 or 619-337-0238. Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; \$15-\$25. Ciao Bella Caffe Bar e Ristorante, 5263 Baltimore Drive. (LA MESA)

"One Mike...San Diego" Comedy show hosted by Nate Jackson, featuring Byron Bowers, starring Dominique (seen on *Chappelle's Show*). 619-708-7975. Wednesday, March 4, 8 p.m.; \$20. Ages 21 and up. The Comedy Palace, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

"The Art and Importance of Storytelling in Black History — Through the Eyes of Women" Storyteller, "psychodramatist, and spiritual healer" Alyce Smith-Cooper weaves tales using intricate quilts of Jacquelyn Hughes Mooney, a native of New Orleans. She'll be joined by author Starla Lewis, discussing her book and historical importance of storytelling for women in African-American culture. 619-233-7963. Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.; free. Women's History Museum, 2323 Broadway, Suite 107. (GOLDEN HILL)

Juanita Goes to Rehab Premiere of Teresa Gunn's new piece using songs, spoken word, and storytelling. It is Gunn's first public presentation of work from "The Trailer Park Queen" series, telling tales of Imperial Beach biker chick Juanita LaRue. Pay what you can. 619-235-8466. Thursday, February 26, 8 p.m.; Friday, February 27, 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m.; Sushi Performance & Visual Art, 390 11th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

*Les Miserables* CYC Theatre plans production of this epic musical. 619-944-7574. Thursday,

February 26, 7 p.m.; Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, 1 p.m.; \$20-\$30. Truax Performing Arts Center, 400 Rancho del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

*Silent Lies* M.L. Malcolm discusses and signs her new book, based on historical events and inspired by her family history. 760-602-2012. Wednesday, March 4, 2 p.m.; free. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

A Story of Survival David R. Brown reads from, signs his book *Memoir of a Drag Queen*. Video screening. Books for sale (\$25). 619-296-7673. Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.; free. Rubber Rose, 3812 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Black History Storytelling Center for Cultural and Ethnic Studies hosts concert by Black Storytellers of San Diego Inc. Required reservations: 858-642-8095. Saturday, February 28, 10:30 a.m.; free. National University Academic Headquarters, 11255 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

**80 Years of Service** Junior League of San Diego marks 80th anniversary with three-course luncheon followed by keynote speech by Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* and other books. Question and answer, book signing. 619-234-2253. Saturday, February 28, 10:30 a.m.; \$100-\$250. Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 4000 Coronado Bay Road. (CORONADO)

**Gardening Mystery Author** Rosemary Harris signs *The Big Dirt*, joined by debut mystery novelist Kate Carlisle (*Homicide in Hardcover*). 858-268-4747. Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (KEARNY MESA)

**Gaslamp Comedy Show** Mal Hall hosts stand-up comedy show



#### What are you reading?

"Sister Carrie, by Theodore Dreiser.'

Tell me about the plot.

"It's about a young girl who moves to Chicago around 1890. She's from a small town, and she finds out how you become entangled when you move to the city. Two men end up falling in love with her. It was a controversial book because Dreiser sympathizes with the young woman and with her being seduced." What character stands out for you?

"What stands out to me — with a good writer — aren't so much the main characters as the minor characters. When Carrie first moves to the city, she moves in with her sister and her sister's husband. They're workers, and there are these subtle comments about how they live their life. It seems like, if the minor characters seem unreal, then the main characters seem unreal."

What's That You're Reading? NAME: BRETT SANDERS | AGE: 27 | OCCUPATION: STUDENT AND GUITAR TEACHER

NEIGHBORHOOD: ENCINITAS | WHERE INTERVIEWED: PANNIKIN COFFEE & TEA, DEL MAR

BY SONIA ELIOT

## Who is your favorite author?

"Proust, who is an extremely flowery author, and Thomas Mann, who is much more philosophical. Normally, I read books about Europe to kind of distract myself from America. Sister Carrie is interesting for me — it's sort of about the origins

of American culture. It has a very blunt American style. It's not like Hemingway; he's not trying to be really masculine. It's trying to get at very subtle emotions, but it's done in a very American style of language. Dreiser was a journalist, so it's a form of language that's very familiar to us now, but it seems like people have lost the ability to write - with our email culture, it's like there's not a possibility of expressing subtle emotions." What book has been most life-changing for you?

"Probably Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain. It's

with performances by Stephen Glickman, Matt Knost. 619-338-9300. Thursday, February 26, 8 p.m.; \$10. Ages 21 and up. The Bitter End, 770 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Getting Sleepy? Master hypnotist Michael DeSchalit entertains during his comedy hypnosis show. Reservations: 760-720-2460. Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; \$15-\$18. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2808 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

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North Park Vaudeville Show Family friendly variety entertainment in tradition of old-fashioned vaudeville, with singers, dancers, theatrical, and comedy acts. 619-220-8663. Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m.; \$12. North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe, 2031 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

One of the Funniest Stand-up comedian Wanda Sykes entertains.

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Tickets: 760-510-5100. Saturday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.; \$48-\$65. Pala Casino, 35008 Pala Temecula Road, (PALA)

**Speculative Suspense Author** Whitley Strieber signs thriller entitled Critical Mass. 858-268-4747. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (KEARNY MESA)

a very long book — like, 700 pages — but it's necessary. It sort of shows how, if you don't have a firm stance about the larger world, you slowly become entangled. This young man goes to a sanitarium for people with tuberculosis, and he gets entangled in the

sanitarium culture of idleness. A lot of times, it's the opposite — a young person doesn't have opinions and then ends up having them. In the novel, it's almost the reverse, but it happens very, very slowly."

What magazines or newspapers do you read? "I do read the Reader, actually. And I look at a

music magazine called The Wire. But I get news off the computer."

Do you talk to your friends about what you read? "I don't think many people like to read today. I have

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

Widescreen Poetry Poems celebrating the culture's love affair with the silver screen showcased during open poetry event. Don't have poems about Hollywood? Bring a poem or two by one of

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your favorite authors. 760-480-4101. Sunday, March 1, 1 p.m.; free. Municipal Art Gallery, 142 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

#### LECTURES

"Animalkind" Gallerv talk by curator, gallery director Tina Yapelli. Exhibition continues through Wednesday, May 6. 619-594-5171. Thursday, February 26, 11 a.m.; free. University Art Gallery at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

"Can a Scientist Choose a New Paradigm?" If so, how? Anne Fausto-Sterling speaks for lecture series in science and society in Natural Sciences Building #1205. Fausto-Sterling explores question by talking about her work on a dy-

> Wed.-Fri 6:30-9:00 pn



March 6: Hands-On Sushi m from the author of "Sushi for nmies," Chef Mineko Moreno. 8290 Miramar Rd. • 858-578-COOK • sdcookingwithclass.com





one friend who actually likes to read. We talk about maybe some of the ideas that are expressed, how they're expressed. A lot of times, we end up talking about how these things have been lost and aren't expressed anymore, or if they are, people tend to miss it."

#### Why do you read?

"Because of the sense that there has to be something more important than going to parties and buying things. I'm not an anti-materialist, but it's just the sense that there has to be something more, and finding ways of expressing that." You take greater satisfaction in reading, the life of the mind?

"On the one hand I do, but on the other hand, it can make you feel isolated."

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

namic systems approach to understanding gender differentiation. Reception follows. 858-534-0491. Tuesday, March 3, 3 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Don't Fear the Bear" Kurt Eakin of Edward Jones presents "Strategies for Weathering Uncertain Markets" for people with varied investing experience. Topics: inflation, real estate issues, recession and bear markets. Requested registration: 619-533-3974. Saturday, February 28, 3 p.m.; free. Kensington-Normal Heights Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. (KENS-INGTON-TALMADGE)

"Global Climate Change" Walt Oechel of SDSU speaks for Hansen/Hostler Distinguished Lecture Series. Talks examining key international issues facing President Obama take place in Hardy Tower room 140. 619-594-6244. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

"History in Remedial Spin" Talk by human rights activist, poet, author Wole Soyinka — the first African awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature - who has been an outspoken critic of many Nigerian administrations and of political tyranny. Panel of UCSD faculty participate in a human rights discussion specific to the continent of Africa following keynote address. 858-534-4004. Thursday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.; free. Price Center at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"In Celebration of Louis Kahn and the Salk Institute" Master architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien discusses their work and how it has been influenced by Kahn's legacy. Institute was completed in 1965, employing a minimalist approach to design two, mirror-image structures overlooking Pacific Ocean. Reservations: 858-453-4100 x1882 or 858-454-3541 x121. Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Salk Institute, 10010 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

"Life on the Edge: Ingenious Survival Strategies in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts" UCSD biological sciences professor Therese Markow speaks for

"Nature Matters" lecture series. "The giant columnar cacti of the North American deserts...serve as the homes for dozens of species of insects who depend upon these plants for their survival." Learn about adaptations enabling these critters to thrive in extreme habitats. 619-232-3821. Thursday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.; free. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Lowbrow Art" Talk Exhibition co-curators Jerry Waddle and Michael C. Gross plan gallery talk. 760-435-3720. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; free. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

"Morality and the Social Brain" The "Darwin's Legacy Series" continues when Pat Churchland speaks in Center Hall 115. Thursday, February 26, 11 a.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"New Sources of Water -Desalination to Reuse" Greenovation Forum examines complex water issues, both locally and globally, with experts in academia, industry, government, nonprofit community. Learn of new sources of potable water, from desalination to reuse. RSVP: 858-822-2521. Wednesday, March 4, 4 p.m.; free. UCSD Faculty Club, 9500 Gilman Drive (IA IOLIA)

"Our Robots, Our Selves" Will your robots be your best friends forever or best enemies forever? Science fiction author Vernor Vinge and Larry Hinman of USD discuss role of robots in our lives for "Exploring Ethics" series. 858-822-2647. Wednesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m.; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"San Diego Now" Panel discussion focusing on the future of journalism in San Diego. 619-232-6203 x129. Friday, February 27, 5:30

p.m.; \$10. Ages 15 and up. Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado, (BALBOA PARK)

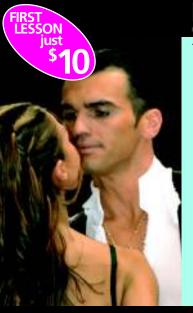
"The Future of Art in an Age of Crisis" David Walsh, arts director of World Socialist website, examines historical and social roots of current economic crisis and "cultural malaise among artists and intellectuals in American society." Talk offered in Aztec Athletic Center building auditorium. 619-315-6394. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

"The Many Meanings of Reparations — Coming to Terms with the Past" Professor John Torpey examines status of "reparations" in context of the recent transfer of power from Bush to Obama and dilemmas of coming to terms with the past that the transition has occasioned. Lecture offered in Social Sciences Building 107. 858-822-5297. Thursday, February 26, 4 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Toss Your Turf: Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!" Vickie Driver presents short course in turf removal. Tips for evaluating soil, tuning up irrigation system, ideas for "a beautiful low-water landscape in lieu of lawn." Registration: 619-660-0614 x10. Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m.; \$20-\$30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122



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#### Cuyamaca College Drive West. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

**"World Travel 101"** Learn basics of independent travel including packing, trip planning, safety, cultural awareness, more. RSVP: 619-338-9981 x14. Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m.; free. Le Travel Store, 745 Fourth Avenue. (DOWN-TOWN)

Artist Talk Mark Dean Veca is known "for creating paintings, drawings, and installations that portray surreal cartoons, psychedelic landscapes, and pop culture iconography while also being inspired by long-established decorative motifs." Artist presents talk about his work in Ledden Auditorium, Humanities and Social Science Building room 2250. 858-534-2107. Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Designing with Water-Smart Plants Landscape designer Jan Tubiolo demonstrates how to create water-smart landscape designs from scratch. Topics: site analysis and measurement, plotting design on paper, environmental factors, and water-efficient plant groupings. Registration: 619-660-0614 x10. Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.; \$15-\$25. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

**Don't Just Survive** Holly G. Green, author of *More Than a Minute* — *How to Be an Effective* 

Leader and Manager in Today's Changing World, focuses on six forces impacting leadership, management, when she speaks in Markstein Hall room 125. Signing follows. RSVP: 760-750-8555. Friday, February 27, 7:30 a.m.; free. CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

#### Rhode Island to Afghanistan

U.S. Army Captain Craig Mullaney shares his story of personal evolution from blue-collar upbringing in Rhode Island to West Point and Oxford-educated officer, to serving on the front lines in Afghanistan in The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education. What intellectual and physical discipline and emotional compassion are required of officers leading soldiers in war? Registration for Revelle Forum event: 858-882-8000 Monday, March 2, 7 p.m.; \$25. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Gallery Talk** Tour led by Andrea Liss, curator of "Reel Mothers: Film Video Art and the Maternal." 760-839-4120. Wednesday, March 4, 2 p.m.; free. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

**Gardening to Save the Planet** Learn about damage to environment caused by industrial agriculture when Paul Maschka leads class seeking to empower gardeners "to save the planet one yard at a time." Also on offer: handouts, resources, heirloom seeds. 619-255-0203. Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.; \$25-\$33. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Have a Heart** Cardiovascular Disease Foundation plans "Healthy Heart" talks and fair. Lectures by



board-certified physicians and dieticians cover topics including "New Breakthroughs in Health and Medicine," "What to Eat to Keep Your Heart Healthy," and "Preventive Nutrition for Children and Families." Health screenings, blood-pressure checks, body-fat evaluations. "Discovery stations" for children, more. RSVP: 760-730-1471. Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m.; free. Carlsbad Senior Cen-

ter, 799 Pine Avenue. (CARLSBAD) Honoring a Life, Legacy, and Values Julie Chávez Rodriguez examines life and legacy of her grandfather, César E. Chávez, during lecture in M. Gordon Clarke Field House room 113. Focus of presentation will be on work of Chávez Foundation, seeking to further social justice, education, service, civic engagement. 760-750-4366. Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m.; free. CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

**Parlez-Vous Français?** It's not as hard as you think, according to instructor Charles Brown, who leads five-part introduction class to French language, culture. Class for beginners or those who are preparing for trip to France. Reservations: 619-892-4875. Tuesday, March 3, 8:30 a.m.; \$200. The Book Works, 2670 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

Sogetsu School Ikebana Learn basics of ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) from instructor Yumi Rakers. Materials list upon required advance registration. Fee: \$15 per session, or \$40 for three sessions. Registration: 619-232-2721. Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m.; \$15. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK) Solar for Homeowners Workshop focuses on how to read your electric bill (bring a bill), how to estimate amount of PV needed to peak shave or eliminate your bill, more. Required registration: 858-244-1177. Thursday, February 26, 11:30 a.m.; free. California Center for Sustainable Energy, 8690 Balboa Avenue. (KEARNY MESA)

Sports Law Symposium Thomas Jefferson School of Law's seventh annual symposium includes speakers Ferguson Jenkins (Chicago Cubs Hall of Famer), Jeff Schemmel (SDSU athletic director), Priscilla Oppenheimer (Padres director of minor-league operations, retired), and Jeff Friedman (sports broadcaster). Panelists discuss their careers in sports field, ethical issues currently affecting sports, effect of current economy on sports industry, effect of unions on business of sports. 619-297-9700 x1480. Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.; free. JRDN, 723 Felspar Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Zzzzz...** Panel discussion entitled "I Gotta Get Me Some ZZZs: Sleeping Soundly and Feeling Refreshed in These Stressful Times" presented by San Diego Psychiatric Society. (Title is taken from a Dave Frishberg song.) 858-279-4586 or 858-300-2787. Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.; free. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

### OUTDOORS

Mexican Coral Trees or "naked corals," are showing their stuff this season by bearing and baring scarlet, flame-like flowers on the tips of their twisting, leafless branches. Commonly planted as park and freeway landscaping, this and other species of coral are blooming along the 94 Freeway, Interstate 5 through Oceanside, along Harbor Drive near the airport, at the San Diego Zoo, on the lawns in front of San Diego City College downtown, and on the San Diego State University campus. The bloom may continue into late spring, when the naked corals will cover themselves with eight-inch-long leaves, just in time to provide shade for the warm months.

**Manzanita Shrubs** are starting to bloom this month in the foothill areas of the Cleveland National Forest. The various manzanitas, characterized by smooth, reddish bark and tough, leathery leaves, bear myriads of tiny, white to pinkish-white, urn-shaped blossoms. Large (decades-old) manzanitas can be seen around Julian and in parts of the Cuyamaca Mountains. Along the coast a similar, but less attractive manzanita thrives mission manzanita.

Hummingbirds are swarming over San Diego County's backyard gardens, scrub-covered coastal hillsides, and the warm Anza-Borrego Desert. Red monkey flower is a favorite source of nectar near the coast, while red-blossomed chuparosa and ocotillo normally play the same role in the desert. Keep an eye out for the male hummingbird's mating "dance," which involves soaring ascents followed by dramatic downward dives.

Venus and the Crescent Moon

are in conjunction on Friday, February 27, and make a spectacular pair in the western sky as evening twilight gathers. Similar Venusmoon encounters have been taking place more or less monthly for several months now. This time, the separation between the two is less than 2 degrees, which is the equivalent of the width of your outstretched thumb. Check out Venus with a small telescope and you will find out that it exhibits nearly the same shape of crescent phase as the moon does. Future Venus-moon pairings in 2009 will take place in the eastern sky at dawn, starting in April.

**"All-Natural Purple Pops"** Wild lavender, shooting stars, and bush mallow are popping up all over; see these plants and more during interpretive trail guide-led nature walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, February 28, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, March 1, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 4, 9:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Air Is Filled with Song! Migratory songbirds are hanging around, and mating season has begun. Learn five simple techniques for identifying birds during 90minute "Birding Basics" class. Also learn to use a field guide, so bring one if you have one. Reservations please: 619-668-3278. Saturday, February 28, 1 p.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Audubon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT) **Basic Birding** Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6915. Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.; free. Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

#### California Native Plant Soci-

**ety Walk** Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. Sunday, March 1, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

**Desert Garden Tour** Bizarre trees, cacti, succulents showcased when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden. 619-235-1122. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; free. Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

#### Habitat Restoration Project

Volunteers invited to help plant native plants to create coastal succulent scrub habitat for endangered coastal cactus wren. Bring water, sun protection, gloves if you have them. Meet in northeast corner of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. 858-538-2527. Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m.; free. Black Mountain Community Park, 12115-A Black Mountain Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

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

Mystery Walk Naturalist Kathleen 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, February 27, 7 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

The Ducks Will Quack You Up See ducks, coots, and other birds in midst of mating season during trail guide-led nature walk through oaks, cottonwood, sycamore, wil-

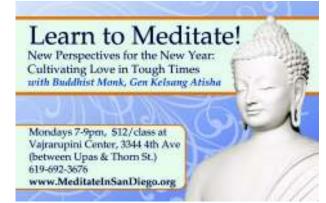


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low thickets, grasslands. 619-668-3281. Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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 in garden admission. 760-436–3036 x206. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; free. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER

**Hasta que la Boda nos Separe** Enjoy comedy by Jacqueline Bracamontes and Juan Soler. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; \$30-\$35. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

**Nueva Trova Tribute** Tribute to Cuban musician Silvio Rodríguez, a leader of the *nueva trova* movement. 011-52-664-585-1264. Saturday, February 28, 8:30 p.m.; El Lugar del Nopal, Priv. 5 de Mayo 1328. (BAJA)

**Rock en Español** Spanish rock singer-songwriter Enrique Bunbury in concert. 619-734-2333. Tuesday, March 3, 9 p.m.; \$25-\$75. El Foro, 1500 Avenida Revolución. (BAJA) San Diego/Tijuana DANCEon-FILM Festival Enjoy "international collection of experimental short dance films" including *Library Rats, Shake Off, Fresh, Inearthia, Black Lee,* many others. In addition to evening programs, take in "gallery installation" of dance films, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on February 28. 858-405-9555. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; free. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

### SPECIAL

**"A Tour of the Solar System"** Enjoy "The Sky Tonight" planetarium show. View real sky through telescopes (weather permitting) after show. 619-238-1233. Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m.; \$9-\$10. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

African Victory Celebration Celebrate "the 113th anniversary of the Battle of Adwa, the greatest anticolonial triumph ever," with film, poetry, traditional and modern Ethiopian cultural music, refreshments. Hosted by Ethiopian Center. 619-339-2283. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$20. World-Beat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

**"Dream Yoga: Heal Yourself Through the Yoga of Dreaming"** Introductory workshop led by Mila Kandibur of Diamond Mind Coaching. Dream yoga is described as "a powerful mystical way to heal, reclaim our power, and create success." 858-492-8626. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; \$20-\$25. Ages 18 and up. Indigo Village, 609 South Vulcan Avenue. (ENCINITAS)

"Messages from Spirit Circle" Spiritual medium Reverend Elivia Melodey leads "trance channeling and message circle with singing bowl meditation." Expect to be "introduced to your natural intuition and the gift of spiritual guidance." Registration: 760-471-7304. Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m.; \$33. Ages 10 and up. Adams Avenue Integrative Health, 3412 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

"Prison Nation: Posters on the Prison Industrial Complex" Exhibition addressing many issues such as prison-industrial complex, death penalty, "three strikes" laws, re-entry into community continues through April. Exhibition was produced by Center for the Study of Political Graphics in Los Angeles. 760-750-4378. Thursdays, 7 a.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.; Mondays, 7 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7 a.m.; Wednesdays, 7 a.m.; through Thursday, April 30; free. Kellogg Library at CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

"Your Bridge to Change" The 18th annual Heritage Day Parade and Festival in celebration of Black History, with marching bands, community organizations, Operation BHILD Ambassadors Court. Entertainment and activities in Market Creek Plaza Amphitheater following parade, with variety of cultural entertainment, food, children's zone, vendors, community resource booths. 619-262-0334. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; free. Market Creek Plaza, Euclid Avenue and Market Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

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

Circus Vargas 2009 Circus Vargas raises its big top for performances around the county. Latest edition of circus "bridges the gap between old tradition and modern innovation." Prior to each show, audience is invited into center ring for "crash course in circus skills such as juggling, feather balancing, and hula hooping." Tickets: 877-468-3861. Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, February 27, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 1, 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Monday, March 2, 7 p.m.; \$15-\$50. Mira Mesa Community Park, 8575 New Salem Street. (MIRA MESA)

**Co-Ed Drumming Circle** Circles blending African, Middle Eastern, and Japanese traditions offered first Sunday of every month. Drums provided if you don't have your own. Offering. 619-303-6609. Sunday, March 1, noon; Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (TIERRASANTA)

**Conserve Water and Save the Environment!** Composting workshop planned by Solana Center master composters in TLC Community Giving Garden. Turn food scraps, yard trimmings into a rich soil amendment for the garden. Required advance registration: 760-436-7986 x222. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; free. Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, 11240 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (TIERRASANTA)

**Craft Club** Group gathers with instructor Sandra Erbetta to create unique items for sale in garden's gift shop. Reservations: 619-232-2721. Monday, March 2, 10 a.m.; \$5. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

**Definitions for Today!** How should we currently define socialism, liberalism, and conservatism? P&R Discussion Group gathers to ponder answers. 619-370-1027. Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m.; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Doggie Café** Take your friendly, on-leash dog to socialize with other canines. Trainers offer training tips on keeping dogs calm, civilized around distractions. Donation. Reservations: 619-299-7012 x2230. Friday, February 27, 6 p.m.; \$10. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

**Doggie Street Festival** Bring your canine friend to party at NTC Park "dedicated to increasing pet adoption." Enjoy pet demonstrations, disc dogs, costume contests, book booths, veterinary booths, vendors, services, live music, food. 619-276-4142. Sunday, March 1, 9 a.m.; free. NTC Promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

**Drumming Your Destiny** "Awaken your spirit and unleash your potential through the power of rhythm" when Life Works Spiritual Center hosts drumming by Melinda Rodriguez. Some drums provided, or bring your own. 760-815-9462. Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.; \$20-\$25. Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

#### Gray Whale Season Surfaces!

Outings hosted by Birch Aquarium and San Diego Harbor Excursion boast Scripps naturalists on hand to share information about gray whales, the ecology, and history of San Diego Bay and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dolphins, sea lions, marine birds make guest appearances. Registration: 619-234-4111. Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Fridays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mondays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; through Sunday, March 29, \$15-\$35. San Diego Harbor Excursion, 1050 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Happy First Birthday! Celebrate Encinitas Library's first anniversary during open house boasting performance by Dragon Knights

San Diego

*Reader* February

2009

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Stilt Theater, Jack Tempchin and Rocket Science, Capoeria Brasil, Tunes and Tales with Nancy Saint John, storytelling by Captain Book and children's author Gretchen Wendel. Take a library tour highlighting building's ocean-inspired architecture and energy-saving features. 760-753-7376. Saturday, February 28, 1 p.m.; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Harmony Through Flowers Ohara School of Ikebana hosts 36th annual flower show and bazaar in room 101. Japanese floral demonstrations at 12 noon, 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Sushi, tea, baked goods, small floral arrange ments for sale. 619-683-2432. Saturday, February 28, 11 a.m.; Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m.; free. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Hate Wasting Water? Water conservation tips offered by experts during tours slated for last Saturday each month. Participants learn of international plants that are easy to grow, from areas such as the Mediterranean basin, Cape South Africa, Australia, Chile, and California natives. Learn to plant, grow, cultivate with "easy how-to" guidelines and instruction. Included in regular admission. 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; \$10. Ouail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Hurricane Katrina Awareness Night Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, but what has been accomplished since then to reconstruct along the Gulf Coast? Organizers promise panel discussion on what happened then and what is being done now, all in Student Services Center multipurpose room. Donations accepted. 858-534-4090. Friday, February 27, 5 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

It's the International Year of Astronomy! MiraCosta College hosts unveiling of two new muralsized images of spiral galaxy Messier 101 from all three of NASA's Great Observatories: the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra Xray Observatory. Community is invited to image unveiling and talk by Michelle Thaller of the California Institute of Technology in Mira-Costa gym. Stargazing party follows (weather permitting). 760-757-2121 x6506. Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Knitting Made Easy Do you knit? Join "a very relaxed group of people" meeting every Saturday to knit and chat. 858-573-1396. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.; free. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

**Music, Dance, Art** Closing celebration for Black History Month commemorations in College of Arts and Letters Quad. Sponsored by Department of Africana Studies. 619-594-6531. Friday, February 27, 11:30 a.m.; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

**Polar Plunge** Step or plunge into the Pacific Ocean to frolic. Participants set goals as to how long and how deep they want to be in the water. Requested pledge benefiting Special Olympics Southern California: \$50. 619-283-6100. Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m.; Oceanside Pier, Mission Ave and Pacific St. (OCEANSIDE)

**R-Rated Trivia** Trivial fun returns with "mini-games, comedy, and 'will it float?' " Cost: \$3 per person. Winning team takes all "or come play for free if you just want see and be seen by highly educated drunks." 619-294-4848. Sunday, March 1, 8 p.m.; \$3. Ages 21 and up. The Wit's End, 420 Robinson Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Ranked? Unranked? You are invited to play chess. Organizers say "kibitz at your own risk." 858-568-1641. Saturdays, 1 p.m.; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Ranunculus Rainbows** The Flower Fields with nearly 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon ride (\$5 general). Sweet pea maze, poinsettia display, American flag of flowers. Season passes available. 760-431-0352. Sundays, 9 a.m.; Mondays, 9 a.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.; through Sunday, May 10,



free. The Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Sight and Sound Preview night with performances by rock bands Jamuel Saxon and Swim Party, singer Joanie Mendenhall, the Platt Brothers acrobat trio, beatboxer Generic. Complimentary tastings from the Big Kitchen. Proceeds benefit Autism Research Institute. Complimentary beverage with paid admission before 8:30 p.m. 619-846-7180. Saturday, February 28, 7 p.m.; \$5. Ages 21 and up. Planet Rooth Gallery, 3811 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Spring Home/Garden Show** Hundreds of exhibits and vendors of home improvement products, furnishings, decorating and remodeling ideas, garden displays, flower and landscaping, plus pets and art. "Meet and question the 22 garden masters." 858-350-3738. Friday, February 27, 11 a.m.; Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.; free. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**Taste of Israel** ArtPower! and the UCSD International Center join to offer pairing of home-cooked cuisine and world-class performances from around globe. 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, February 26, 6 p.m.; \$12. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Tower After Hours** Celebrate Ireland with live traditional music and dance performed by dozens of Irish musicians and dancers, authentic food and drink served by local Irish pubs. Artifacts from Ireland on display. Reservations: 619-239-2001. Thursday, February 26, 6 p.m.; \$10-\$20. Ages 21 and up. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Traditional Tea Ceremony** Urasenke tea instructor Soryo Katayama Stott and assistants pres-



ent demonstrations. Learn history of tea ceremony, see how to serve tea in traditional way. Included in garden admission. 619-232-2780. Tuesday, March 3, 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; free. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Turn Back the Clock? Anti-Aging and Healthy Living Expo brings together "local experts of conventional and complimentary medicine, green product manufacturers, nutritional counselors, spas and medi-spas, skin care, and aesthetics professionals." Live demonstrations, seminars. 888-439-7639. Friday, February 27, 1 p.m.; Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.; \$8. San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Vintage to Modern Everything photographic offered during Bargain Camera Show. 310-578-7446. Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

### SPORTS

"Ring Around the Rosy" Bay Ride Two options for joining up with Knickerbikers for bicycling adventures. Start at Vons at 8 a.m. for 50-mile ride; or join group when it makes stop at 9 a.m. in north parking lot of Mission Bay Visitors' Center (42 miles from this point). Either way, see San Diego Bay, birds, lunch in Coronado (bring money), ferry ride (fare: \$3.50), naval base, more. 619-823-0070. Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m.; free. Clairemont Town Square, 4821 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

*Gran Fondo* San Diego *Gran fondos* ("big rides") are long-distance, mass-participation cycling



**Bulldog Bike Race** Hard Corps Race Series begins with 26-mile road race starting in 43 Area, promising ocean views along most of the course. Day-of-race registration opens at 7 a.m., racing starts in waves at 8:30 a.m. 760-725-6836. Saturday, February 28, 7 a.m.; \$30-\$45. Camp Pendleton, Harbor Drive at I-5. (OCEANSIDE)

Elfin Forest Bicycle Ride San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders head out for 70-mile ride "all over North County." 858-277-7499. Sunday, March 1, 8:45 a.m.; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

South Bay Kayak-Fishing Tournament Competition benefits Chula Vista Nature Center. Awards for heaviest stringer on fly rod, best weight of mixed bag, best weight of three bass. Barbecue, awards follow tournament. 619-422-7888. Saturday, February 28, 5 a.m.; \$60. Chula Vista Yacht Club, 642 Marina Parkway #83. (CHULA VISTA)

#### MUSEUMS

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

Heritage Museum 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 Poway's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park. 14134 Midland Road, 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

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

**Museum of Making Music** What is slide? Why is it so hard to play? "The Magic and Mystery of Slide Guitar"— continuing through March — captures "essence and emotion evoked by slide guitar and

slide technique." Display includes nearly 70 rare and historic instruments, from early 1920s to present. The past 100 years of American

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

# **Considered Beautiful**

# *Rig the photograph and you rig evidentiary "truth."*

n 1810, a black Khoisan woman from South Africa named (by her slave-master) Saartjie Baartman was brought to London and became an entertainment sensation. Kept

in a cage, she was exhibited seminude in sideshows and exclusive drawing rooms because of her extremely large buttocks and unusually elongated labia. Commoners at

sideshows shouted vulgarities; aristocrats in private viewings ogled and discussed her "curiosities." By the time of her death in 1815 she was known as the Hottentot Venus and by midcentury had become prime evidence in the emerging pseudo-science of anthropometry, which postulated the evolutionary inferiority of African people generally and the sexual deviance and promiscuity of black women in particular. Baartman's brain, skeleton, and genitals remained on view at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris until 1974.

That's the historical boilerplate of a considerably more complex case. Baartman, an orphan whose original name is unknown, was an intelligent woman, spoke fluent Dutch, and certainly knew why Europeans found her physically aberrant. She also knew that oversized, "stacked" buttocks, which were due to an unusual accumulation of adipose tissue, were commonplace even among Khoisan males and in females were considered beautiful. Also fairly commonplace was the heavily draped labia Europeans called the *tablier*, French for "apron," referred to in English as the "curtain of shame." When we consider this cultural, ethnographic configuration, we have to ask: Who exactly is the Other? Baartman, whom European eyes perceived as a grotesque evolutionary throwback? Or Europeans, whose amused disgust for such sexual features would have struck Africans as savage, unenlightened, and a sign of lousy taste?

The Hottentot case hints at the complexities cracked open by *Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African* 



*Body*, a new exhibition at the San Diego Museum of Art that according to the catalogue intends to present "ideologies of black womanhood from three different perspectives: the tra-

> ditional African, the colonial, and the contemporary global." Ideology is embedded consciously or otherwise in all the images and objects on display. Indigenous carvings and ceram-

ics, photos, paintings, sculptures, and one eerie video installation — all have something to do with constructed identities and self-perceptions. The modern work in particular interrogates how a black woman sees herself as an *object* of perception. It's conceptually the busiest exhibition I've seen in a long time, analyzing and exemplifying the endlessly inflected expressions of the encounter between black and white, homeland and colonization, local economies and appropriation, beauty and ugliness, as they were and still are played out in the representational arts. At the center of it all is the African female body.

The stuff on view is extraordinary, and it's saturated with information. The Dogon people of west Africa, for instance, are represented by a fantastic mask-headdress worn by males in a dance that mocks the intricate, finely braided, cowrie-shell-decorated hairstyles of neighboring Malian women. The Zulu ritually shared beer from a large pot, and the exhibition includes a beer pot shaped like a pregnant belly decorated with colonial-era scarification patterns that women designed to beautify their bodies. The pots were crafted by women and, made from clay, were literally of the earth, mother of us all. Some items are a little fanciful but pinch nerves anyway. The contemporary Alison Saar portrays herself with dreads capped by bottles like benevolent hydra heads. The reference is to "spirit bottles" found in New Orleans and other black cultures - a voodoo shop on South Street, the axis of Philadelphia's black culture during my childhood, sold them — that contain magical pow-



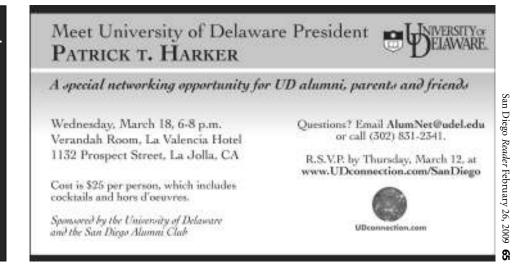
When I Am Not Here/Estoy Allá, 1994, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons

Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park Through Sunday, April 26. For additional information, call 619-232-7931; sdmart.org.

ers and probably derive from tree spirits worshipped by some African tribes. Saar says the bottles express dreams, ideas, and fantasies radiating from her mind. She's drawing on inherited, shared communal ritual to articulate modernist, self-aware subjectivity.

The exhibition puts a tight counter-spin on the art of portraiture. The welcoming painterly photograph that splashes hugely at us from its alcove is a self-portrait by the Jamaican-American Renée Cox, a former fashion photographer whose nude self-portraits raise a noise about how women, black women especially, are treated as fetish objects, especially when they're "Orientalized." Cox poses on a 19th-century chaise longue, head in profile, naked back turned toward us, mimicking the subject of Ingres's 1814 *La Grand Odalisque*, except that Cox looks like nobody you would want to mess with: instead of the peacock-eyed feather fan held by Ingres's woman, Cox holds a snappy-looking cat-o'-nine-tails; instead of boneless buttery bare feet, Cox sports red satin six-inch heels. Elsewhere in the show we have







black (and white) women -African, European, American — representing themselves and other black women, not only as they perceive their subjects but as they imagine how others perceive them. This gets even more twisty when the imagined gaze of the spectator (portraiture now is more performance than examination or inquiry, so "spectator" is the accurate term) is filtered by historical assumptions, ethnographic misrepresentations, inarticulate sexual stirrings, and tolerance for sass.

Colonization generates subjection and humiliation of many kinds - moral, social, racial, intellectual, cultural. To properly subjugate an alien culture, the colonizer tries to break down the cultural tissue that creates tribal or cultural unity. Making visual claim to an indigenous culture is one means of appropriating it. In the American tradition we refer to vernacular photography such as snapshots and postcard illustrations with no thought to the word's origins in the Latin de verna, "of slaves." A vogue in 19th-century Western Europe were postcard photos of African women, valued for their exoticism and border-crossing of racial-sexual consumerism. The photos could be rationalized as the given right of colonizers to "record" their captive populations, but it was also a new pornographic resource pass-



Unknown artist, Iraqw peoples, leather beads, 20th Century

ing as ethnography. Western males and females alike were enthralled by the shape of the female African body. (Never mind that there were as many different body types as one would expect on any continent.) As with every sort of art it includes, the exhibition takes postcard photography and turns it this way and that, illuminating its uses and its moral-political implications in the relationship between European ideologies and African-ness.

Cards often represented two views of a subject: one mostly naked, featuring what to Europeans might have seemed the unusually conical breasts of nubile women or low-slung breasts of women who have nurtured children; the other partly or fully dressed in native costume. The double image enhanced the (dubious) ethnographic value of the cards but mostly, I think, served as a two-panel

strip show. Cards that revealed the African female body allowed viewers to enjoy the manipulated exposure, exposure in every sense, of the other, to pleasure or delight the viewer. Some show an African woman cradling a breast with her hand, which might be taken as a sexual come-on or invitation. In most African cultures, however, the gesture wasn't sexual; it signified religious reverence. The cards also ask us to reexamine our assumptions about photography-as-evidence. From the beginning, photography was valued for its unequivocal evidentiary value even while recognized for its artificiality: rig the photograph and you rig evidentiary "truth." A lot of the contemporary art in the exhibition picks apart this and other kinds of rigging. I've gone on about post-

cards because they so grabbed my own (who knows how ambiguous?) attention. But there's a tangled-wire argument just about any way you turn. It's a cliché that modern art was invented not in Paris but in Africa, because its forms were generated by masks, headdresses, and shields Picasso and Matisse were seeing in Parisian galleries and flea markets. The catalog reminds us that because these Western artists were pirating these objects for their formal value, they were practicing a colonial activity of their own. The exhibition restores many aesthetically enchanting objects to their context of use and their function as spirit sources that bound together indigenous communities. It may alter for good your way of looking at African art generally. That said, the sheer formal beauty of the objects will stop your breath. My favorite is a staff from 19thcentury Tanzania sleekly



Gold Coast Girl, postcard, c. 1910

carved in the form of a mother carrying her young daughter on her back. Mother and child both bear scarification beauty marks and traditional high-rolled hair, but their figures are counter-torqued. The mother faces forward; the child, feet hitched on her mother's hips, turns her head, as if she's already looking away from the mother toward her own womanly initiations.

## ART LISTINGS

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

#### GALLERIES

"Cardinal Points/Puntos Cardinales" Opening reception for this "Survey of Contemporary Latino and Latin American Art from the Sprint Nextel Art Collection," featuring 55 two-dimensional works including paintings, photographs, prints, mixed-media pieces in variety of styles, subject matter, and media. Among the artists: José Bedia, Enrique Chagoya, Carmen Lomas Garza, Solomón Huerta, Graciela Iturbide, Freddy Rodriguez, Andres Serrano and Patssi Valdez. Closes Friday, May 8, 760-602-2021, Free, William D. Cannon Art Gallerv at Carlsbad Library (1775 Dove Lane), 5 p.m., Saturday, February 28. (CARLSBAD)

**"Waterline: Looking and Listening After Katrina**" Reception and gallery talk with artists Anna O'Cain and Richard Keely planned. Show closes Thursday, March 19. 619-849-2525. Free. Keller Gallery at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive), 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 3. (POINT LOMA)

#### From Tahiti to Bali and Beyond Official gallery opening reception, featuring Aaron Chang's collection of large-format photographic prints of waves and exotic images. 858-345-1880. Free. Aaron Chang Gallery (124 East Cliff Street), 7 p.m., Saturday, February 28. (SOLANA BEACH)

Youth Art Month Celebration for exhibition hosted by San Diego County Art Education Association, San Diego County Office of Education, Sargent Art, and San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist. Awards presented at 3 p.m. 619-236-0011. Free. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist (1439 El Prado), 2 p.m., Sunday, March 1. (BALBOA PARK)

## ART MUSEUMS

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum** Four new exhibitions on view: "20th Century



# Gregorian Chant Mass Schola and congregational singing.

Schola and congregational singing Hymnals/missals provided with Latin-English pages.

## Sunday, March 8, 4:00 pm Our Lady of the Rosary Church

San Diego's Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art State and Date Streets (Little Italy) Downtown San Diego



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To increase your exposure, you can get a **free** band/performer page with all your information – including your background and availability. Just go to the "Music" pulldown on the *Reader* website and click on "Create Your Band/Performer Page."

Photography: Selections from the Wachovia Securities Art Collection," "Divi/nation: Work by Debby and Larry Kline," "Between: Work by Nina Waisman," and "Reel Mothers: Film Video Art and the Maternal." Exhibits address current social issues and reflect on how historical moments have impacted life in America and world. Through Sunday, June 21. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

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

**Museum of Contemporary** Art San Diego, Downtown "Rising Tide: Film and Video Works from the MCA Collection, Sydney," opening Sunday, February 22, is drawn from collection of

Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, and features film and video installations by 13 contemporary Australian video artists and collectives. Exhibit encompasses wide range of themes, modes of presentation. Pieces range from single-channel video to multi-projection installations to architectural interventions. On view through Sunday, June 21. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla "Jasper Johns: Light Bulb" - on view through Sunday, May 10 - focuses on Johns's first sculpture, Light Bulb I (1958), a recent gift to the museum. Exhibition brings together Johns's light bulb sculptures and related drawings and prints, including several never-before-exhibited drawings and modified prints from artist's collection. Selection of works in this exhibition "demonstrates the significance of the relationship between the two-dimensional and three-dimensional in Johns's work and the importance of the light bulb as an image he explored for over 20 years.'

"Cerca Series: Javier Ramírez Limón" features photographic works by the Tijuana-based artist. Exhibition includes the two documentary photography series "Mexican Quinceañera" (2006-2008) and "De Altar al Sásabe' (2007). Through Sunday, May 10.

SINGLES

700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Oceanside Museum of Art Referencing multiple dimensions of pop culture, "Lowbrow Art: Nine San Diego Pop Surrealists" is said to highlight "alternative styles of expression that comment on the subculture of San Diego." See work by Mary Fleener, Scott Saw, Tim McCormick, Scrojo (Craig Haskett), Jason Sherry, Charles Glaubitz, Ron Wharton, Pamela Jaeger, and Jen Trute through Sunday, May 24. "Each artist extols their narrative world of fantasy through a personal approach reflecting the regional underground culture."

"Quilt Visions 2008: Contemporary Expressions" - continuing through Sunday, March 1 boasts 41 quilts selected from 586 entries. Jurors were Judith Content, Mary Anne Jordan, and Don Bacigalupi. 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art "Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body" - through Sunday, April 26 - explores "direct relationship between historic and contemporary representations of the black female body as they have been expressed in both traditional African and modern Western art." The 130 included works - prints, photographs, paintings, sculpture, video, installations — are said to "reveal how ideologies and realities of race, gender, identity, and sexuality have been constructed, critiqued, and transformed

through visual representations of the black female body" from 19th Century to present.

Also see "Oceanic Art: A Celebration of Form," featuring 97 works of art primarily from Melanesia and Polynesia, as well as objects from Micronesia and Taiwan. Closes Sunday, January 3, 2010.

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

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

## CLASSICAL LISTINGS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a

Tuesdays 7-11 pm

**Skies Lounge** 

Hosted by Darlena

phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

#### CLASSICAL

Bach and Brahms Michael Munson performs on Palomar's pipe organ in room D-5 (adjacent to the Performance Lab) for Concert Hour Series. Program includes piece by George Akerley. 760-744-1150 x2316. Free. Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10) (1140 West Mission Road), 12:30 p.m., Thursday, February 26. (SAN MARCOS)

Enjoy a "Small-Scale Masterpiece" San Diego Symphony, conductor Jahja Ling, and host Nuvi Mehta perform Dvořák's "Serenade for Strings in E" for "Symphony Exposed" series. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$15-\$60. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 26. (DOWNTOWN)

Brahms and Dvořák Listen for works by these two composers, as well as "The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)" by Mendelssohn when San Diego Symphony and pianist Yefim Bronfman present Jacobs' Masterworks concerts. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$20-\$93. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday through Sunday, February 27 through March 1. (DOWNTOWN)



Choir More than 80 singers from the greater Los Angeles area perform in concert. 619-464-4331. \$10. San Carlos United Methodist Church (6554 Cowles Mountain Boulevard), 7 p.m., Saturday, February 28. (SAN CARLOS)

Winter Chamber Heat Weekend festival concludes with concert. 619-260-4171. \$8-\$10. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 2 p.m., Sunday, March 1. (LINDA VISTA)

Symphonette Concert, Anyone? Chamber music recital planned by Poway Community Symphonette, promising baroque and contemporary compositions by Bach, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Nelhybel, Jenkins. 858-673-9702. Free. Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (16888 Espola Road), 4 p.m., Sunday, March 1. (POWAY)

The Goliards Medieval Ensemble Enjoy sacred and secular music from 11th through 14th Centuries performed on wire harp, vielle, gemshorn, krummhorn and other instruments during this Vesper Concert Series performance. Donation. 858-273-7423. \$10. Clairemont Lutheran Church (4271 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard), 7 p.m., Sunday, March 1. (CLAIREMONT)

Chamber Music Concert California State San Bernardino Chamber Wind Ensemble presents music by Mozart, Weill, Reich, and USD music faculty member Christopher Adler. 619-260-4171. \$5-\$10. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March



SPEED DATING Thursday, Feb. 26 ges 24-34, 33-45 & 45-58 at Bitter End, Downtown

Thursday, March 12 Ages 25-37, 38-48 & 48-62 at The Keating, Minus1 Lounge Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm Advance registration required. See website for details. www.lucky7match.com (619) 890-7117

San Diego

Reader February 26,

, 2009

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#### **M-Theory Punks the**

**Chains** Long before the current economic downturn, music retailers had a tough time keeping their heads above water as CD sales have dropped off while downloads, many for free, have become the typical method

"We have a list of store cards that we'll swap for credit: Walmart, Best Buy, Home Depot, Target, Lowe's, and maybe Petco because we keep dog treats at the store," he says.

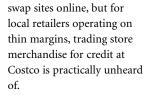
The idea isn't new. There are a number of gift-card

the inside track

for fans to track down their favorite tunes.

"The music industry has been changing in a huge way for a number of years now, and I've seen some record stores go away because they couldn't adapt to whatever the new model is that's gonna keep a store around," says Eric Howarth, owner of M-Theory Music. "For us, doing the in-stores, DVD screenings, and all of that stuff has been an integral part of us trying to stay relevant. There's a lot of ways to get music these days, so you've got to provide a reason to come and purchase from us and participate in the activities we get involved with."

Howarth's latest strategy is a dollar-for-dollar gift-card swap for store credit.





PAPER OR PLASTIC? "If we had to go some-

place and get light bulbs...we're either using the cash coming in from the sales of music at the store or we're

using that gift card. It just helps drive the sales back to our store anyway. On the punkest of levels, it's kind of a 'fuck you' to the big chain stores that get preferential treatment on pricing. It's just a cool DIY, indie thing to pull off," Howarth says.

"I guess the whole idea behind it was if we can get our customers coming in and swapping out gift cards from crappy big-box stores that are homogenizing our cities that they don't want, we'll give them a good M-Theory gift certificate that they'd rather use anyway. We'll take those gift cards and go buy toilet paper or whatever stuff we'd have to go buy anyway."

And Howarth had better stock up for the expected crowd when one half of the Two Coreys, Corey Haim, and a handful of other cast members from the movie The Lost Boys, set up for an autograph signing Friday, March 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. The appearance was set up in conjunction with the Lost Boys Reunited party at Brick By Brick, featuring G Tom Mac, who wrote the movie's gothic anthem "Cry Little Sister."

Also scheduled to appear are Brooke McCarter ("Paul"), Billy Wirth ("Dwayne"), and Chance Corbitt ("Laddie Thompson") from the movie. Corey Feldman will not be at the event.

"It's gonna be a bit of a circus," Howarth says.

M-Theory Music is located at 915 W. Washington St. in Mission Hills.

- Larry Harmon

No-Tech Dabbers There's one thing missing on the Dabbers' MySpace profile: songs. The two-piece, consisting of Kill Me Tomorrow's Zack Wentz on drums and

vocals and Shelby Gubba on bass, don't have any proper recordings of the band, just bootlegged copies from a few of their live shows. "We'll put some songs up here soon. We promise," reads one of

the band's blogs. "We're old-school...trying to figure out how to turn wax cylinder recordings into MP3s."

Even if the stripped-down two-piece had recordings of their distorted bass-and-tomdriven songs, they would take days to download.

"We are pretty no-tech," writes Wentz in an email. "Especially me. I still use a land line. No cell phone. No voice mail. I've never 'texted' anyone. Perhaps we'll record a track into my old answering machine, post my phone number online, and people can call if they want to hear a bit."

The band has other reservations about the quality of songs they add to their profile.

"I've always found it to be pretty unnerving to throw out unfinished artistic projects for the internet world to have its way with," responds Gubba in the same email. "Anyone can listen to a band's whole set list through compressed MP3 recordings



played through tiny laptop speakers, and that's the first impression that you get. It's cheating both the musician and the listener.

"I hear so often of people 'researching' bands on MySpace before even going to the show and sometimes choosing not to go based solely on the quality of what they hear online."

At the end of January, the band posted a blog asking if anyone would be interested in recording the band properly. Two weeks later, Mitch Wilson (guitarist and vocalist for No Knife) responded, agreeing to record the

Dabbers at North Park's Archival Sound Recording Studio.

"Since so many of you have been asking (and some of you demanding and/or threatening), we are finally going to begin the audio capturing process later this month [February]," reported the Dabbers' MySpace blog.

While both Dabbers were gracious and excited about getting the chance to record with Wilson, for Gubba, the whole point of the recordings is still to get people to come out for a live show. "I want it to be just enough to get peoples' interest and get them off the computer long enough to see some live music. I'd rather have tinnitus from going to live shows than develop carpal tunnel watching YouTube clips of live shows."

— Dorian Hargrove

### Lots and Lots of Body

Parts "I don't have many crazy stories, as this is the band's 30th anniversary tour," said Dave Wakeling of the English Beat. "To me, a nice time is hot chocolate with a few friends. But speaking of food on the road, I'm a vegetarian, and that's very difficult to find on the road or at the venues. So, I'll find a good Indian place and buy enough curry for the next two or three days. I stick them in Tupperware and

(Continued on page 70)







they're in the fridge for the next three days. I'm known as the man with the traveling curry."

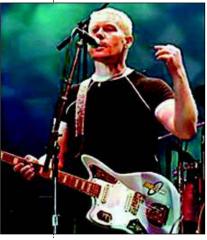
I asked Wakeling if he'd ever reunite with Ranking Roger, his old "toaster." "I've invited him endless times, and we've gotten very close. I think he's interest-

ed, but it may be the people that represent him. Always two or three weeks before it's supposed to happen... I think they feel they'll lose their central position in his career. So, it never comes off. One time in England, it had even been advertised and it didn't happen.

There was lots of pointing fingers and nobody taking responsibility. But I have a new toaster now, a guy from New York who lived in Jamaica. After the shows, the crowd doesn't even ask about Roger anymore. The last time we played together was about three years ago. And it was fantastic. Rog even admitted the magic was still there. I think when people ask me about him with reunion talk all misty eyed...it's like expecting to make a dinner party with the first five girls you ever kissed."

I'd seen Wakeling sign autographs after shows and asked him what was the weirdest thing he'd ever signed.

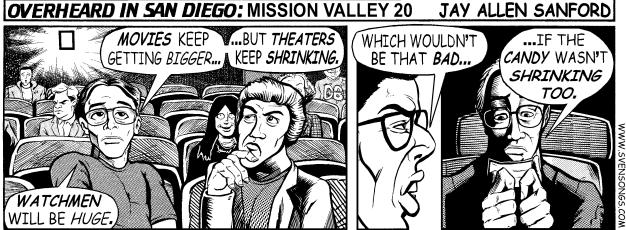
"Lots and lots of body



DAVID WAKELING'S GOT A NEW TOASTER

parts. But thankfully and gracefully, with fans in their 40s and 50s now, they're not as willing to flop one out as they used to be.

"My mom and dad came to a show in Birmingham. There were 2000 people, and it seemed like they all were asking for autographs. My



OVERHEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK "OVERHEARD SONG" MYSPACE.COM/CATHRYNBE

mom would start to talk with me, and we'd be interrupted to sign a note for someone's friend that wasn't there or another person who wanted to make a Christmas card. My mom asked if I ever get tired of it, and my dad quickly said, 'It's when they don't want his autograph that he's got to worry.'" Plenty of opportunity to

see Dave Wakeling perform and ask for his autograph at the Belly Up Tavern this weekend, February 27 and 28. — Josh Board

Chicken Milk Alien Babies? When the Homeless Sexuals play the Radio Room Friday night, it'll be their first show in nine months. "The band was breaking up," said singer Davit Buck. "The other four members wanted to do other projects and, as usual, I overreacted and tried to replace everyone from MySpace bulletins and craigslist ads. I would get replies back saying, 'Great band, but you guys need a new singer, that guy sucks.'

"Then I got an email from Freakfilms, saying that they wanted to use our song 'Chicken Milk Alien Babies' in a documentary film about concert-poster art, *American Artifact*. At first, I thought it was fake because I've dealt with others who say they have a film and want to use our music, and then the guy says he needs \$500 to represent us." The movie's producer, Merle Becker, worked on *Beavis and Butthead, Daria,* 



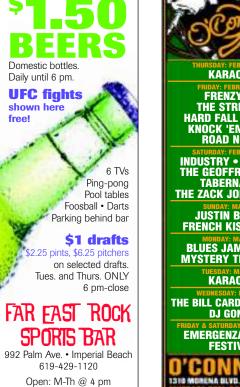
GOT CHICKEN MILK? and *Cartoon Sushi* before leaving MTV in 2000 to start Freakfilms. The documentary includes artwork and interviews with Stanley Mouse, Coop, Scrojo, Winston Smith, Frank Kozik, and others.

"Getting the film offer made me stop trying to rebuild the band," said Buck, a poster artist who draws all his band's flyers and record sleeves. "The song was written about a painting I did called *Chicken Milk*, with alien babies in flying saucers and wearing dunce hats."

As for money, Buck said, "I don't think we'll get a lot. We get a percentage of the music budget, which is split between ten bands." The film — due later this year will also include music by Phish and Jello Biafra. — Jay Allen Sanford

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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



F-Sun @ noon

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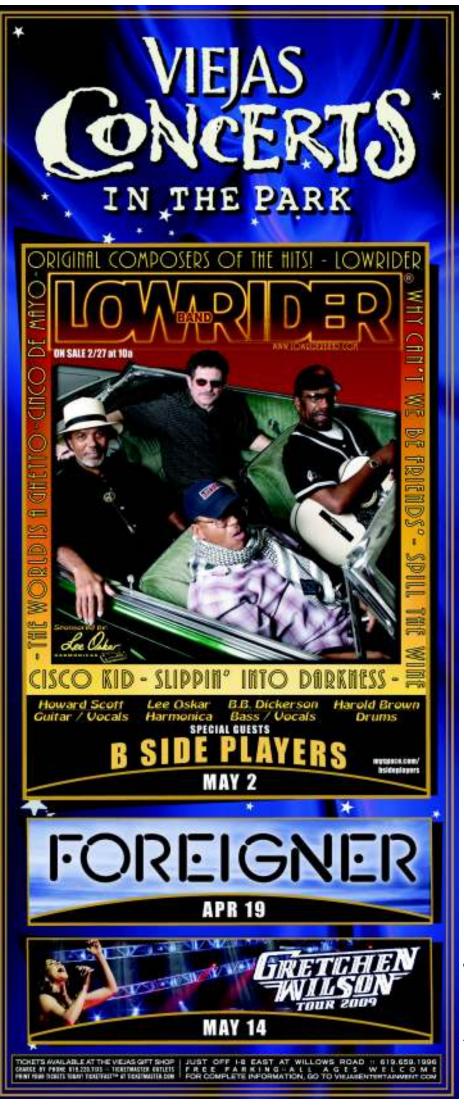




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	Friday, February 27
$\sim$	Jeff Moore &
	<b>The Witch Doctors</b>
	Saturday, February 28
28 E	<b>Triple Shot</b>
	Sunday, March 1
	<b>Comedy Night</b>
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RE n	<b>Josh Bonas</b>
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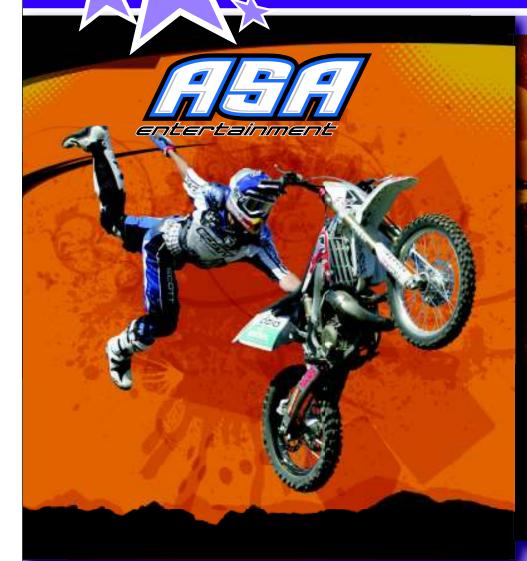
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# Crawler This Week In Music

**Thursday CO** Dance-beats duo **N.A.S.A.** launch at Casbah. Dudes're Sam Spiegel (Spike Jonze's brother) and Zé Gonzales (a pro skater), and, man, did they get Pitch-slapped last week, with a pitiful 1.6 for Antidebut *The Spirit of Apollo*. It's not *that* bad. It's dance music, for fug sake!... 91X's Loudspeaker returns to Belly Up with a locals-only bill featuring hot-shit glam poppers **Crash Encore**, with **Publicists** and **New Archaic...** Monsters from



N.A.S.A. AT CASBAH

Mars and the Bugs do what they do so well at Bar Pink.... House of Blues hosts award-winning Mexi-rawkers Kinky, with Mexican Dubweiser, Chico Sonido, and a side of guac... Vibes virtuoso Bobby Hutcherson settles into Anthology for two nights of mallets-meet-keys; keys, meet mallets... L.A. underground trip-hopper Pigeon John lands at the Loft with Luckyiam.



Radio Room dials in explicit punk-metal mayhem from Jersey boys **Shat**. Jeff Wood's 20-year-old campy crew are out to tout *Alive in C\*\*\**, a 28song collection with only one thing on its mind that's right, Jimmy, the "c" word. Our own **Homeless Sexuals** set the North Park stage. For more on Homeless Sexuals, see this week's Jay Sanford Blurt "Chicken Milk Alien Baby."... San Pedro two-step garage gang **Underground** 



Hostile Combover, and Bloodflowers. Tinnitusdot-com!... Best of the rest: alt-pop act Swim Party splashes with Writer at Whistle Stop. They got a split 7" to preview...Big Head Todd and Joan Jones deliver adult contempo to House of Blues...Dave Wakeling and English Beat skank up Belly Up Friday and Saturday nights...and Soda Bar sends up indie kids Tape Deck Mountain, Boom Snake, and Knesset.



Tons t'do Saturday, so, Evelyn Wood-like: Restiform Bodies bring their TV Loves You Back tour through town. They'll play the Access Records store on Garnet Satty afternoon and Kava Lounge later. Egadz! And (n1nth)cloud are sharing the van.... Suggest you go to the in-store and then get to Bar Pink for Detroit dudes Tyvjk with our own Pant Hoots. Tyvjk's spazzy Space takes sound tits, like King Kahn & BBQ, buds. Check it out: myspace.com/tyvekmusic... Udderwise: Ruby Room wrangles a genre mash-up with Transfer. Crocodiles. MC Flow, Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra, and Album Leafer Jimmy LaValle spinning discs...Rapper Kool Keith dons his Dr. Dooom guise at Casbah...Anthology stages Boss tribbers SATANIC PUPPETEER

Thunder SATANIC PUPPETER Road...Mr. Tube ORCHESTRA AT RUBY ROOM and Swim Party play the Planet Rooth studio on Ray Street...Canes exhumes hip-hop politico Dead Prez...House of Blues hosts Tony! Toni! Toni! Soul man Raphael Saadiq...and Angry Samoans ride the Jumping Turtle. Huh? Wha...? According to *Guitar World*, gearheads (and aren't all Zappa fans?), "When it comes to faithfully re-creating Frank Zappa's music and tones, his son Dweezil heads to the original source: Dad's collection of extremely rare gear."... Miss the door there, 'round the bend, Café Sevilla will be serving up an **Orquesta Hablando Salsa de Ruben Esteva** CD release. "If you like Victor

KOOL KEITH AT

Sunday

when son Dweezil

brings the Tour de

Frank to House

of Blues.

Zappa Plays Zappa Sunday night,

Manuel, you will love this San Bernardino group." . Syracuse indie kids Ra Ra Riot dance their long-player debut, The *Rhumb Line*, through UCSD's Loft space. **Cut Off Your** Hands and Telekinesis set the campus stage. By the by, "Rhumb line" is just a sexy way of saving "loxodrome" ... Portland electro-pop act Portugal. The Man joins local minimalist duo BoomSnake at Casbah.... But, BUT, Radio Room offers Extra Life. The Brooklyn avant-rockers hit a note (or, like, a zillion notes) with their latest punk-rawk opera, Secular Works. Trip on this: myspace.com/extra



lifetheband.

rolls on House of Blues. The 'hop-chart-topping rapper will preview his Cool & Dre-produced, much-anticipated eighth (thing's been in the can for two years), *Back on My B.S.*, due to drop March 24. Take a taste at his Space.... Casbah's Anti-Monday

team tags local noise-pop acts A Scribe Amidst the Lions, Beautiful Noise, and Syndicate.

Tuesday D Lite Tuesday nite. Andrea X presents Moviegoers and Ex-Friend Matt Curreri at Casbah. Tasty indie-pop fare. Who's Andrea X?

Wednesday

The mighty **Night Marchers** stomp on Bar Pink Wednesday night, though not too hard, cuz, y'know, one of them Marchers is paying the bills over there. We're still spinning *See You in Magic* a little bit around HQ. And they're on

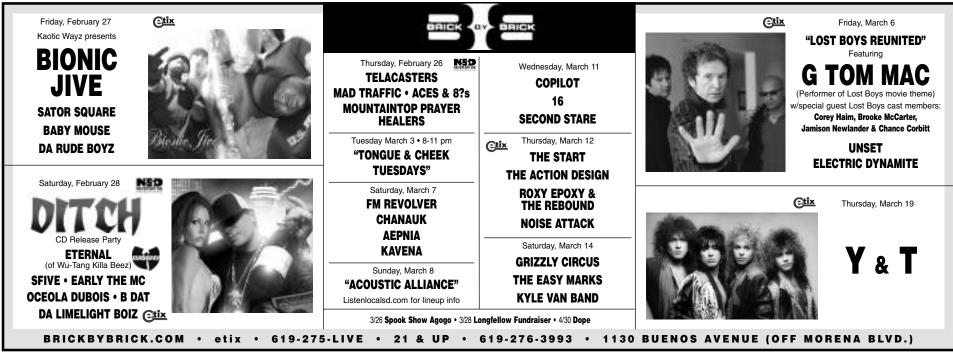
next month's Coachella checklist, sometine on Sunday, somewhere between the Mexican Institute of Sound and the Cure.... The swami of slap-n-pop bass **Les Claypool** will goosestep through House of Blues. The Primus frontguy is due to drop solo work *Of Fungi and Foe* on March 17. Apparently it's a sci-fi film score. Whether it's a real film or something streaming through Claypool's head is



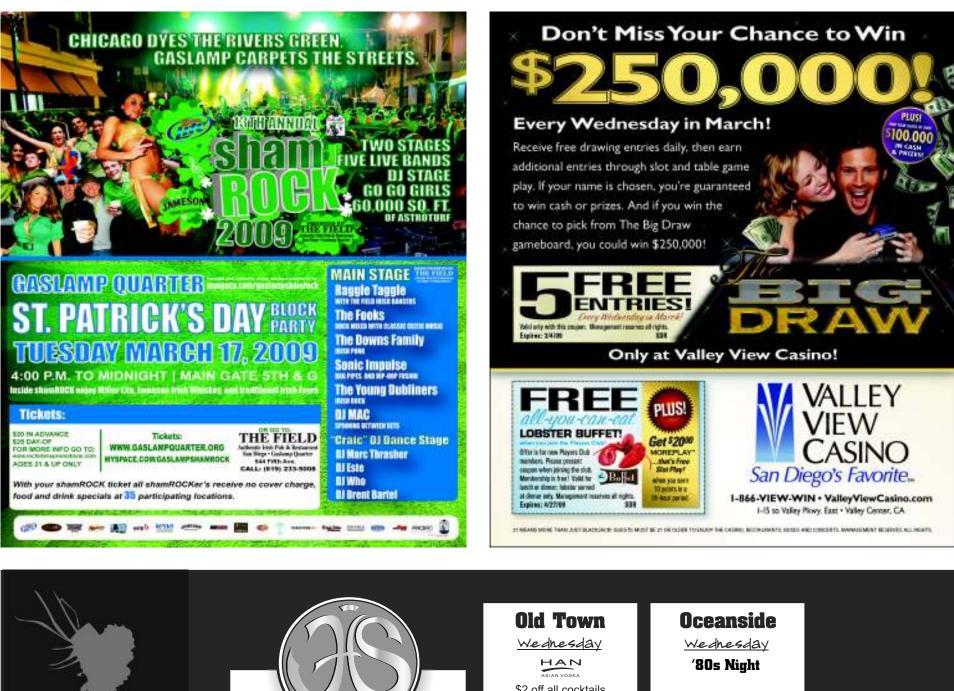
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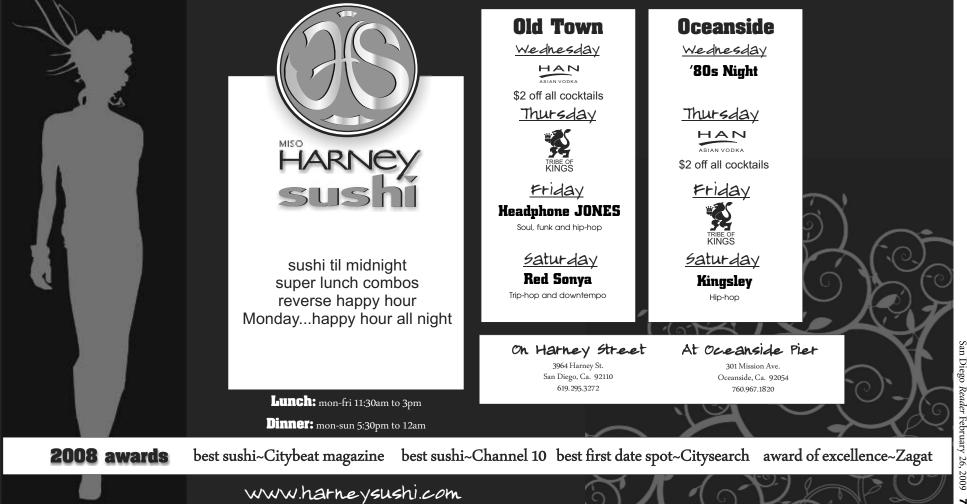
not immediately apparent. Always a treat.... Blues bros. **Smokin' Joe Kubek** and **Bnois King** hold court at Anthology...while down the street at Casbah, locals **Little White Teeth**, **Black Hondo** (not Black Condo), and **Wire Pony** should, according to the club, "make you go crazy for it." Show them you're nuts.

- Barnaby Monk



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# **Unknown Korn**

*"We do our best. We don't punch. We just want them out."* 

efore the Casbah's month-of-January reunion shows becomes a hazy memory, owner Tim Mays, manager Ben Johnson, and doorman Ben Heynes offer stories about the Casbah's 20-year legacy — a few tales of near disasters, spoiled musicians, and the night when an unknown opening act nearly tore

the roof off the place for an audi-

ence of six.

*Tim Mays:* "Right when we moved into the new location in January '94, there was an ASR [Action Sport Retail] show that was booked by one of those Orange County clothing companies. We just moved into this new place, so we were open to anything — we'd just tripled our capacity.

"So on the bill was Korn, Uncle Joe's Big Ol' Driver, Lit, and a couple of other bands. At the time, Korn was pretty much unknown outside Orange County. Halfway through the night, the crowd is looking really ugly. We didn't have extra security.... We just decided to stop letting people in, while in the meantime there are all these people showing up with invites to get in the show.

"Eric Conger was working at the door, and he's hardly a physical threat, and Phil Oliverson is working the side door, and he's a pretty big guy. So, we're not letting people in, and people are congregating outside, climbing over the apartment building trying to get in or rushing the door, but we're okay, everything's cool.

"A little while later Ice-T shows up, and Eric doesn't recognize him. He has no idea who he is and turns him away. Somebody comes up to me and says, 'They wouldn't let Ice-T come in!' So I run down the street and grab him. He's probably got two people with him, but all these people outside all of a sudden became his entourage. We get him in, and everything is cool, but a little while later somebody steals a bottle of booze from behind the bar, and a friend sees him and points him out.

> "I go to confront him. He denies it and wants to start a fight, so there's this mini showdown in the middle of the dance floor with me and my friends and that guy

and his friends.

"Everything cools down eventually and is fine. Then Korn goes on, and the crowd goes completely nuts. There's about 100 people there, and at one point somebody opens the side door and people try to rush in. Phil is trying to push people back out. He gets them outside, but he ends up outside with them and gets locked out. He's stuck out there with these people and trying to fight them off and ends up getting sliced with a box cutter in the lower part of his back. We get him inside and pull the plug on the band.

"We find the promoter and tell him, 'This is nuts! You gotta stop!' We cut the PA, but the band keeps playing for another song, but we finally got everyone out of there. I don't think Phil went to the hospital until the next morning. He ended up getting a couple of stitches. After that we vowed: No more ASR-related events."

Ben Johnson: "One of the guys from the Crash Worship has this marching band called the Extra Action Marching Band, and when they played — and I don't know why or how — but the whole f\*\*\*ng sewage and plumbing started coming up through the works and flooding the whole front room. We were working at the bar and throwing down cardboard over cardboard on the floor so people wouldn't be standing in it. We had to take beer out of boxes just so we could have more cardboard to throw on the



Korn, c. 1994

ground. We had it stacked about six inches high, and the sewage was still seeping through it. And nobody left! The band kept playing, and no one left, and there was a piss and shit smell everywhere. It was so far and away the gnarliest thing that has ever happened there. It was totally disgusting. It was the only show where that could happen and people wouldn't leave — it was literally a cesspool."

Ben Johnson: "One thing that has been super rad, and it's happened a couple of times when Nebula was at the height of their popularity, they used to bring in the most slamming openers. This one time — I think the third or fourth time they played there — they brought in Mastodon, and Mastodon has to play at 9:30 p.m., and nobody knew who they were. It was really slow — I think there were only five people in the club, and I was bar backing and got to go up to the front of the stage and stand five feet from those guys and watch them completely fucking annihilate the stage. It's always cool when you get to see those bands that are way ahead of the curve before anybody really knows who they are."

Ben Heynes: "There's been times when we were understaffed, and there were a bunch of dudes there that just wanted to fight. Cinco de Mayo with Manic Hispanic — about eight years ago — that was not fun. Some Lucy's Fur Coat shows were insane ten years ago. We do our best. We don't punch. We just want them out. I think that's part of the reason that people who are really combative are willing to walk away at some point — because we haven't been hitting them. There isn't that 'I have to get them back for hitting me' kind of thing. We just do what we can, and I have taken some good punches before. I've had to sit on people waiting for the cops to come a couple of times. I just wrap them up and lay on top of them."∎





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### Music & Event Calendar of March

Sunday, 1st: Old Timey Session Monday, 2nd: The Blokes Tuesday, 3rd: Rich the Stitch Wednesday, 4th: Joe Wood Thursday. 5th: Irish Night w/Skelpin Friday, 6th: Art Show & SPMB Saturday, 7th: Drowning Men & A.M. Vibe Sunday, 8th: Old Timey Session Monday, 9th: The Blokes Tuesday, 10th: Special Guest Wednesday, 11th: Joe Wood Thursday, 12th: Gravity + Hensley's Present Benefit for the Poseiden Foundation Friday, 13th: Wild Weekend Saturday, 14th: Night Doctors Sunday 15th: The Blokes (12-2pm) Sunday 15th: Fiffin Market

Monday 16th: Skelpin Tuesday 17th: The Mighty Regis Wednesday, 18th: Joe Wood Thursday, 19th: Irish Night w/Skelpin Friday, 20th: Cowboy Jack Saturday, 21st: Reggae w/ MG3 Sunday, 22nd: Old Timey Session Monday, 23rd: The Blokes Tuesday, 24th: Nathan James Wed, 25th: Frank Turner & Steve Soto, Look Mexico

Thursday, 26th: Irish Night w/Skelpin Friday, 27th: Benefit Saturday, 28th: The Blokes (12-2pm) Saturday, 28th: Joe Wood Sunday, 29th: Old Timey Session Monday, 30th: The Blokes Tuesday, 31st: Special Guest

TU	STRAIGHTLINI DESPITE ONE LEAD	LIE CHOUSE" DAY 2-27 STITCH • FLATLINE THE WOLVES THEORY BURNS RED of Decompression and REV) WEDNESDAY 3*4 GRACELAND (A tribute to Elvis) INSH KEAS		Thursdays         Classic Salsa         Returing San Diego's best Salsa orchestras.         Salsa dance class by Valerie at 8:30 pm.         D New Yo Rican & band start at 10 pm.         February 26:         Charlie Chavez         Y Su Afro Truko	<section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>
JAKKED RABBITS ELECTRO GUN MICROWAVE	PASS THE AX GONE TO OBLIVION	THE MIDNIGHT HOUK SUMMERSET	1	New Tuesdays Tropical Tuesdays	Wednesdays Singles Salsa
	SHOWS (See our website for mo	- •	3	A night dedicated to Merengue & Bachata. Bachata & Merengue dance lessons	Meet up with San Diego's Salsa community at Valerie's Singles Salsa Dance Class at 8:30 pm.
THURSDAY 3-5 1349 ABYSMAL DAWN RUINES OV ABBADON IMMOLATED SERAPHIM GANNONDORF	FRIDAY 3*6 BLITZKID D.E.A. LOOSE NUTTS ZOMBIE SURF CAMP TO WALK THE NIGHT	SATURDAY 3•7 SOILWORK DARKANE WARBRINGER SWALLOW THE SUN		Bachata & Merengue dance lessons by Valerie at 8:30 pm. Dominican DJ Israel & live bands at 10 pm. \$4 Mojitos & Cubra Libres all night! March 3: Mambo Salvaje	at valeries singles saisa Dance Class at 8:30 pm. Afterwards, dance all night to SoCal's best Salsa orchestras. March 4: Walter II Y Orq. Rumbaney
SUNDAY 3•8		VEDNESDAY 3•11) YR • SUIDAKRA		Upcoming: 3/5 Charlie Chavez Y Su 3/10 Org. Estrella Mix,	
AVSCISSION · CLIMHAZZAR	D ALESTORM	• MORDIUM • NEPHILIM Diego 2007" – Aol City Guide	Dan	ce lessons every Tuesday, Wednesday	
Www.t	surf the Web or research while you	age of The Turtle's wireless technology!!	ากโส	NIGHTCLUB myspace.com/ca	0 frances and a
HUMPHREYS BACKSTAGE LIVE Thursday, February 26 • 8 pm • Blues Rhythm & The Met Friday, February 27 • 7:30 pm • Indie	5-7 pm EVERY specials. Live Fridays & Sunday, March	y's NEW Happy Hour DAY! 1/2 off food & drink music 5-7 pm on select Saturdays. No cover. h 1 • 8 pm • Smooth Jazz	TUES	DAV Is. \$5 Cosmos	Rock 'n Roll Sing-A-Long Dueling Pianos
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Social Green • Bitter Sober		y Blues Party		Box Shots	
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Saturday, February 28 • 9:30 pm • Cla Rockola	ussic Rock	March 4 • 8 pm usic	SUNDAY		tertainment ego's Best c Venue
Matt Marshak	Saturday, March 14 Roy Rogers	Saturday, March 28 Chris Duarte	RIGHTLY S S13.50 Hurric Renns 50 S7 Big Ras Boe Ratils 55	PEGIALS Anos & You Keep The Glass Y & You Keep The Cap	NO COVER Sun-Wed 5 4th Ave, Gaslamp Quarter
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San Diego Reader February 26, 2009 **79** 



Classical listings can be found in the Classical Music Guide. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

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### THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Access Music: 1537 Garnet Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-3987. Saturday, 3 p.m. - Restiform Bodies. With EGADZ. Hip-hop/ rap.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. Friday, 7:30 p.m. - Lucky Kaplansky. Contemporary folk singer-songwriter. – The Duhks. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. -Acoustic/folk. \$15-\$20.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. -Bobby Hutcherson. Traditional jazz. \$32. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Thunder Road. A tribute to Bruce Springsteen. \$18. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. - Smokin'

Joe Kubek & Bnois King. Texas blues duo. \$12-\$27.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. - The Amina

Figarova Sextet. Jazz. \$18-\$88. Bar Leucadian: 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. Thursday - A Dawg Tilt. With DJ CPS Diablo

Saturday — Max Blasto. Beach Club Grille: 710 Seacoast

Drive, # F, Imperial Beach, 619-628-0777. Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Paul Ingram Quartet. With Michela Dalla Pozza, Jazz, Free.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Crash Encore. With Publicists and the New Archaic. Indie/alternative. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. - The English Beat. With guest. Soul/reggae/pop punk. \$20. Sunday, 4 p.m. — The Bayou Brothers. Zydeco/blues/R&B. Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Rhythm & the Method. Acoustic/blues/rock.

**Birch North Park Theatre:** 2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — The Lalo Schifrin Trio. Latin/jazz. \$38-\$51.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m. — Jesse Nova. With Maddox Revolution. Pop/rock/jazz.

Boar Cross'n: 390 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-2989. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Irieside. With Roots Vision and DJ Upendaspot. Rock/hip-hop. \$5. Ages 21 and up.

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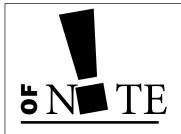
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### BY WILLIAM CRAIN

"We've forgotten what's sacred in this fast-paced world," belts out singer Sarah Dugas in the Duhks' "Fast Paced World." Judging by the accompanying video, what's sacred is the right to wear push-up bras and put on burlesque shows at Burning Man. As visions of the sacred go, that one ain't bad.

Still, it's a little weird to see a video like this associated with a mostly acoustic Canadian, Americana-Celtic-bluegrass-Latinjazz-rock-country band led by a banjo player. If you're expecting a more traditional sound, it's kind of weird to hear the song, too. Dugas, who joined the band in 2007 (taking over from Jessee Harvey), sings "Fast Paced World" as

#### The Brew House at

EastLake: 871 Showroom Place, Suite 102, Chula Vista, 619-656-2739. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Willovealot.

With Paradigm and Breezn. Alternative/soul/pop.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Telecasters. With Hectors Revenge. Rock/alternative/grunge. \$10. Friday, 8 p.m. - Bionic jive. With Sator Square, Baby Mouse, and Da Rude Boys. Rock. \$15. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Ditch. With Eternal, Lil Geechie, Loudmoufz, and the Tattoo Junkies. Hip-hop/ rap.

Bub's Whiskey Dive Bar: 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside, 760-757-

ter Sarah.

earned a Grammy nomination (for "Best Country Vocal Performance") for the Fast

Paced World album and have been attract-

ing ever-bigger audiences. But don't let that

fool you. This is still a band that jumps

from gypsy jazz to bluegrass to Brazilian

music to French folk. And it's still a band

that launched its own "Duhks Sustainabil-

With various pianists.

blues.

Standards/jazz.

Fridays, 6:30 p.m. - The Sandy

Chappel, Burnett Anderson, Robert

Sebastian, Marley Waak, and bass

player du jour. Standards/jazz/

Saturdays, 7 p.m. — Live Music.

Various rotating musical groups.

Bliss. With Burnett Anderson,

Robert Sebastian and Scott

Downtown, 619-233-5979.

Afro Truko. Latin.

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett's

Wallingford, Jazz/standards/blues.

Thursday — Charlie Chavez y su

Sundav — Hablando Salsa, Salsa,

Mondays, 9 p.m. — Rock en

Café Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue.

Chappel Quintet. With Sandy

2827. Friday, 9 p.m. - Playback. A tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Free. Saturday, 9 p.m. - Rip Carson. Rockabilly.

**Buffalo Brothers Guitars:** 4901 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-434-4567. Friday, 6 p.m. - Steven White. Performs at Buffalo Brothers' Art Show. Blues. \$10.

Café La Maze: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222 Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. - Sandy Chappel and Burnett Anderson.



ity Project" to promote ecological touring practices. If this is a pop band, this is one of the weirdest, most talented, and interesting pop bands out there.

DUHKS. AcousticMusicSanDiego. Saturday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. 619-303-8176. \$15, \$20.

Español.

Tuesday, 10 p.m. - Mambo Salvaje. Tropical. Wednesday — Walter II and Orquesta Rumbaney. Salsa/Latin/tropical.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. Thursday, 8 p.m. - Iron Works. With Red Ivy Suspects and Fuzz Huzzi. Rock. \$8. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*, 8:45 p.m. — Pantera'd. With Guerilla Radio and Geezer. Covers/metal/rock. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Chasing Claymores. With Full Volume, Jodi V/, and Ayisha. Alternative/rock/ funk. Ages 21 and up.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *Thursday*, 8:30 p.m. — N.A.S.A. With guests. \$12-\$14. *Saturday*, 8:30 p.m. — Kool Keith. Hip-hop/rap. \$18. Tuesday, 9 p.m. - The Moviegoers. With Matt Curreri. Alternative/garage rock. \$6.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday - Leo Rising. Covers rock, reggae, and funk. Saturday --- West of 5. Covers classic to modern rock.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. Friday, 8 p.m. — Skirt Alert. With Sean Martin, Jason Littlefield, Bill Ray, and Gerard Nolan, Funk/jazz. \$10-\$15.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — The All Star Jazz Organ Trio. Featuring Gilbert Castellanos, Joe Bagg, and Kevin Kanner. Jazz. \$12-\$15. Sunday, 6 p.m. - The Mellotones. Jazz. \$20.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131. Friday, 8 p.m. - 1Louder. With Mr. Roarke's Tattoo, Lobster Down, Negative Filter. Covers/ standards/rock. \$8.

Dublin Square: 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818. Thursday and Friday, 9:30 p.m. — TrunkMonkey. Covers/pop/ modern rock. \$5.

Encinitas Library: 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas.



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Sunday, 2 p.m. — Skelpin. Irish fusion. Free.

**Epazote:** 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-259-9966. *Thursday*, 7 p.m. — Freefall. Jazz. Free.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. Friday, 9 p.m. — Cadaver Dogs. With Bumbklaat, Neverland Ranch Hands, Reservoir Tips, and Tore Back. Punk. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Hungover Tomorrow. With Cadaver Dogs. Punk.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: 544 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-9840. *Thursdays*, 8 p.m. — Eamon Carroll. Traditional Irish music. *Friday*, 9:30 p.m. — Fiffin Market. Pop/Irish folk. Free. *Tuesdays and Wednesdays*, 8 p.m. — Eamon Carroll. Traditional Irish music.

### Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046

Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300. *Thursday*, 8:30 p.m. — Tribal Theory. Reggae. *Saturday*, 9:30 p.m. — Fiffin Market. Acoustic/pop/Irish folk. Free.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511. *Friday*, 11 a.m., *Saturday*, 9 a.m., *Sunday*, 10 a.m. — ConDor XVI. "Heroes and Villains" is theme for convention with anime, science fiction, fantasy, horror, art, music, discussions, films, gaming, shopping, celebrity appearances, partying, food. Guests of honor are author Todd McCaffrey (*Dragon's Kin*, *Dragonsblood*, *Dragon's Fire*, *Dragon Harper*), actress Amber Benson (Tara on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). 858-780-0908, \$20-\$50.

**The Harp:** 4935 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0168. *Friday*, 10 p.m. — The Buzzbombs. Rockabilly/punk/surf.

Hennessey's Tavern -Gaslamp: 708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994. *Friday*, 9:30 p.m. — The Blokes. Irish rock. *Saturday*, 9 p.m. — Rockslyde. Classic rock/rock.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. *Thursday*, 8 p.m. — Skelpin. Irish folk jam band.

**Hooligans:** 560 Greenbrier Drive, Oceanside, 760-967-0128. *Saturday*, 7 p.m. — The Live Wire Band. The Live Wire Band plays a mix of favorite high-energy rock hits from the '60s through today. Free.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Kinky. Rock. Friday, 7 p.m. - Big Head Todd & the Monsters. Rock/blues. \$22-\$42. Fridays, 9 p.m. - West of Memphis. On the Voodoo Stage Blues/country/rock. Free. Saturday, 10 p.m. — Raphael Saadiq. R&B/soul. \$32-\$42. Sunday, 7 p.m. — Zappa Plays Zappa. Dweezil Zappa and his band cover the music of Frank Zappa. \$39-\$69. Monday, 7 p.m. — Busta Rhymes. With Dago Braves. Rap. \$26-\$41. Ages 21 and up.

*Tuesday*, 8 p.m. — Adelitas Way. Rock/alternative. *Wednesday*, 7:30 p.m. — Les Claypool. \$25-\$45. Ages 21 and up.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. *Thursday*, 8 p.m. — Rhythm & the Method. Acoustic/blues/rock. \$5.

**JP's Pub:** 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta, 858-576-2509.

*Friday*, 9 p.m. — West of 5. Covers classic to modern rock.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. *Wednesdays*, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

**The Jumping Turtle:** 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.

*Mondays* — Reggae Infusion Irie Time. Various reggae bands perform.

The Kava Lounge: 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-543-0933. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Restiform Bodies. With EGADZ. Hip-hop/ rap. \$7.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483. *Friday* — Serious Guise. Covers/pop/rock. *Saturday* — Frankie Dee & the Funk Natra Band. Blues/standards/funk. *Saturday* — Ghost Riders. Covers/pop/rock. *Sundays*, 4 p.m. — The Blues Brokers. Blues/soul/rock. *Mondays*, *Tuesdays* — Doug Allen. Front man of the Mar Dels.



### THURSDAY, FEB 26TH THIM SD ALTERNATIVI CHARITY EVENT WITH DJ JCEE

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COME SUPPORT THE ALTERNATIVE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE AND YOUTH ARTS THURSDAY 26TH AT ONYX AND THIN! THE ALTERNATIVE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS MUSIC EDUCATION FOR KIDS 14 TO 21 YEARS OLD. COME SHOW SOME LOVE BY PARTYING WITH US THURSDAY NIGHT. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.SDALTERNATIVE.ORG

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SATURDAY, FEB 28TH

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Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. Wednesday, 9 p.m. - Happy Ron Hill. Blues/experimental/rock.

Little Italy Spaghetteria: 1953 India Street, Little Italy, 619-398-2974. Thursday, 9 p.m. — Jacqueline Grace. Pop/Latin.

The Living Room

Coffeehouse - Point Loma: 1018 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma, 858-222-6852 Saturdays, 8 p.m. - Jay Dancing Bear. Acoustic

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD.

Sunday, 8 p.m. - Ra Ra Riot. Indie rock/electro/pop. \$10.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. Thursday, 7 p.m. — The Heroes. Covers/standards/dance. Free. Friday, 4 p.m. - The Fabulous Pelicans. Covers/standards. 9 p.m. Innovation. Covers/standards. Free.

Saturday, 4 p.m. — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock. 9 p.m. - The Jones Revival. Classic rock. Free.

Main Tap Tavern: 518 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-749-6333. Friday ---- Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies. Blues/soul/ rockabilly.

The Marquee: 835 25th Street, Golden Hill. Friday, 8 p.m. — Inigo Figuracion. With Chad Cavanaugh, One Black Shoe, and more. Acoustic/covers/rock. \$8. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Dave Booda. With Allied Gardens, Folding Mr.

Lincoln, and Tan Sister Radio. Acoustic. \$8. McCabe's Beach Club: 1145

South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646. Fridays, 4:30 p.m. — The California Rangers. Country. Free.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado,

XAVIERS

619-435-5280. Friday, 9 p.m. — The Offbeats. Covers/standards/classic rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. - The Stilettos. Rockabilly/jazz/roots.

Milano Coffee Company: 8685 Rio San Diego Drive, Mission Valley, 619-688-1882. Saturday, 5 p.m. — Brooke Brown

Saracino and Mya Elaine. Acoustic. Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. *Friday*, 9 p.m. — Max Blasto. Rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Metal Brigade. With Priest Heavy. Metal/rock.

Neurosciences Institute: 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Adam del Monte. Flamenco. \$25.

#### North Bar Sports and Spirits: 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8228. Thursdays, 6 p.m. - Mike Gardner. Rock. Free.

North Park: University Avenue (between 30th and 32nd Streets), North Park. Saturday, 1 p.m. - Guava Belly. Performing on the main stage at the San Diego IndieFest.

### O'Connells Pub and

Rock/funk/iazz.

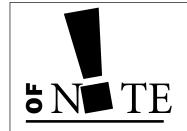
Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637 Friday, 8 p.m. - Frenzy. With the

Strikers, Hard Fall Hearts, and Road Noise. Rock/metal. Saturday, 9 p.m. - Industry. With Copilot, the Geoffro Cause, Tabernacle, and the Zack Jones Band. Rock. Sunday, 9 p.m. — Justin Bailey.

With French Kiss Koma. Rock. Wednesday - The Bill Cardinal Show. With DJ Gonzo. Country/rock/alternative.

Oceanside Library: 330 North Coast Highway, Oceanside. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Omega. African. \$15.

Old Time Music: 2852 University Avenue, North Park, 619-280-9035. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Richard Greene. With Tom and Patrick Sauber. Bluegrass/country. \$25.



### BY DAVE GOOD

If you don't already know Primus, then there is no easy way to describe them. When they were an active band, Primus was one of my daughter's favorites. She was around 15 at the time of Pork Soda. The single from Pork, "Mr. Krinkle," never ceased to amuse us, if only for the pure flatulent qualities of the bass performance and the Mr. Limpet vocals. both delivered by Les Clavpool. She and I would mimic Claypool's bovine bass lines to each other long after hearing Primus on the radio - which is itself kind of strange, that this sort of musical weirdness actually went mainstream. To wit, "Wynona's Big Brown Beaver," from the next album, almost won them a Grammy. Maybe Primus worked

so well because they did not violate a cardinal rule put forth by Sly Stone years earlier: You can do whatever you want to an audience, as long as you make them dance. Les Claypool, a musi-

cian-singer-songwriternovelist from Sonoma, California, and now a solo act. would probably not object to being called rock and roll's sideshow. It is easy to be distracted by his dark comedies and nerd singing. but his music always rocks, even when layered under gobs of freakish bass-gui tar buffoonery.

Planned craziness, after all, requires an order of brilliance, and for my money Claypool took that notion to the outer limits when he teamed up post-Primus with Parliament's Bernie Worrell and a guitarist who wears an empty Kentucky Fried Chicken carton for a hat and calls himself Buckethead. They did not compose songs, nor did they practice; C2B3 was



improv with a heavy groove. On tour ("The Oddity Faire: A Mutated Mini-Fest"). Claypool brings with him various musicians who, like him, think outside of the box and understand that comedy is a serious thing.

LES CLAYPOOL, House of Blues, Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$25 to \$45.

On Broadway: 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-0011. Saturday — Dave Aude and Charles Feelgood. Electro/house/club.

Onvx/Thin: 852 Fifth Avenue. Downtown, 619-235-ONYX. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m. — Jazz Jam Session. With Gilbert Castellanos and DJ Sachamo. Free.

Osetra Watergrill: 904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800. Thursdays, 8 p.m. — Live Jazz. In the E5 Lounge. Free. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. - Los Reyes del Ritmo. Flamenco and Latin music in the E5 Lounge. Free.

Pal Joey's: 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens, 619-286-7873. Friday, 9 p.m. — Night Shift. Covers/standards. Free. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Idle Train.

0722. Sundays, 6 p.m. — Stage 4. Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Fiesta Tuesdays

1 for 1 Wargarities or Mexican Ever. \$3.50 Taxes & Enchilador Soundtrack Wednesdays Patrick's II: 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. Thursday, 9 p.m. - The Blue Four.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. Blues/funk/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Alan Iglesias &

Monday, 9 p.m. - Jukeville. Blues. With Kofi Baker. Covers.

Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030. Thursdays - Stepping Feet. A Dave

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Latino Band Night. Latin.

Rancho Bernardo Inn: 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. Fridays, 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 6 p.m.

- Jerry Melnick & Tom Bishop. El Bizcocho Restaurant. Jazz/variety.

Rilev's: 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-255-8635. Saturdays - Live Rock. Tuesdays - Live R&B and Jazz.

Rock Church: 2277 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma, 619-226-7625. Tuesday, 7 p.m. - Chris Tomlin. With Israel Houghton and New

Breed. Christian/pop. \$29. The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City

Heights, 619-264-6000. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.

The Roval Dive: 2949 San Luis Rey Road, Oceanside, 760-722-1911. Friday, 9 p.m. — Nihilist. With Damcyan. Metal. \$5.

Schroeder's at Tango Del Rev: 3567 Del Rev Street. Clairemont, 858-794-9044. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Debra Wanger and Ravme Sciaroni. Standards.

Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Drive, Downtown. Sunday, 1 p.m. - Blue Rockit. Blues/rock. Free.

\$20.

Second Wind (Magnolia): 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350. Thursday, 8 p.m. - Mower. With

Unset, Canobliss, and guests. Metal. Free.

Shooters Bar and Grill: 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. - John Cain. Country/jazz/Tejano/lounge/pop. Free.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-255-7224.

Thursday, 9 p.m. - Spotlight Junkies. Alternative/pop/rock. Free.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662

Friday, 7 p.m. - Jon McLaughlin. With guests. Pop rock. \$12. Saturday, 7 p.m. - Mike Pinto. With Evil Petting Zoo, Bucket of Fish, Grim Luck, and the Mayors of Sexytown. Acoustic/reggae/rock. \$10. Wednesday, 7 p.m. - A Cursive

Memory. With Automatic Loveletter. Alternative/pop/rock. South Park Bar & Grill: 1946

Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.

Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. - Open jazz jam.

Friday, 7 p.m. — The Paul Ingram Quartet. With Michela Dalla Pozza. Jazz. Free.

Fridays, 7 p.m. — The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. — Open Blues Jam. With Will Jackson.



Reader February 26, 2009 San Diego



Classic rock/rock/blues. Free.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-

Blues/soul.

Crossfire. A tribute to Stevie Rav Vaughan. Sunday, 9 p.m. - Soul Plow. Rock.

Tuesday, 9 p.m. - Blue Largo. Blues/soul/swing. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — "Cream."

**RT's Longboard Grill:** 1466 Matthews Band tribute.

Saturday - The Alternatives. Sundays — The Devastators. Roots/reggae/dub Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main Street,

# rock.

Friday - 5 Miles High. Classic

# Ramona, 760-789-7008.

Friday, 8 p.m. — Lipstick N Leather. Eighties hair metal. Sundays, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series, Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard. Sunday, 6 p.m. — Apropos. Jazz.

Stage Saloon: 762 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-992-7862. Fridays - Trainwreck.

#### Tango Restaurant & Lounge: 417 West Grand Avenue,

Escondido, 760-747-5000. Thursdays, 7 p.m. — Notas Antiguas. Acoustic performance featuring Warren LaPlante and Ruben DeAnda, covering all genres. Free.

Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue. Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734. Thursday — Kamakazi. Friday - Fish Out of Water. Saturday - The Tornado Magnets. Alternative/country/rock.

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. Friday, 8 p.m. — The Farmers. Roots rock/Americana.

The Turquoise, Café-Bar **Europa:** 873 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-4200. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. — La Reyes. Flamenco. Free.

The Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House: 835 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-4855. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. - Off Campus. Acoustic/folk/rock.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. Saturday, 8 p.m. — KSON's New Face Showcase. Featuring Jamey Johnson, Ashton Shepherd, and Danielle Tucker. Country. \$5.

Sunday, 5 p.m. - The Carl Sonny Levland Trio. Performs at the David Patrone Swing Competition with James Harman and Nathan James. Swing.

Whistle Stop Bar: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784. Friday, 9 p.m. - Swim Party and Writer. With DJ ratmuscle. Acoustic/indie/rock. Free. Ages 21 and up.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Thursday, 9 p.m. — Kirsten Price. With Dropjoy. Alternative/soul. Friday, 9 p.m. — Guava Belly. Rock/funk/jazz. Saturday — Psydecar. With the Cool and the Deadly. Reggae/soul/rock.

Y1 Studios: 1150 7th Avenue. Downtown. Friday, 8 p.m. — The Guggenheim Grotto. Alternative/folk/indie. \$12-

\$15.

UPCOMING SHOWS

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. March 25 - Wookie Garcia March 26 — The Downstroke. April 4 — The Pheromones.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. March 6 — Stephen Bennett, March 21 — Michelle Shocked. March 26 - Chad & Jeremy. April 3 — Hawaiian Slack-Key Masters.

April 5 — Muriel Anderson. April 11 — Rory Block. April 24 — David Wilcox.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. March 6 — Gene Perry's 10-Piece Orchestra. March 7 — Joey DeFrancesco. March 10 — The Anthology House

Band March 11 — Danny Green. March 12, March 13 — Jane Monheit. March 17 - The Anthology House Band.

March 19, March 20 — George Duke.

March 21 — Dave Mason. March 24 — The Anthology House Band.

March 25 - Charles McPherson. March 26 — Trevor Davis. March 27 — The Steely Damned. March 28 - The Anthology House Band March 28 - Wild Child.

March 29 — Pasquale Esposito. March 31, April 1 — Branford Marsalis.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100. March 7 — Tiempo Libre. March 15 - The Irish Rovers

Bar Pink: 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-564-7194.

March 28 — The Western States Motel.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. March 16 - LDR and the Kates.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. March 6 — Delta Spirit. March 9 — Tom Jones. March 12 - Solana Beach Baseball

Bash. March 15 — The Von Bondies. March 18 - Ashley Matte. March 21 — Stepping Feet. March 22 — Thirsty for Change Benefit Jam. April 4 — John Brown's Body.

April 9 — The Dark Star Orchestra. The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300. March 12 — Jacqueline Grace. March 18 — Donovan Nugent. March 19 — The Riders. April 23 — Lessons from Zeke.

Bondi Bar and Kitchen: 333 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-342-0212.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos

March 6 — Lost Boys Reunited. March 7 — Chanauk. March 8 — Acoustic Alliance

March 15 — Jordan Reimer Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.

JONMELAUGHLIN SAT. FEB 28 MIRE PINTO EVIL PETTING 200 BUCKET OF FISH GRIM LUCK THE MATORS OF SEXTTOWN WED, MAR 4 et sig FRI. MAR 6 LINDBERGH SKIES FREEZING VYNAL THE MOTIVES CHRYSALIS OKNOW FRI. FEB 27 midnight HE 909 SAT. MAR 7 ABIGAIL WILLIAMS AT. MAR 14 NING THE MASSE NORTEWALL R TRI. NAR 13 THE NUMBER TWELVE LOOKS LIKE YOU FRI. MAR 20 MILLENCOLIN NIGHIS OF THE BRICES METHOREERO THEABYSS MOIOTOV SOLUTION THE NOEDOWN VANGUARD DOKES OF THE KOMATAL THE PARTYS OVEN BIR - 7PM - LUNETIKE.COM BOMA BOX OFFICE SAT. MAR 21 Blotum Chaos WES OF VALOR THEY BURN ALLVE FRI. MAR 27 sana SAT. NAR 28 omn TRI. APR 3 . TPM . LUNATIN MA BOX OFFICE THURS. APE 2 STAVIN HOF TOPIC THE DEVI DEGRA WEARS PRIDA SAT. APR 4 annat a TERROR NON. APR 6 SKYLIT DRIVE DANCE GAVIN DANCE ATTACK ATTACK MARING AT NIER AND HITH I SEE STARS 2 SAT. APR 25 PROTEM

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MISERYALS



9522 MIRAMAR ROAD • 858-578-0757 Northeast corner of Miramar Road & Black Mountain Road



March 12 - theSTART. March 14 — Kyle Van Band March 19 — Yesterday & Today.

Café Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. March 5 - Charlie Chavez y su Afro Truko. March 8 - Orquesta Salsa Caliente. March 10 --- Orquesta Estrella Mix. March 11 — Orquesta Guarare. March 15 — Orquesta Guayo. March 17 - Orquesta Primo. March 22 - BombaChante. March 22 - Son y Clave. March 24 — Trece de la Suerte. March 24 — Mambo Salvaje. March 26 - Orquesta Primo. March 29 — Gene Perry y Afro Rumba. March 31 - Banda del Swing

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk. Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. March 5 - Monday's Alibi. March 6 — High Tide. March 7 — Iron Maidens. March 11 — BLVD. March 13 - De La Soul. March 14 - Tainted Love March 26 - A Scribe Amidst the Lions. March 27 — Stranger. March 28 - Candlebox. March 30 — Less Than Jake. April 25 - Cash'd Out. April 29 — Diplo.

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. March 14 — The Baytown Band.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355. March 5 — The Lonely H. March 10 - Plants & Animals. March 14 — Cursive. March 15 - Asobi Seksu April 16 - The Black Lips

Claire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845. March 6 - Willovealot. March 14 — The Uptown Rhythm Makers.

# NIGHTCLUB

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### FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 27 - Punk Night 5 BANDS: Reservoir Tips/ Tore Back/Cadaver Dogs/ Blummklaat/Neverland **Ranch Hands** 

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 – Punk Night Solis/Hungover Tomorrow/Cadaver Dogs

THIS WEEK Old Skool OPEN AT Thursday 6 AM DI Undagrou

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Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804. April 7 — Leonard Cohen.

Cox Arena: 5500 Canvon Crest Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947. March 8 - Slipknot. March 15 — Los Temerarios.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. March 29 — The Chris Klich Jazz Ouintet.

### Cricket Wireless

Amphitheatre: 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600 March 22 - MX Live Fest.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. *March 7* — Dean Brown. March 11 — Bill Evans Tribute. March 14 - Jazz Piano Legends Tribute March 15 — Dublin Down. March 20 — The Howell/Tordella Project. March 25 — The Latin Connection Jazz Quintet. *March 26* — Dan Reagan. *April 2* — The Jazz Ensemble. April 11 — The Gilbert Castellanos New Latin Jazz Ouartet. April 18 — Kendra Shank

April 24 — Paul Seaforth. **Dos Picos County Park:** 17953 Dos Picos Park Road, Ramona.

March 28 — Sara Petite. Downtown Café: 182 East

Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. March 14 — The Burnsville Band. April 24 — Hugh Gaksins and the

G String Daddies. Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-

222-8131. March 27 - Dead as Dillinger.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000 March 30 - Sing It Loud.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: 544 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-9840. March 17 - 13th Annual shamROCK.

Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100. March 6, March 7 — Federal Funk March 7 — Eddie Money. March 14 - The Baytown Band

### >**h**ometown CDs

Album: Mrs. Young Versus the Modern Ones (2008) Artist: Emery Byrd

I abel: self-released

Where available/price: M-Theory in Mission Hills for \$9.99. Online at emerybyrd.com, iTunes, and Amazon for \$9.99 Songs: 1) No Scene Like This 2) Busy Doing Nothing 3) Good Mrs. Young 4) Small Untroubled Town 5) Clockwork

6) Button Down Man 7) The Bigger They Come 8) A Great Silence 9) Sleep Lilly Sleep

Band: Matt (vocals), Bobby (bass), Brandon (guitar), Andy (quitar), Nick (drums)

Website: emervbvrd.com

On past EPs, Emery Byrd put out happy-go-lucky

### Hensley's Flying Elephant

Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. March 20 — The Band in Black.

**Holy Trinity Episcopal** Church: 2083 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0365.

March 6 — Gráda.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. March 5 — The Pretenders. March 6 - Jimmy Eat World. March 7 — Mago de Oz. March 8 - G. Love & Special Sauce March 9-— Adele. March 10 — Jesse McCartney. March 11 — Who's Bad? March 13 - Rocco DeLuca and the Burden. March 14 --- Cute Is What We Aim For March 15 — Shwayze. March 16 - Skid Row. March 17 — Black Tide. March 18 - Blue October. March 19 - San Diego Rocks! March 20 - OK Go. March 21 — Pitbull March 22 - The Adicts and the Dickies. March 23 — The Michael Schenker Group. March 27 — Brett Dennen. March 28 - Which One's Pink? March 29 — 30H!3. April 1 — Lilv Allen. April 5 - Senses Fail. April 8 — The Yonder Mountain

String Band. April 9 — The Disco Biscuits. April 10 — Don Felder. April 11 — Led Zepagain. April 12 — Cold. April 14 — Aterciopelados. April 17 - The Derek Trucks Band April 19 — The Kottonmouth Kings. April 23 — Queensrÿche. April 25 — Panteón Rococó. April 26 — Ximena Sarinana. April 30 - Eek-A-Mouse The Jumping Turtle: 1660

pop typical of the era before

the Beatles grew beards. On

Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778. March 27 — Forbidden.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437 March 5 — Karma

The Marquee: 835 25th Street, Golden Hill March 14 --- Wendy Bailey. March 21 — Nathan Welden. April 4 — Jordan Reimer.

Mission Bay Park: Vacation Isle, off Ingraham Street, Pacific Beach, 858-581-7602. May 2 — Matisyahu.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. March 6 - Radiostar. March 13 — Lefthand Thread

**Music Trader - Point Loma:** 3112 Midway Drive Suite F, Point

their latest full-length album, Mrs. Young Versus the Modern Ones, the band shows considerable maturity and sophistication. They've kept the solid foundation of traditional music - the melodic chorus hooks that invite singalongs and the clean vocals. But they've ditched much of the dimple-grin bubblegum sentiment for a more melancholy tone - so earnest at times, the songs could be described as dour. But that's much of what independent rock is: taking itself seriously so that others will too. This feeling is expressed perfectly in the closing of "Small Untroubled Town," with its refined, stunning violin played

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March 7 — Revenge Club.

North Coast United

O'Connells Pub and

Nightclub: 1130 Morena

March 6 — Candy Asylum.

March 8 - Rising Tides.

Methodist Church: 1501 Kelly

March 15 - Eddie and the Vibra

Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-

March 7 - Chap-Stik the Comic



Emery Byrd

by guest musician Mary Smedes Pike.

Emery Byrd started at lofty altitudes and has soared higher with each recording.

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### Palomar College

Performance Lab (room D-10): 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos. March 12 — The Spectrum Trio. April 23 — Janet Hammer and Nathan Fry May 7 — The Spectrum Jazz Singers. May 7 — Palomar Women's Chorus. The Pannikin - Del Mar: 2670

Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-481-8007 March 20 — The Latin Connection

Jazz Quintet. March 11 — Jimmy Dean and Patrick's II: 428 F Street, March 13 - A Scribe Amidst the Downtown, 619-233-3077. March 5 — Blue Four. March 8 — 145th Street Deluxe

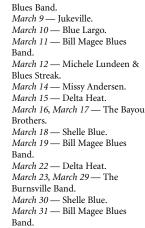
Oceanside Library: 330 North Coast Highway, Oceanside. March 21 — LeRoy Bell. April 25 — Musicàntica. Old Time Music: 2852

University Avenue, North Park, 619-280-9035 March 7 — Wayne Riker.

Open Air Theatre: 5500 Campanile Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947 April 29 --- Celtic Woman: Isle of

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252

March 6 — The Pretenders. April 24 — Federal Funk.

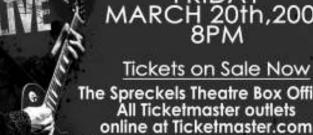






THE SPRE Bunamas h,2009 MARC New Album In Stores Tickets on Sale Now Feb. 24 2009 The Spreckels Theatre Box Office

### March 8 — Willovealot. April 18 — Federal Funk.



Reader February 26, 2009

San Diego

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**Price Center at UCSD:** 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-6467.

April 15 — Seun Kuti and Egypt 80.

**Qualcomm Hall:** 5775 Morehouse Drive, Mira Mesa, 858-259-5508. *May 2* — The Fab Four.

**RT's Longboard Grill:** 1466 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030. *March* 6 — The Alternatives. *March* 7 — 6one9. *March* 27 — TrunkMonkey.

Radio Room: 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-284-3323. *March 16* — Fighting Chance. *April 6* — Jerkagram.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-7008. March 6 — Chet & the Committee. March 14 — Help! March 27 — Danielle Tucker and the City Limits Band. March 28 — David Maldonado.

Rimac Arena: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. *April 29* — Death Cab for Cutie. *May 20* — Flight of the Conchords.

**The Royal Dive:** 2949 San Luis Rey Road, Oceanside, 760-722-1911. *March 21* — Pushin Rope.

**Ruby Room:** 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. *March 11* — The Dirty Legs.

San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-224-4171. *April 17* — Avenged Sevenfold. May 24 — Taylor Swift. May 31 — Fleetwood Mac. August 29 — Ricardo Arjona.

Schroeder's at Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey Street, Clairemont, 858-794-9044. *March 7* — Swingin' at the Sands. *March 21* — The Needemann Brothers.

Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Drive, Downtown. March 8 — Midnight Heat. March 15 — The Bayou Brothers. March 22 — Midnight Heat. March 29 — The Cat-illacs.

Second Wind (Navajo): 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos, 619-465-1730. March 10 — Scott Wilson and the Complications. March 12 — Spotlight Junkies.

Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-3541. *March 28* — Hapa.

Sixty-Seven Bar and Grill: 10109 Maine Avenue, Lakeside, 619-561-6767. March 14 — Collage Menage. March 21 — Modern Day Moonshine.

**Soda Bar:** 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-255-7224. *March 10* — Hurts to Laugh.

March 20 — The Dirty Legs. Soma: 3350 Sports Arena

Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662. *March 6* — Lindbergh Skies.

March 7 — Abigail Williams. March 12 — Lower Definition. March 13 — The Number 12 Looks Like You. March 14 — Millencolin. March 20 — Knights of the Abyss. March 21 — Full Blown Chaos and See You Next Tuesday. March 27 — Alesana. April 2 — Gavin DeGraw. April 3 — Parkway Drive. April 3 — The Devil Wears Prada.

**South Park Bar & Grill:** 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.

March 8 — The Chase Morrin Quartet. Spreckels Theatre: 121

Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-9500. March 20 — Joe Bonamassa. April 18 — John Prine.

Sushi Performance & Visual Art: 390 11th Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-8466. *March 10* — Aiyun Huang.

April 14 — Pamela Z. **Tio Leo's Lounge:** 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. March 6 — Shake Out. March 13 — Scott Wilson and the Complications. March 13 — Veronica May. March 20 — The Rhythm Jacks. **Trisler's Wine Bar:** 8555

Station Village Lane, Suite C, Mission Valley, 619-298-1501. March 21 — Keith Jacobson.

**U-31:** 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. *March 11* — Republic of Letters. **The Upstart Crow Bookshop** 

and Coffee House: 835 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-4855. *March 7* — Jim Earp. *March 14* — Greg Campbell. *March 21* — Off Campus. *March 28* — Nadja Nara.

V Lounge: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. *March 6* — Federal Funk. *March 20* — Siren's Crush.

VFW Hall: 136 Chambers Road, El Cajon.

March 14 — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies.

Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. *March 28* — Siren's Crush.

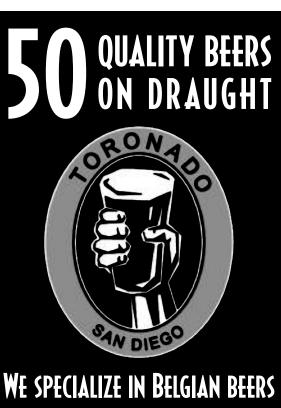
Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park: 5005 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. April 19 — Foreigner. May 14 — Gretchen Wilson.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. March 8 — Jonathan Stout and His Campus Five. March 15 — Hot Rod Lincoln. March 22 — Billy Watson and the International Silver String Submarine Band. March 27 — Luke Bryan. April 9 — Billy Currington. April 10 — Robert Cray. April 17 — Siren's Crush.

**Y1 Studios:** 1150 7th Avenue, Downtown. *April 10* — Ari Hest.

DJ

**HOW TO SUBMIT A DJ LIST-ING:** Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to



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619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

### Air Conditioned Lounge:

Fridays: DJ Junior. Disco, funk, and '80s music. Saturdays: Juicy. With Mike Czech and DJ SG. Sundays: Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. Mondays: Rock N Bowl. With guest DJ. Tuesdays, 11:30 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. Sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. Wednesdays: Rotating Crew. Spin house, electro, and hip-hop. Thursday, 9 p.m.: Boombox Thursdays. With DJs Edgartronic, Groundfloor, and guests. Free. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831

Bacchus House: Saturday, 9 p.m.: Club '80s. With DJs Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, Stem, and more. \$3-\$5. 3054 University Avenue, North Park. 619-299-2032.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups \$5. Wednesdays, 9 p.m.: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan, and Johnny D spin house music. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Bar Pink: Mondays, 9:30 p.m.: Grown Folk Music. Features the Husky Boy All Stars DJ Buddha and Duse. Hip-hop/soul. Free. 3829 30th Street, North Park. 619-564-7194

Beauty Bar: Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s dance party with DJ Heather

Hardcore, Free, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746

Belo: Friday: Infamous Fridays. With DJ Fingaz. Top 40/mashups/'80s. Saturday: Epic Saturdays. With DJ Fingaz, Mikeski, and Rags. Top 40/mash-ups/'80s. 919 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-9200.

**Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:** Thursday, 6 p.m.: DJ Vitamin J. Spins at Gustaf Anders Rooth's art show. 3404 30th Street, North Park. 619-235-8466

The Brew House at EastLake: Saturdays: Brew 30 DJ. Dance, 871 Showroom Place, Suite

102, Chula Vista, 619-656-2739, Café Sevilla: Thursdays, 10 p.m.: DJ New Yo Rican. Salsa. Fridays, 9:30 p.m.: Blazin' Fridays. Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin' 98.9. Tuesdays, 10 p.m.: DI Israel. Bachata. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Camel's Breath Inn: Fridays, Saturdays: Live DJ. Ages 21 and up. 1033 Friars Road, Mission Valley. 619-281-1722.

Candelas: Thursdays: DI ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455

College Rocks Bar & Grill: *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: College Night. With DJ Kool T. Ages 18 and up. Fridays, 9 p.m.: J'dore Fridays. With DJ Seize. Ages 18 and up. Saturdays, 9 p.m.: Club Hollywood Ray. Featuring guest DJs. Ages 18 and up. 6195 University Avenue, Suite A, College Area. 619-544-0807.

### DJ Henry Diaz. With Tone Capone and Omar. Electronic/lounge. 901 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-8888

The Coyote Bar & Grill: Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry, Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlshad, 760-729-4695.

Deco's Restaurant &

Nightclub: Thursdays: Krush. Hosted by Chase Costello, Steve Kamp, Jack Kennedy, and more Hip-hop/mashups/party rock. Ages 18 and up. 731 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-3326

El Cajon Grand: Fridays, 8:30 p.m.: DJ Neko. Spins classic rock and other hits. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.: DJ Chuck. Spins classic rock and other hits. 351 West Main Street, El Cajon. 619-444-0949.

Epazote: Friday, 8 p.m.: DJ FOS. Hip-hop/jazz/lounge. Free. 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar. 858-259-9966.

Fannie's Nightclub:

Wednesday: Mom & Pop's Hip-Hop Shop. 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204.

The Filling Station: Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

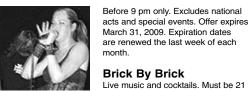
**Inferno Young Adult** 

Nightclub: Fridays, 9 p.m. Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. \$10. Ages 16 and up. Friday, Saturday: DJs Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. Ages 15 and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

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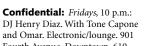
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Jack's La Jolla - Ocean

Kadan: Monday, 9 p.m.: Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie. Old-school punk and new wave with deejavs Brvan Pollard, Stem, and guest. Free. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500

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Moondoggies Pacific Beach:

Saturdays, 9 p.m.: What's Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. Free. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-

On Broadway: Friday, 9 p.m.: Claude VonStroke. With Worthy and Dirtybird. 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-0011.

Onyx/Thin: Thursday: DJ JCEE. Spins at SD Alternative charity event at Thin. Friday: Viaje de Ritmo. Featuring DJ Nono. Saturday: Joey Jiminez and Rasoul. Spins at Onyx. Chris Cutz. Spins hip-hop/house at Thin. 852 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-235-ONYX.

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Riley's: Thursdays: '80s Night. *Fridays*: Hip-Hop Night. *Mondays*: College Night. With guest deejay. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-255-8635.

Sixty-Seven Bar and Grill: Thursdays: Tattoo Thursdays. With DJ Viktor and DJ KB. Fridays: DJ Tony Sleeze. Spins Top 40 and hiphop hits. Saturdays: DJ Girth. Spins hip-hop and rock hits. Sundays: Soul Glo Sundays. With DJ Girth and friends. Wednesdays: Beer Pong. With deejays. 10109 Maine Avenue, Lakeside. 619-561-6767.

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U-31: Thursdays: Mark Marcelo and Big Willie Styles. With Richy the Kid. '80s/'90s/hip-hop/booty bass. 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-584-4188.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Mixes music videos Sundays, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. Mondays, 9 p.m.: U-Call-It Mondays. With DJ Marc Thrasher. Tuesdays, 9 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop Bar: Sundays: Night of the Cookers. Listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill. Board games and mellow grooves every Tuesday night. Candyland, Connect 4, Operation, Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Free. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

Xavier's Bar & Grill: Friday: DJ Bizzi J. 80's/contemporary. Saturday: DJ Dirty Kurty. 750 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-0500,



February 26, 2009 Reader San Diego ഉ

# **C**rasher

### HAT TRICK

body wearing either."

names written all over it.

you have to smoke

pot every day?"

"These pants are so heavy, I needed

suspenders. Some of this was made

at a leather shop in Afghanistan. It

was done for a Halloween costume.

Even with this real sheep fur, the

ter in Spies Like Us. He told me,

by Josh Board

girlfriend spent \$20 on a pirate hat for me to wear to a party. I gave her crap because I didn't think I'd ever wear it more than once. Then, three months ago, a guy named Daniel, who's involved in lots of cool parties, had a "phat hat" party in the Clairemont area. A couple weeks ago, I had the chance to wear my hat again.

At the phat hat party, I walked in and noticed a few guys wearing Afro wigs. There was also a guy with an In-N-Out Burger hat. People danced in the living room. I saw some kegs and bottles to make drinks on the kitchen counter.

A few guys were playing "flip cup," the popular drinking game. Someone joked that it wasn't a "regulation flip-cup table."

I talked to a couple in the kitchen. The guy was wearing a Chewbacca mask. He said he'd bought it in southern Brazil. The woman with him had Minnie Mouse ears. I said, "You didn't get those in Brazil, did you?" She smiled and replied, "Nope. Got 'em at Disney for the kids I babysit. I borrowed them for this."

Someone nearby wondered aloud if John C. Reilly made the Chewbacca mask popular because he wore one in Step Brothers. His friend said, "I doubt it. Did more



Sara Petite (in middle, at mic stand) and her band

people buy 'Hulk Hands' after the whole thing only cost me ten Christmas scene? I don't see anydollars."

A drunk guy came up to me One guy had a Trojan-style and said, "Are you supposed to be hat. He said he got it from his that cartoon character?" I replied, brother, who ran in the Rock 'n Roll "No. I'm just wearing a pirate hat. I figured it was better to wear a Marathon. A guy next to him had an Uncle Sam top hat, with politicians' weird hat than to wear one of my baseball caps." He said, while slur-One person had on a crazy outring, "I know what character you are. You're Captain Hook Nose Jew." fit based on Dan Aykroyd's charac-He laughed before stumbling off. I leaned into the woman next to me "Calm down. Do and said, "My nose isn't that big, is

> it?' I walked to the backyard to smoke a cigar. A guy walked by me with a soccer-ball hat. I lit up and someone said, "What are you smoking?" His girlfriend elbowed him and said, "It's a regular cigar. Calm down. Do you have to smoke pot every day?"

A guy with a hat made of newspaper walked by. Someone said, "If you get too close to that cigar, you're going up in flames."

A few guys had on do-rags. One of the guys who wore one talked about Obama playing basketball. I said, "Richard Nixon had a bowling alley put into the White House. Do you think Obama will get a basketball court in there?" Someone else added, "Presidents can do that? So...if a president likes archery or wants a shooting range, that will be put in? What about a president that likes Pac-Man or Donkey Kong? Will there be an arcade made out of the Lincoln Bedroom?"

The other hat party was at the Ould Sod on Adams Avenue a couple of weeks ago. Local musician Sara Petite was filming a video for one of her songs. My girlfriend was going out with some friends, and I told her I'd be getting another day's use out of the pirate hat. She then suggested I wear the raccoonhead hat that she was given from her grandmother. I thought it would be a better fit for Petite's type of Americana music.

I wasn't wearing the hat as I walked down Adams. And I'm glad I didn't have it on when I walked into the Ould Sod. Most of the crowd was sans hat. I saw a few baseball caps. A bartender had on a funky multicolored cowboy hat, but that was it. As I walked to the bar for a whiskey sour, I noticed a few

other cowboy hats.

I took my drink to the back of the place and slipped my hat on. It took about an hour for the band to get going. At one point, Petite apologized for the technical difficulties.

I asked bartender Tony Finglas why he wasn't wearing a funny hat. He said, "I'm not a hat guy." I said, "I am. Anything to cover up my receding hairline I'm all for. Especially this thing of fur. It feels like hair."

I talked a little to Petite before things got started. I said, "What's the better 'Sara' song? Hall & Oates or Fleetwood Mac?" She responded, "What about Jefferson Starship?'

The fur of my hat was making me scratch my head. I was sure Petite thought I had lice or something. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw someone wearing a train conductor's cap. I looked over and saw a fuzzy leopard-print cowboy hat.

A woman walked up and told me she liked my hat. She added, "Raccoons are fun to play with, but you wouldn't want to keep one as a pet."

I overheard a couple trying to decide whether to see Milk or Defiance. The guy said, "A movie about Milk? That just seems weird." His friend said, "You know that's the

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## **C**rasher

name of a politician; it's not a movie about the dairy product."

The bar was packed as the musicians tuned up. A guy with a huge camera was set up behind the bar.

My racquetball partner Wayne showed up with a *Wayne's World* cap on. He told me Petite sometimes works behind the bar. He said, "When things get busy, I'll try to confuse her with weird, bogus facts. I once told her the Dalai Lama has an extensive shot-glass collection. She said, 'Really?" Petite told me Loretta

Lynn heard her CD and said nice things about it. We talked a little about Dolly Parton, someone whom Petite gets compared to (because of her songwriting!).

They started filming, and the band mimicked playing the instruments along with the music. Someone nearby made a reference to Ashlee Simpson, who was caught lip-synching on *Saturday Night Live*. I think when it's a video shoot, people understand why it's necessary.

It was a nice treat not to have to listen to the same song 20 or 30 times while they shot different camera angles.

The song "Little House" was a lot of fun. The crowd started dancing, and the band was really into it. Between takes, the fiddle player would go up to her husband and cuddle with him.

The crowd was asked to pack in closer together. Before walking out, I took one last look at the band. I couldn't believe they were able to get a drum set, stand-up bass, and all the other instruments into the tiny corner of this bar.

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

Henry's Pub-

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## At Last, True Thai

Before I write specifically about Sab-E-Lee, you need to know a little about the Thai region called Isaan, Isan, Issan, or Esarn — in English it's spelled every which way — and get an idea of its food, which is nothing like the Thai food you find at Celadon or Rama or Lotus or (least of all) Taste of Thai. It's more like Laotian food, or so I hear, but who knows Laotian food? If you do, skip the next three paragraphs. Otherwise, let's start by introducing my friend Tui (pronounced "Doy"), a delicately beautiful woman of about 40 when we met some three years ago, with a careworn, intelligent face. She owns an indoor-outdoor bar on the beach sands of the tiny, tsunami-ravaged town of Nan Yang, just south of the Phuket airport, a place festooned year-round with multicolor Christmas lights. No rich Americans or sex-tourist pigs despoil Nan Yang or its clean, basic, \$12-a-night bungalows; this austere Eden draws jolly snorkeling, Jenga-playing, hard-drinking Brits and a few aging Frenchwomen who sunbathe topless.

Tui is from Isaan, the hot, dry, (barely) subsistence-farming region of Thailand's northeast, across the Mekong from Laos. Other Thais admire Isaan for its exports: strong, spicy peasant cuisine and beautiful women. Many street-food vendors in Bangkok are Isaanese, grilling savory, juicy sausages and marinated meats or chicken on wood-fired braziers. (Your mouth starts to water from the aromas well before the vendors come into view.) Odd that this hungriest of regions is famed for its food. And combine poverty with female beauty and little surprise that a disproportionate number of Bangkok's prostitutes are Isaanese, too, sold by desperately poor parents to pimps or brothels the moment they start sprouting buds.

Tui came from a relatively prosperous family, and when her husband of ten years dumped her when she was 30 for a younger woman, her father financed this beachside bar so that she could escape and make an honest living far from her past. Alone after the Brits had gone beddybye, we talked — Tui, and my sweetie TJ, and I — deep into the night over shots of cheap, smooth Mekong whiskey. We had a lot to say, a lot in common. You know your own kind, even



DINING

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6000 light-years from home.

Next day, a few hours before TJ and I were due to catch our plane back to Bangkok, Tui made us a simple Isaanese lunch: *som tum* 

(green papaya salad) and stir-fried beef *larb*. Unforgettable. Much spicier than the same foods cooked in the Bangkok or Lanna styles, and less sweet, but brilliant

with exigent flavors of citrus and heat. We hoped to resume what would be a long friendship a few years later — TJ and I planned to retire eventually to Chiang Mai (also full of jolly Jenga-playing retired Brits, and plane fare to Phuket is cheap). But now Thailand is destabilized, TJ's dead, I'm all out of spare travel money, and my 401(k) is blown. I'll probably never see Tui again, aside from the photo I have on my fridge, in a beautiful carved-teak frame purchased for a few bahts from a Bangkok street vendor.

But thanks to San Diego's great Asian-food blogger, mmm-yoso, I've found Sab-E-Lee in Linda Vista, serving the real food of Isaan, and even letting *farangs* like me eat it Isaan-spicy. This is going to ruin all other local Thai restaurants for me. At last, the food I've been longing for since that first bite of Tui's *som tum*! Now, take a good close look at the "Need to Know" section

> of the boilerplate: this place is small, plain, no rezzies, no name on the door, no credit cards, and no alcohol except BYO. (Nobody's hiding their beer and wine, but if you bring in Mekong whiskey, you

should probably keep it in a discreet paper bag — 'cause if I'm there and I see it, I might demand a drink.) But four of us ate more than our fill, and I doggie-bagged home half the meal (six nights' worth for one), and it cost about \$15 apiece, including tip. Now look at the rating. Four stars. No kidding. I live for this.

Knowing that Isaan food is and should be hot as hell, I chose my posse with care: Sam grew up on Korean food, Jennifer has spent time in Thailand, and Steve ("I'll eat anything once") is both a culinary and literal skydiver. (This paragon of gentlemanliness also arrived with a backpack full of Thai beers, a chilled dry screw-top Riesling for me, and a pint of milk — along with several clean cotton bandannas. And I don't think he

#### Sab-E-Lee ★★★★ (Excellent)

2405 Ulric Street at Linda Vista Road, 858-650-6868, *sab-e-lee.webs.com*.

**HOURS:** Tuesday–Sunday 10:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m. **PRICES:** \$5–\$8.

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Authentic spicy specialties (mainly entrée salads, soups, noodles) of the Isaan region of northeast Thailand. Thai iced tea and coffee, juices (including longan), and sodas; no alcohol, but okay to BYO. **PICK HITS:** *Tom yum* soup, all house specialties, including papaya salad, liver salad, spicy raw beef, catfish larb, Thai sausage, sweet (sticky) rice. Other popular dishes include *pad* Thai, *pad see ewe*, Spicy Mint Leaves with Steamed Pork Leg. **NEED TO KNOW:** Look for blue awning that

reads "Linda Foods," as the restaurant's name is not posted anywhere. CASH ONLY. Very small (20 chairs) and no reservations, so go early on a weeknight to avoid weekend prime-time waits. Takeout available. On 1–10 spiciness scale, 5 is serious, 6 or 7 is regionally authentic and appropriate for veteran fire-eaters, higher is for natives, demons, dragons, masochists. (Thai iced tea, made with sweetened condensed milk, will help quench hot lips at dinner and bellyflames later.) Four vegan entrées, others adaptable with a request to sub tofu for meat. Note: Some Westerners suffer allergic reactions (breathing difficulties, mouth numbness) to the fleshy red fresh chili (Fresno chilies, a jalapeño variant) used by many Thai restaurants, including this one. If allergic, ask for dishes to be made without fresh red chilies. Dried Thai chilies are not known allergens.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to *SanDiegoReader.com* to find hundreds of past reviews.

learned this "be prepared" routine in the Boy Scouts.)

I thought I was onto a scoop, but the restaurant had reprints of a *City Beat* rave from last summer (a month after opening) hanging on the wall. Curses, foiled again — darn that Candace Woo! (I gather she's a friend of mmm-yoso.) The owner/waiter, Koby, is a skinny, cheerful, highenergy guy who makes you feel welcome. When





San Diego Reader February 26, 2009 89

BER CARNET AVE. 150 483 1551

## MIX 'N' MATCH LUNCH MENU!

# moondoggic/

### Calendar RESTAURANTS

he asked us to choose a spiciness rating from 1-10, we seriously discussed the question of relativity: "At all the local Thai restaurants. I ask for an 8," I said, "knowing they won't do a real Thai 8 for a farang — and they give me a 2. I have a friend from Isaan, whose *som tum* is hotter than anything I've eaten in any Thai restaurant here. That's what I want." Koby made the right decision: about 61/2 on the papaya salad and half the other dishes, backing down to 51/2 on the remainder to give our mouths a slight rest.

The som tum was first out of the kitchen — green papaya salad with tomatoes, dried shrimps, lime juice, and (wowie) chilies. It was uncompromised: as spicy as Tui's and nearly identical in flavor, made without the palm (or white) sugar that other Thai restaurants often add. I never liked dried shrimps until I traveled in Thailand, where I fell in love with their funky, chewy salti-



ness. There are lots in here. Close your eyes, envision the Mekong.

Next was beef-liver salad, which I ordered as a challenge because I always loathed Mom's unspeakable liver and onions. The liver here was in slim slices, rare and tender, coated with toasted rice powder, onions, chilies, and spicy lime juice, with carrots, lettuce, and all manner of veggies. It was almost like foie gras from a cow (or maybe a calf), but with spicy Asian seasonings. Score one for Isaan versus Mom. I loved it, passionately - a shocking new form of comfort food.

For a starchy soother, we ordered Isaan's steamed, sticky "sweet rice," the classic starch of northern Thailand that allows you to eat sensually with your fingers. (If you've ever spent time in India or Sri Lanka and gotten used to using your fingers, you regret having to go back to cold, hard steel.) You pick up blobs of sticky rice, roll them around morsels of the other food, and pop them into your mouth. The starchy rice is also better at cooling the fires than the slim and elegant longgrain jasmine rice that's also available, which is lovable but better suited to the milder, coconutty palate of Bangkok and the Malay-ethnic south. (Another finger-picking possibility with the salads: you can eat some of them Vietnamesestyle, wrapping everything up in loose lettuce or cabbage leaves.)

Spicy raw beef was another killer, and I don't mean that the meat was a threat. (This is a dish mmm-yoso raves about under its Thai name, koi soi.) Several of my Bay Area favorite Thais served this, but it's hard to find in San Diego, where food paranoia forever strikes deep. Sab-E-Lee does the right thing: they don't use preground beef (which is indeed dangerous) but hand chop excellent steak in-house. This way, you're eating the interior of the muscle, which has never been exposed to the nasties. The tender beef (it tastes and feels like sirloin) is coated with toasted rice powder, lemongrass, lime juice, and dried Thai crushed chilies and chopped green herbs (maybe Thai basil).

The menu says there's tripe in there, too, but I didn't spot any, or want it.

By now, we were all steaming, and Saint Steve broke out his secret supply of cotton bandannas to daub our foreheads. The next course seemed milder — or we'd moved to chili heaven, our mouths so adapted to full-out spice that it seemed normal. Tom yum soup with shrimp, a five-star dish if there ever was one, had red specks over the surface but tasted almost mild as well as rich and sweet from the caramelized sugars of plentiful onion shreds and an army of tenderly cooked garlic cloves. The broth was the thickest, most substantial I've ever encountered in this dish, and the lemongrass and kaffir lime laid way back, lending support instead of grabbing center stage. It resembled the best French onion soup you ever tasted, with brighter seasonings instead of melted cheese. The bowl was full of big, juicy Asian mushrooms and tender, moist large shrimp. It was the ultimate tom yum goong. (Beginners' alert: don't chew on the tough green kaffir lime leaves or the woody lemongrass pieces lurking near the bottom, which look like scallions but aren't.)

Catfish is the main edible fish on Southeast Asian rivers and canals. As larb, it has many of the same elements as other meat salads here but tastes new again with fish: it's chopped, grilled, faintly smoky, and, mixed with the strong seasonings, not the least muddy or "catfishy." Whole roasted peanuts provided crunch and relief from the spice, and there was another unidentified species in there that looked like thick yellow onion slices but with a pleasantly chewy, rubbery texture, like sea cucumber. Maybe better not to know what it was, but I liked it.

We also ordered Isaan sausages (which come in a red curry or fried rice), but the kitchen was all out of sausages that night, including another variety from the Lanna region in the northwest. (They're all imported, not house-made.) I'm recommending both without even trying them, after eating them repeatedly from street-braziers in Bangkok and inside the *farang*-free Chiang Mai Day Market.

Sam was surprised that I didn't order any of the four curries offered on the menu. But curries are available at any Thai place in town and tend to be southern or "Royal Thai"palace recipes taught to professional chefs at the palace cooking school and now endemic all over Siam and America. A great idea, and I think the king and queen are super cool, but it does tend to standardize the cooking, erasing interesting regional differences in favor of haute-cuisine, tourist-ready renditions. However, bloggers single out Sab-E-Lee's Panang curry for praise. It would certainly provide a soothing coconut-milk coating for a burning mouth. I'll try it next time, when I'm less greedy for pure Isaanese flavors.

Last dish: time for a noodle concoction. I was thinking of pad see ewe, or even pad Thai, to ramp down the spices and end with something easy (these are also blogger faves) but noticed another genre of food we hadn't tried, a group of "spicy mint leaf" dishes. I chose Spicy Mint Leaves Noodles with seafood. (Next time, I'll go for #35 on the menu, Spicy Mint Leaves with Steamed Pork Leg — another food-blog rave.) The noodles were wide, both soft and toothsome, with herbs and bean sprouts. The mixed seafood included tender tilapia and squid, elaborately carved to resemble the ornate towers of a Buddhist *wat*; shrimp; and slightly overcooked green-lip New Zealand mussels. The dish seemed sweet and soothing at first, maybe a three on the heat scale until it whipped out a concealed lash of chilies that turned the aftertaste fierv.

"I can't wait to get home and take notes on this dinner," I said, sounding totally insane, since note-taking is *work*. But we were all enjoying the same strange surge of mental energy and clarity. I know that chilies pack a powerload of nutrients, but do they also sharpen the mind and stimulate the *chi* (life force)? Maybe so. As we left, I bid Koby good-bye with a little *wai* and the hello/good-bye greeting, "*Sawadi kaa*," drawing out the female ending,

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"kaa," to three protracted, musical syllables — the long, fiery exhalation of a well-fed dragon ladv.

### **Recommended Reading:**

If you've fallen under Thailand's spell through travel or food, British author John Burdett, who's spent a lot of time there not playing Jenga, writes insightful tragicomic policiers centering on a seriously Buddhist Thai cop. His latest, available in paperback, is Bangkok Haunts, which delves into the mystery of an enchanting Isaanese prostitute killed in a snuff film. (Did she jump or was she pushed?) The tale explores Isaan's child-sex trade and the moral power and complexity of Thai Theravada Buddhism. You may learn things you'd rather not know, but you won't be a blindly innocent farang ever again.

On a lighter note, to learn about the Laotian culture across the Mekong and a bit about the food (most Isaanese are ethnically Lao), Colin Cotterill's series of paperback mysteries center on a charming old left-wing Laotian coroner in Vientiane in the '70s. Not as sexy as Janet Ivanovich in New Jersey, but just as diverting and perhaps more enlightening. Start with the first book, The Coroner's Lunch, to get yourself properly oriented. ■



### **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF** ROCKIN' GOOD TIMES





## Burger in the Sky with Mushrooms

*"I trained right around the corner from there, at the culinary school in San Francisco."* 

c,c,c,c,c,cold. I stand out in the slush and snow, trying to decide if I can afford this place, a joint for sophisticates, by the looks of it, even way up here in the mountains near Julian. Hey! Wasn't this that Hungarian place, Gúlyás Csarda?

"Goulash Place." Looks like they're history. Oh. what da heck. I crunch

through the snow and whip through the door before an icicle drips down my neck. The restau-

rant's in a kind of ranch house. I go over to where a group huddles around a make-believelog fire and sit down at a table with some classy, flashy chairs upholstered in greenish material. Carpet's greeny too. Most of the big room's tables have yellow cloths and yellow napkins. There's a black upright piano and a tall black rack for wine bottles. But mostly it's painted cream. Even the brick walls. Heavy curtains keep the cold world at bay. Paintings dotted around the walls look like — who's that French impressionist guy? Paul Cézanne, right? Kinda dabbed in countrysides of red earth and sparse green bushes and dry mountains? These could be his. Actually, they're painted by a local artist, K. Roberts. Really good.

I fret over the cost, but I'm inside now. For starters, they have interesting starters. Garden salad with candied walnuts, Julian pears, bleu cheese, and homemade bleu dressing, "7.5." Wassat? The weight? Oh, right. The price. They're pricing dishes just as they do in every cool Gaslamp place I can't afford. Then there's a lobster bisque with sherry, uh, 9, and seasonal things like grilled asparagus wrapped with pro-



sciutto and aioli, also 9. Hmm... In the end, I order the last of the starters, a warm Brie cheese platter with strawberries, walnuts, grapes, "and local apples." Seven bucks.

"And for main?" asks the waitress, Shervll.

I suddenly think of the flapping banner I spotted outside, wrapped around a tiny old 1930s beer wagon parked in the snow. "Best Back Country Burgers," the banner shouted. So even

though they have interesting main courses, such as "one half-order pork schnitzel with eggs, spinach, carrots, and caper sauce, 10" or "mussels in white wine and saffron cream sauce with European green salad, tossed in a white wine vinaigrette, 14.9," I concentrate on the burgers. I see a "gloopy bacon cheeseburger with cheddar, bacon, greens, and grilled onions" for \$10.95. They have vegan (\$8.95) and turkey burgers (\$9.95), and one more, a "Haight-Ashbury mushroom burger with Swiss cheese, 'shrooms, and psychedelic mustard sauce (\$10.95)."

That could be fun. Sheryll brings a warmed plate with a hot baguette and butter. I tell her I'll go for the Haight-Ashbury and then have at the bread. I'm scooping out wads of butter when the Brie plate arrives. It's a warm, oozing, half-melted segment of cheese, with fruit and nuts scattered 'round. Good, but it doesn't blow me away.

The burger does. Maybe something psychedelic's in the mustard sauce? Okay, probably not. But it sure adds tang to the beautifully sloppy wad of meat steaming under it and the melted Swiss, with mushrooms trying to ride that whole pile.

Get talking with a gal and two guys at the table next door. The woman, Shirley, turns out to be a kids' book writer. She is having the gloopy bacon cheeseburger, and damn, it looks good. Her friend Mike's eating a savory crépe with chicken and mushrooms, and Frank's downing a Monte Cristo sandwich, a turkey, ham, and Swiss cheese sandwich dipped in batter, then grilled — they don't fry 'em here — plus honey-mustard and raspberry preserves. Lord. Wicked. And original.

"The kid here who runs this place, Jeremy — and he is a kid — is a phenomenon," Frank says. "He's 21!"

"The kid," Jeremy, comes out just after they've gone. "I called your burger Haight-Ashbury," he says, "because I trained right around the corner from there, at the culinary school in San Francisco. The Cordon Bleu course. I love that town."

But when his parents, who run the Angel's Landing Inn here in Julian, saw this location come up for rent, they kinda volunteered him to create the menus and run the place. "It fitted," he says. "I'd just finished up there."

"Jeremy is incredible," Sheryll says. "He has made this the freshest, best restaurant in town."

So I guess if Jeremy says he has the best apple crumb pie, I ought to listen up. It's 5 more bucks. I must have spent \$20 already. But I've



Jeremy

got to say, it's worth every crumb. It comes on a big white plate with a dollop of vanilla ice cream and a single blackberry on top. It's cracklingly crumbly outside, wet and swirly inside, rich with the tang of brandy-caramel sauce. Jeremy says his mom "baked this yesterday."

Back out on the sunlit sparkling white fields of Wynola, I think about the 30 bucks I've dropped. So how come I don't feel bad? How come I just want to throw snowballs?

**The Place:** Jeremy's On the Hill, 4354 Highway 78, Wynola (three miles from Julian), 760-765-1587 **Type of Food:** American

**Prices:** Garden salad with candied walnuts, Julian pears, bleu cheese, \$7.50; lobster bisque with sherry, \$9; grilled asparagus, prosciutto, aioli, \$9; mussels in white wine and saffron cream sauce with European green salad, tossed in a white-wine vinaigrette, \$14.95; "gloopy" bacon cheeseburger with cheddar, bacon, greens, and grilled onions, \$10.95; vegan burger, \$8.95; turkey burger, \$9.95; Haight-Ashbury mushroom burger with Swiss cheese, mushrooms, mustard sauce, \$10.95; pork schnitzel with eggs, spinach, carrots, caper sauce, \$9.70; apple crumb pie with ice cream, brandy-caramel sauce, \$5

**Hours:** 11:00 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; till 9:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday; 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Sunday; closed Wednesdays

Bus: Northeast Rural Bus 891 (Not advisable. Buses only travel Friday afternoon, one way to Julian. No way back till following Friday morning. For info, call Rural Bus, 619-442-8414.) Nearest Bus Stop: outside restaurant





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# **Close to the Source**

"Tons of people want a connection to the winery and the winemakers. We want that, too."

Bern to Americans living in England, Marc Hashagen grew up in Great Gidding, a farming village in Cambridgeshire. "A hundred houses, one pub, one butcher," he re-

calls. "The public bus would come through on Wednesdays; when you were a kid, that was your big day to go into Peterborough or Cambridge." Perhaps unsurprisingly, Hashagen wanted to become a stockbroker; he went on to attend the London School of

Economics. When his parents moved back to the States, young Hashagen made his way west to San Diego — then L.A., then back to London, and then San Diego again.

But if you can take the boy out of the farming village.... "At some point it hit me that I actually missed it. I'd been living in a condo or a flat for years, and I thought, 'I need some space,' and with that, I was thinking of the village and the farms." Not enough to go back, mind you. "There was some distant longing to get back to the land, but I love socializing. It seemed to me that the two met in the middle with vineyards and winemaking."

So in 2006, he Googled "San Diego winemaker" and hit upon the Grapes for Sale list at the



website for the San Diego Amateur Winemaking Society. "There was just this long list — some guy in Alpine saying, 'I've got Chardonnay for 60 cents a pound' — and then an entry that read, 'We're

> having a harvest party. Grapes for sale. There will be a barbecue, music, a Champagne toast, and about 40 amateur winemakers.' I thought, 'That's the guy for me.' " The guy was Mike Dunlap,

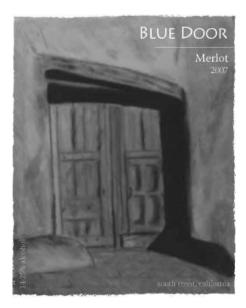
the vineyard ran down the slope of his Escondido property, and the

grapes were Merlot. Hashagen and a friend bought 100 pounds, plus another 200 pounds from people Dunlap suggested he contact. "We made wine in the kitchen, and Mike — he's been making wine for years — gave us some tips. Every time we'd get stuck, we'd call him."

Hashagen liked the result, liked it enough to "roll the dice, see what happens" and set about starting up a winery on savings, credit, and help from an investor. Carlsbad Coastal was looking for a tenant to fill its too-snug San Marcos facility, "and we bought some tanks and slipped right in." Hashagen called winemakers and asked what they would do differently if they were starting over (variable capacity tanks!), started reading everything he could find, and when the '07 harvest rolled around, he ordered up a full ton of Dunlap's Merlot.

The grower was surprised - his is not a commercial vineyard - but ultimately amenable, and even delighted. A ton of Cabernet came from Carlsbad Coastal's source in Paso Robles, and a ton of Cabernet Franc came from Santa Barbara's Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards. Explains Hashagen, "We got bumped from some grapes we were after by a big winery, and it was really late in the season. My girlfriend used to be in the wine-tour business in the Central Coast, and she gave me a list of people to call. When I got to Lucas & Lewellen, I got right to the vineyard manager's cell phone. He ended up spending something like an hour on the phone with me." The next year, Hashagen expanded his varietal selection and bought 9 tons; this year, he's hoping to pick up 25. "We're just going for it," he says understatedly of his venture, Blue Door Winery.

Here, the reader may begin to suspect that Hashagen has been sampling too much of his own product. But he has some reason for his optimism: "a growing group of 100 or so people who are very, very attached to the winery, who feel like they've got a stake in our success." The group has coalesced over the past couple of years around Hashagen's email newsletter, which has recounted the gradual development of his project. "At first, it was just basically updating our mates — 'We're going to pick grapes, you guys are welcome to come.' 'Here are some pictures of the harvest.' Then people started asking, 'What are you guys doing next?' and 'When is the wine going to be ready?' There are now some people who are very



dedicated to us because they feel they're a part of our story. They've been getting our newsletter, and they've been picking grapes with us." A La Jolla couple recently told Hashagen that they were moving to Pasadena but assured him that they would never miss his annual post-picking harvest party — and that they would spread the word. "And now they can actually drink what they've picked."

That's the core group; there are more. Family friendships have provided him with potential ambassadors for Blue Door wine all across the country. And over 200 have already signed up for membership on the winery's Facebook page. "I think there's a fascination with how to make wine,



 Sensitive

 Sensitive



and tons of people who want a connection to the winerv and the winemakers. We want that, too — we want people who help us pick grapes up at Mike's place and then ride with us to the winery in town and watch us crush the grapes. We want them drinking wine in a functioning winery." Not the winery in San Marcos — Hashagen envisions a facility with a proper tasting room: something in the future, something more in town. Maybe something in his home neighborhood of South Park. "I can picture it. People would go to the Grape Street Park, walk the dog, and then continue the walk to us. They'd sit with the dog on the patio outside the winery, have a glass of Pinot Gris, watch us press or do whatever we're doing, then go off to dinner somewhere else. I think it would be awesome, and I think it's a neighborhood where people love to support neighborhood businesses." Keeping people (relatively)

close to the actual mechanics of production is key for Hashagen. It's part of the reason behind the winery's name and label, which depicts the tradesman's entrance at Santa Fe's Palace of the Governors. (His mother painted the image from a photograph his father took.) Instead of the glitzy tastingroom-as-gift-shop, more akin to the Palace's façade, he wants something at once more intimate and more workmanlike. Again, "We want that connection to the customer."

The winery's January 31 release party gave some reason for hope. "Over 130 people showed up, and they kept going back and drinking, and they bought a lot of wine. We had a buyer from Costco - the father of a friend of mine - who said he liked our Cab." And Mike Dunlap, who had never tasted Hashagen's wine, smiled when he assessed the Merlot made from his grapes. "He said, 'This is good. Good complexity, good depth, and the finish is quite nice.' It was the best seller of the night."

"It's almost like a daytime Merlot," continues Hashagen.

"It's actually got a little bit of residual sugar," which shows up mainly in the wine's fruity attack. "We had to decide whether to really fight to ferment it to total drvness." But one of the winemakers who gave him advice at the outset warned him against fighting too hard against your fruit. "Obviously, we don't want it tasting like Tang, but if your grapes come in really sweet, you might have a slightly sweet wine. But even more than sugar, we're interested in the ratios between sugars and acids and the pH. We didn't have to adjust the acid at all" - remarkable for a South Coast red.

"We'll adjust and figure it out as we go along," he concludes. "We're learning in every department, but we're having fun and meeting great people. And as I told my investor, 'Worst case happens, we end up with 3000 bottles of wine to drink, and we have a massive party."

### RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by

our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$29; very expensive: more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

### BEACHES

Burger Lounge — La Jolla 1101 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-456-0196. One of a raft of newer, so-called "premium" burger places which claim premium ingredients and charge premium rates. But this local chain delivers on the meat. Their Tallgrass beef is juicy, tastes sweeter, and, more importantly, comes only from grass-fed cattle. That is, cows who spend their lives cavorting in fields and eating fresh grass, not trapped in feedlots being fed corn (unnatural food for cattle) and antibiotics and hormones. With a better Omega-6 to Omega-3 balance, this Kansas meat could actually be good for you. Open daily. Inexpensive, if you avoid extras like fries and onion rings. — *E.B.* 

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802. California-Mediterranean comfort food with a Southern Low Country accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Alas, the restaurant's name also gives away its grade - the food's okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to sweeten the pot. Your visiting aunt will swoon over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with

plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. -N.W.Cheese Shop 2165 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. "The cheese trade is dead," says owner Phil Schutz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Mon-terey Jack, Cheddar, Swiss, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more famous for its "overstuffed" meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round beef, and roast pork loin are all spitroasted right beside you as you walk in, to waken your taste buds. Cheeses like crumbled Greek Mizithra add tang to the taste. If you're into salami and ham, try the foot-long. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2303, open daily breakfast to late lunch, with delivery to downtown addresses.

Inexpensive. — E.B. Cliff Hanger Café 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, 858-452-9858. "You should never leave the ground on an empty stomach," says the sign near the cliff, which is where this café hangs. What is it like to be at the Café at the End of the World? You sit, munch, and watch men becoming birdmen, jump-ing off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, hey, grub's good too. Try the Launch (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa). Also great and grilled right there: generous half-pound hamburgers. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Dailv's Restaurant 888 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-459-1189. The idea is brilliant: Just serve food that's really, really good for your customers. Low fat low calorie, low sodium. Brainchild of cardiac surgeon Pat O. Daily. So what's

the problem? It's the B-word. Bland. Not that they don't fight heroically to make all the dishes interesting, but lots of items have that lentil-y, bean-y feel. Or naked salad-y. Or steam-up-yournose veggie. Among the more interesting choices is the Cajun chicken with black beans and brown rice with cayenne-paprika in the spices. The most popular lunch order, the buffalo burger, has a little gamy aftertaste — but that just proves it is the legendarily lean prairie beast. Nice outside seating in Restaurant Row, except you've gotta resist the smells from the more wicked eateries that aren't on the same crusade Inexpensive. Monday through Satur-day, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. — *E.B.* 

The Fishery 5040 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-9985. Pacific Shellfish Seafood Company founder Judd Brown got his start as a commercial fisherman. He doesn't fish anymore, but he does everything else — supplying product to top-tier restaurants, retailing glistening specimens to hungry shoppers and serving patrons who want to dine in amid the icy-blue walls and gorgeous trophy fish. The Fishery's menu is equally extensive, covering So-Cal basics (excellent mahimahi burrito), lunchtime standards (sandwiches, fine malt-dredged fish-and-chips), sushi, and an ambitious lineup of din-nertime entrées, some of them whimsically creative (tortilla-encrusted Mex-ican black bass). If ambition occasionally outstrips execution, an obsession with freshness helps compensate, and you get the sense that things are getting better all the time. The wine list is relatively inexpensive and care-fully selected. Casual atmosphere. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — A.M.

Marrakesh 634 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-454-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world - influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. At this Moroccan restaurant, the fare is

cial & to-go orders too



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### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\frac{1}{2}$ – San Diego Reader **\*30 Prix Fixe Gourmet Dinner** includes a Glass of Wine

Appetizer: Baby green salad with gorgonzola, red onion, walnuts and rice wine dressing • Choice of soup • Sauteed New Zealand mussels

Entrée: Pesto grilled halibut with risotto and asparagus • Grilled New York steak au poivre with frites • Herb-roasted chicken filled with prosciutto, squash, fontina over polenta and broccoli rabe Dessert: Classic créme brulee • Banana tarte Tatin with dolce de leche

ice cream • Caramelized strawberries and figs over vanilla ice cream Tuesday thru Saturday nights only. Cannot be split or in conjunction with 1/2 Bottle Wine Night. Does not include tax or gratuity.

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arranged into a nightly five-course prix-fixe feast, with superb lentil soup (*harira*), a salad plate, *bastilla* (a chicken-filled filo pie), an entrée, and mint tea poured from on high to accompany almond baklava perfumed with orange-flower water. The setting and service are dramatic — tented ceilings, low banquette seating at carved round tables, belly-dancing interludes, servers in fezzes. (You're the Sheik of Araby.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatless duck; lamb with couscous; and rather dry fish. You can request the dreamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that includes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Lunch and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate. — N.W.

Roots 4976 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-9000. This tiny eatery is vegan and organic, with much of its ingredients bought straight from the O.B. farmers' market. Wraps like the Thai Peanut and the Arti (artichoke hearts, feta cheese) are crunchy thrills Interesting sandwiches include the Portobello mushroom with tomato and provolone on ciabatta or the Avo (avocado, onion, and tomato with "vegannaise"). The veggie burrito (black beans, mock chicken) is filling and doesn't taste too mock-chickeny. Standards like granola bowls with fruit, honey, and yogurt are scrumptious, too. The main thing is the three ladies who run this really seem to try to make this food that's kind to both nature and to our long-suffering guts. Of course, kid-s'll love Roots' peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m, Sunday 7 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

**Roppongi** 875 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-5252. The hard part is deciding whether to sit in the dropdead gorgeous interior or to peoplewatch on the large, heated street patio. Then you have to decide what to eat from the long Euro-Asian fusion menu, with its vast choice of tapas and sushi options, as well as entrées. At lunch there are several imaginative sandwiches and appetizers. Reservations highly recommended at dinner. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Some tapas and sushi rolls are inexpensive, but if you enjoy grazing, the bill can mount quickly. Entrées are expensive. — *N.W.* 

Roseville 1125 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma, 619-450-6800. Point Loma's first first-class restaurant is elegant in a rustic way, like a Big Sur inn. Maître d'/co-owner with wife Wendy, George Riffle (a charmer from birth), used to run the dining room at Laurel, and he's reassembled an "old Laurel" kitchen crew. Chef Amy DiBiase invokes French classics but with fresh twists and local seasonal produce, e.g., asparagus subbing for frisée in a bril-liant bistro salad with pancetta and egg, and a superb duck confit that's France's answer to Peking duck — crisp skin puffing from the surface of moist meat. Desserts are light and elegant. Wine list ranges from affordable to don't-youwish. Narrow restaurant entrance is between a large drugstore and Village Liquors (look for small dining patio). Parking (and actual front entrance) in back. Atmosphere elegant but comfortable; dressy-casual to slightly dressy Dinner nightly. Expensive. - N.W.

**Sapporo Japanese Restaurant** 5049 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. It's small, but Sapporo has big deals, particularly the lunch specials that usually give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo such as chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice — all presented like a piece of performance art. Other specials include *yaki soba* (stir-fried sautéed chicken, vegetables, and noodles) and *champon* noodle soup (*udon* noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables), and the value-packed chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swag of rice. Dinner daily, lunch daily except Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

La Taverna 927 Silverado Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0100. Reservations are a necessity at this tiny trattoria, especially if you'd prefer the relative quiet of the roofed sidewalk patio to the din of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which showcases pastas with simple fresh sauces, to meatballs and red sauce. Highlights include chefowner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the feather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say "yes." Save room for a slice of house-made layer cake. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

**Tender Greens** 2400 Historic Decatur Road, Point Loma, 619-226-6254. The main feature of the locally owned franchise of this new, "healthy food" chain is glorious, local, organic produce served cafeteria-style with or without mesquite-grilled natural beef, freerange chicken, or local albacore tuna in a variety of soups, salads, dead-simple hot entrées (plain grilled protein with good mashed potatoes), or ciabatta sandwiches on fine bread from nearby Con Pane bakery. The chicken soup is fabulous, as are desserts (baked by the Mom of one of the franchisees); the chicken Cobb salad is fine, too, highlighted by heritage bacon. Limited, inexpensive international wine selection, craft beers and ales, Aguas Frescas, and house-made lemonade. Rather noisy; outdoor patio dining available. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-272-3100. World Famous is as on-the-beach as it gets, right on P.B.'s boardwalk. It has a covered porch, a side-slung patio, and low-slung ceilings, so everything feels intimate. You sit at varnished inlaid wooden tables with lots of diagonal timbering and sexy blue lighting. It's often crowded and noisy. Who's gonna be picky here? You, when you're paying 20-some bucks for a steak. On the other hand, the prime rib, surf-n-turf, and tournedos will fill you fine. If you want to beat the big prices, try the beach burger or a seared ahi Caesar salad. The view is free. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive. Open daily. — *E.B.* 

**Zanzibar Café** — **Pacific Beach** 976 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-272-4762. A pricey-looking restaurant with reasonable prices. The decor is new, handsome: shiny parquet floors, lots of solid tables, classy dark wooden chairs, wine bar, and modern art on the walls. Carole Janks is the inspiration. She beat Starbucks to the punch with her first Zanzibar in P.B. in 1991. This place is a palace compared to that. The three-egg breakfast scramble with toast, rosemary potatoes, and fresh fruit is great. So are the avocado fontina cheese omelet and eggs Benedict with non-Canadian bacon. Good lunch sandwiches include hot chicken pesto, Zanzibar BLT, and cold southwestern club. There are also salads, pizzas, paninis, and open-faced sandwiches. One great indulgence: the blueberry buttermilk pancakes with lemon-curd butter topped with fresh berries and a side of



San Diego *Reader* February 26, 2009

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maple syrup. Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (till 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday). Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

### BAJA

### From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

La Casa del Mole — Tijuana Paseo de los Héroes #10501 (between Lázaro Cárdenas and Misión San Diego), Baja, 664-634-6920. Herminia Amador dreamed of bringing the fla-vors of her native state of Puebla to Tijuana. That meant one thing: mole poblano, Mexico's major sauce state ment. Like its other two locations, this flower-filled restaurant features the complex, sweet, dark sauce combination of maybe 20 different spices, chiles nuts, and chocolate. Sit down here, and your big question is: What's going under your mole? Thigh or breast of chicken? Pork? Perhaps enchiladas? Your call. Prices are so reasonable you can try several variations. Whichever, when you bite in for the first time, vou're dialing direct back to the earliest days of the conquistadors in Aztec, Mexico. Start with mole poblano, learn its wine-like complexities, then move on to other moles, such as ranchero and verde. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Costa Calle Galeana #8131, Baia. 664-685-8494. Even after four decades, fisherman-singer Adrian Pedrin Aramburo's seafood place looks fresh, with its blue-and-white floor tiles, polished brass portholes, and varnish. Some seafood combos can be costly, but most fish and oyster dishes are reasonable. Everybody seems to go for filleted sea bass — the baked Catalina with mushroom-cream sauce or the Olivia, stuffed with octopus and shrimp, are really good. So are Madrazo oysters, with chipotle and bacon. But you can't go wrong with the less-expensive whole fish plates, like the charcoal-broiled Sarandeado (just watch out for the bones). Each entrée comes with soup, hors d'oeurvre, salad, rice, and coffee

plus a Kahlua-based drink-dessert. Bonus: the owner's charming menu inserts. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily, late breakfast through dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B.* 

Manzanilla Riveroll 122 (off Lopez Mateo), Baja, 646-175-7073, At this artfilled, very "Euro" bistro, a pair of gifted, classically trained chef-owners are pi oneering "new Mexican cuisine," creating sophisticated combinations of superb local products and traditional Mexican flavors. Fresh-caught seafood. locally grown vegetables, and mesquite smoke from the wood-burning grill are featured players on the seasonal menus; a spectacular rib-eve steak, tender and intensely beefy, is also a constant. Little wonder this has become the destination restaurant south of Tijuana. Vegetarian upon request. The menu is in Spanish, but owners Benito Molina and Solange Muris Evans speak fluent English, as do some waitstaff. (The only communication problem will be the exotic music blasting from the sound system.) Reserve for weekends, especially during tourist seasons. Full bar featuring tequilas, Baja vintners. Wednesday through Saturday, late lunch through dinner, until midnight. Moderate. — NW

Mercado Sobre Ruedas Colonia Lucio Blanco (from Tijuana, on toll road, take first Rosarito exit; turn left at third), Baja. Don't miss this huge flea market that materializes every Sunday (from morning until midafternoon) a couple of miles north of the tourist part of town. Its dozens of food booths offer a vast variety of local treats, ranging from barbecued mutton (borrego) to savory Jalisco-style goat stew (birria de chivo), to all manner of tacos, made to-order hotcakes with syrup, "Mexi-can hamburgers," and Sno-Kones (don't worry about the ice; by law, it has to be made with purified water). The food is totally authentic, cooked to Mexican tastes, and it's a carnival for the mouth. Many vendors speak some English, Rock-bottom prices; cash only – N.W.

**El Nido** Boulevard Benito Juárez #67, Baja, 661-612-1430. Head south if you're looking for a great, dry-aged, mesquite-broiled steak at a bargain price — but don't stop there. Try the house specialty, quail with garlic sauce (*codorniz al mojo de ajo*), or venison, especially the savory *machaca de venado* (strips of meat with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Both are locally raised on the restaurant's own ranches and may be united in a brilliant breakfast of quail eggs with deer *machaca*. Seafood and surf-and-turf variations are tasty, too. Vegetarian upon request. The restaurant's name means "the nest," and the amusing indoor-outdoor decor is a sort of multiroom aviary with birds singing, chirping, and fluttering all over. Full bar. If sensitive to smoke, don't sit next to the mesquite-burning hearth on the roofed patio. Dressy-casual. Bilingual staff and menu. Open daily, early morning to late evening. Mostly moderate; cash only. — *N.W.* 

**Rica Torta** Niños Héroes Avenida #890, Baja, 664-685-8579. This café may have the best *tortas* (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, freshscooped avocado...it's a double-wide, double-high burger. The menu has 16 different kinds of *tortas*, from chorizo with eggs to beefsteak ranchero, all served in huge, three-ribbed, crisptoasted Mexican bread buns. There's other stuff, but to a burger buff, one of these is quite enough. Vegetarian upon request. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

### CENTRAL

24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family **Restaurant** 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eatery: all carpets, dark-wood walls, etched glass. Prices are a little up there, but hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Best news may be that if you feel like breakfast at midnight, no problem. Ask for the pork chops, two eggs, hash browns, and biscuits and gravy. Chops are crumbed and buried in hash browns. Splosh on lots of ap-plesauce, and leave room for the biscuits — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moder ate. — E.B.

**94th Aero Squadron** 8885 Balboa Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-6771. One of San Diego's hidden jewels: there's classic American fare (stuffed pork tenderloin, farmhouse chicken) in the "Officers' mess." Happy hour is weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fridays, the outside "Runway" grill features chicken kebabs. The biggest attraction is the place itself. Built to mimic a WWI French farmhouse taken over by a bunch of Yankee flying aces, it has a garden full of antique planes and live ducks — and right outside, the real Montgomery Airfield. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.* 

Asmara Eritrean Restaurant

4155 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-677-3999. The fare here is Eritrean (which proves very similar to Ethiopian), and the menu is long and interesting. The three-meat combination platter is a terrific array of chicken, beef, and lamb, each in a distinctive treatment. From the à la carte choices, consider zilzil tibs, char-grilled meat in butter, and kulwa, a sprightly stir-fry. Luscious vegetables, too. A porous pancake, *injera*, with the texture of a washcloth and a mild flavor, serves as an edible spoon and edible tablecloth — use pieces of it to scoop up morsels. Food is seasoned to your specifications, and "hot" means seriously spicy. Vegetarian friendly. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Can be noisy on weekends. Cash only. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington Street, University Heights, 619-296-8268. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties roadhouse character. It's open all night on weekends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' eight-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!!," an omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chiles, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special — it's always cheaper. Another good thing: coffee comes by the thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Brickyard Coffee and Tea** 675 West G Street, Downtown, 619-696-7220. The problem, if you're rich enough to live in the Marina District, is the lack of café life. That is, until this modest little eatery and café settled in next to the tracks by the Seaport Village trolley stop. You sit under 11 poplar trees in a brick patio that has one unusual downtown advantage — except for the wind sifting through the poplars (or a trolley pulling in), it's completely silent here. Sipping coffee and reading your paper is the thing here, but you can fill up, too, with items like Texas chili, or grilled cheese and tomato sandwich with a cup of chili, or spinach and mushroom quiche with a small Caesar salad, or *panini*. You can also order half a sandwich — turkey, ham, beef, or tuna — with a cup of soup or Caesar salad. It's the nearest thing to a French country café. Open early morning till 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

**Brothers Family Restaurant** 5150 Waring Road, Allied Gardens, 619-287-0880. Yes, it looks boring on the outside. Brick, reflective glass. But go in and you're surrounded by brothers: John and Bobby Kennedy, Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. They're there because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good oldfashioned cholesterol city rules here with no apologies, and the locals ap-preciate it. It's like a *Cheers* for eating. All the staples are served: country-fried steak and eggs, pork chops with eggs, Grandma Jennie's pancakes with ham bacon, and sausage - even hefty beet or tuna or turkey sandwiches with soup. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday to Friday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

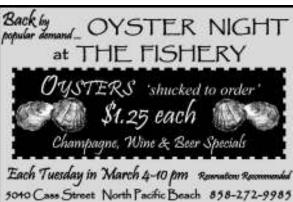
Café Bleu 530 University Avenue. Hillcrest, 619-291-1717. The walls are red, the lights are blue, and the menu of this edible-oriented wine bar offers French-accented, wine-friendly seasonal cuisine with locally grown produce and numerous grazing options to accompany a huge choice of international wines by the half-glass, glass, or bottle. If you can get in your order by 6 p.m., the happy-hour menu offers deep discounts (and whenever you arrive, you can reserve the seductive plush couch or the chaise lounges for lounging). Don't miss the wild mushroom vol-au-vent or short ribs with vanilla sauce. Half-price bottle specials Tuesdays; flight specials Wednesdays. Full bar, but stick with wine. Lunch/brunch and dinner daily. Sunday \$25 prix fixe three-course dinner, otherwise moderate to expensive with deep happy hour appetizer discounts. — *N.W.* 

Café on Park 3831 Park Boulevard. North Park, 619-293-7275. Okay, it's trendy, from the rusty spoon-and-fork sign at the door to the PC industrial interior (concrete walls, exposed plumbing). But don't expect PC food. The plates are huge and overflowing with fodder. Breakfast scrambles are popular with add-ons such as smoked salmon, artichoke hearts, or Brie. Health nuts choose the Park Porridge stuffed with apples, raisins, and honey. But the prize may be the dish that Placerville, California, miners ordered when they came down from the mountains with pockets full of gold: the Hangtown Fry - luscious, marinated, sautéed oysters scrambled in eggs. Three meals daily, with break 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Line at door on Sunday.) – E.B.

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop 640 Tenth Avenue, Downtown, 619-450-5880. This is the rare theme restaurant where the food is as good as the decor, and the decor is more fun than a rodeo clown. The setting harks back to '50s Westerns (think of The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, where huge steaks played nearly as strong a role as John Wayne), and the fabulous music loop runs to Patsy Cline, early Johnny Cash, and Bob Wills, the King of Western Swing. The carnivorous "green cuisine" emphasizes top-quality beef (USDA Prime or grassfed and natural) and wild game including buffalo and boar, wild or free-range fowl, and wild-caught seafood - all treated like A-list cowboy stars by chefpartner Victor Jimenez. An in-house butcher shop sells these hard-to-find meats retail, including venison sausage and free-range chicken. Mainly Cali-fornia wines with a wide range of prices

and styles. Full bar. Expensive. — N.W.**Cuicacalli Dining Room** 5150 East Campus Drive, SDSU, 619-594-2622. The big hall has different kitchens angling out into the common space, some baking bread, others grilling burgers, others doing wok cooking, plus islands of salad, archipelagos of dessert, and a daily special servery. Breakfast includes omelets, pancakes, pastries, fruit, yogurt, daily chef's special; for lunch there's pasta, pizzas, veggie plates, and burgers with fries. Dinner could be Hawaiian, or — this is a Friday favorite — Mongolian. Yes, it's basically cafete-





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ria food, but good enough, and sometimes pretty darned good. Non-students welcome; you pay a couple of bucks more. The name (and it's pronounced "Queeka-cayi") means "house of song" in Aztec, though most seem to call it "quaker kelly dining room." Breakfast 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.; dinner 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

La Fachada 20 25th Street, Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The thing about La Fachada is: You can have any thing anytime. This restaurant near the trolley's 25th Street stop is Mexican but has Anglo food too — maybe because the cops' Central Division HQ sits across the road. Great not-quite-morning place for breakfast at, say, 3 a.m. do a pretty good Western omelet breakfast with cheese, bell peppers, onions, and ham, bacon, or sausage They also have great Caldo Siete Mares and Vuelva a la Vida, tasty soups laden with seafood. But the best fun is in the evening up to 11 p.m., when an outdoor kitchen operates, mostly serving tacos to eat under a big white garden canopy. Open 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. (Friday and Saturday open 24 hours). Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Gathering Bar and Grill** 902 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-260-0400, "Beloved" is not a word you throw around lightly, but that's just what Gathering has become to Mission Hills regulars. When it reopened after a fire, they flocked back with flowers and hugs. The food is good quality, familiar comfort fare. From plates like the Southwest burger, with avocado, lack cheese, and salsa, to the Monte Cristo (grilled egg, dipped Texas toast with Swiss, ham, and turkey, powdered sugar, and a side of jam). Last we checked, the owner, Dan, was as deft as ever with his magic cards, for any customer who needs to be bamboozled. Open daily, 8 a.m. till late. Magic ses sions around 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Hong Kong Restaurant 3871 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-9449. Where to get a good Chinese meal after midnight? This restaurant (next to Column One's statues and fountain shop) serves meals till 2:30 a.m. Inside is typical Asian decor, including blackand-white Chinese brush paintings and carved cherrywood chairs. Their huge menu offers traditional Szechwan and Mandarin fare. The fried, pork-filled wontons on raw cabbage are delish, especially splotted with fiery Chinese mustard. The Singapore-style rice noodles (not often featured in Chinese restaurants) are tanged with curry, and excellent, as is the kung pao chicken. Also look at egg drop soup, pork chow mein, shrimp with lobster sauce, and scallion ginger chicken. Service is super quick. Lunch and dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Impe rial Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous - check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two - and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman's fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and halfpound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. Fri day and Saturday. Inexpensive. - E.B. **El Indio Mexican Restaurant** 3695 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-299-0333. Eat here and you eat with the ghosts of presidents, politicians, and three generations of San Diegans. Ralph Pesqueira, the guy who started it in 1940 as a simple tortilla factory, in-vented taquitos ("little tacos") as snacks for his customers. The deep-fried taquitos are still their number-one selling item. But also try Burrito Indio. a wheat tortilla stuffed with marinated zucchini, corn, beans, onions, cheese and tomato, and the potato burrito, another good vegetarian choice. While you're waiting (and it's usually crowded), grab some of El Indio's huge scrumptious homemade chips and a

E.B. Kous Kous Moroccan Bistro 3940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 110, Hillcrest, 619-295-5560. This could be the ideal neighborhood restaurant - if you love exploring Middle Eastern cuisines. The Moroccan specialties at Kous Kous are delicious, authentic, and healthful, and the witty, entertaining staff treat you like guests at an informal dinner party. Unlike most Moroccan restaurants in the U.S., the menu is à la carte rather than prix fixe, and seating is at normal chairs and tables, not floor cushions, so you can focus on the food and not some Arabian Nights fantasy. Start with a lively Chutney Sampler appetizer plate of mezze, Moroccan style, and if *b'stila* is on the menu, don't pass up this treat of minced chicken in a cin-namon-dusted filo crust. Entrée highlights include Lamb Tagine (slowbraised, greaseless, fall-apart shanks with prunes, almonds, Moroccan sea-sonings, and a touch of honey) and Chicken Mu'hammer, a tenderly

pot of their salsa ranchera. Open 8 a.m.

to 9 p.m. seven days. Inexpensive. —

braised half-chicken with quartered green olives and slivers of salty preserved lemons. All entrées come with lively, flawless couscous. Kebabs (filet mignon, shrimp, etc.) also come with a mixed green salad served with refreshing, lemony dressing. For dessert, house-made choices include refreshing fresh berries with orange liqueur and rosewater and a creamy crème brûlée, plus pastries from Bread & Cie. Dinner nightly. Reservations urged for weekends. Restaurant is below street level, elevator is left of the staircase to Martin's. Moderate. — N.W.

**The Living Room Coffeehouse** 5900 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-286-8434. With deep-draft couches, Persian carpets, pictures on the wall, chunky wooden tables, and a tree-shaded patio, this Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with a lively notice board, a rental computer, and good cheap breakfast food in huge quantities. Try The Works omelet, with bacon, ham, onions, tomatoes, pepper, cheese on top, potatoes, fruit, and bread. Open daily, three meals, until late at night. Inexpensive. Additional locations in Old Town, Point Loma, La Jolla, National City, and Otay Mesa. — *E.B.* 

Maryjane's Coffee Shop Hard Rock Hotel, 207 Fifth Avenue, Down town, 619-764-6950. The music is rock of all ages but the menu's back to the '50s with Mom's meat loaf and TV dinners, with reproductions of Warhol prints on the campy wood-veneer wall to enforce the mood of winking irony. It's modern pub grub mingling with Baby Boomer comfort food (kiddie menu? Not needed, it's all a kiddie menu!), right down to frozen peas. The meaty meat loaf really is better than Mom's, the chicken pie bigger and a bit better than Morton's, but the mash tastes like instant, the gravy lacks per-sonality, and the desserts — well, sort of icky if you're grown up. You can regress to a milkshake or soft drink, choose classic cocktails or a few wellpriced wines and beers. Valet parking (needed on Petco game nights), four vegan entrées, no reservations or dress-up required. Open daily early breakfast through dinner, to 3 a.m. on weekends. Moderate. - N.W.

Mukashi 2706 Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-298-1329. Eventually, Mukashi promises an attached fish store selling sushi-grade seafood. But that's still a faraway dream. For now, it's a neighborhood sushi bar in a hungry neighborhood. The sushi is neither notably creative nor inspired, but it's fresh and competent — comparable to Sushi Deli but more expensive. The decor is date-night handsome. The



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We want your equipment! We'll purchase or take it on consignment for our next auction. menu also includes fusion and Japanese entrées. Friday and Saturday offer more (and fresher) choices, but it's also noisy and crowded. Serious but pricey wine list, plus sakes, Asian beers. Restrooms may be awkward for wheelchairs. Lunch weekdays, dinner Monday through Saturday. Noodles inexpensive; sushi slightly higher than average (deep happy hour discounts on selected rolls); entrées moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

**Ocean Room and Lounge** 630 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-501-6550. Sometimes you don't want a temple of haute cuisine, merely an easygoing place for folks to meet — especially if there are oysters involved. Ocean Room fills that bill handily, one of the few Gaslamp joints where you can enjoy a conversation without straining over the noise. The fare is mainly Mediterranean-style seafood, with a few nods at Cajun cuisine. Pleasant dishes include mussels *mariniere*, Cajun seafood pasta (with sub-Cajun spice levels), seafood pan roast, and Fanny Bay oysters on the half-shell. Or try the oyster shooters. Valet parking, bar for single diners, casual feel. Dinner nightly. Expensive (but less than average for the neighborhood). — N.W.

Organic to Go 1143 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-236-0086. This is a sleek franchise eatery that seems to be the first to go all organic. Napkins say things like "Be Beautiful Inside." The place is aiming at the office crowd and has comfy couches and wifi access. Breakfast includes oatmeal and eggwhite-and-herb or bacon-and-egg salsa burritos. Lunch for most is a lunge at the way-big salad bar, but they also make a great cheddar albacore tuna melt, a toasted meat loaf sandwich, and a nice vegan Thai-style veggie wrap. Other interesting dishes include mango-chutney-curry chicken salad sandwich, basil chicken chili soup, and Yucatán vegetarian taco salad. 6:30 a.m Over 900 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com



to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

**Osteria Panevino** 722 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-7959. At this Tuscan-style Italian restaurant, the appetizers and pastas are as close to heaven as



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NUTUTSEN



you can get, particularly the spinach ravioli and potato gnocchi, which can come with a four-cheese sauce on request. The stuffed focaccias are simply incredible, and the pizzas are well-nigh perfect. The exposed brick walls enhance the European feeling. Open daily, lunch and dinner to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 11 p.m. Moderate to expensive, wines rather high. — N.W.

Phuong Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 4170 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Tired of putting up with the crowds at the popular Convoy Street restaurant? Go east, where you'll find the same menu without the hassles. The fare centers on Vietnamese "people's food" emphasizing numerous genres of noodle soups, but there are a handful of more elegant house specialties — including the extraordinary "Special Sauce" Dungeness crab from the live tank. (The sauce is tangy tamarind.) Call ahead to order steamed or grilled live-tank catfish. Vietnamese beers including 33; just two generic wines. Also bring a pad and write down the numbers of your orders to give the waiter, as staffers speak little English. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate (higher for live-tank seafood). - N.W.

**Pizzeria Luigi** 1137 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-233-3309. They claim



to make real New York pizza in this tiny storefront, and they're not lying. One of the owners is from New York by way of Italy, and his Big Apple experiences are written all over the pies. The sauce tastes right, and the crusts are thin enough that you can fold a slice into a "V" to eat on the run, New Yorker style. But it's better to take home a whole pie with your choice of toppings (or a stromboli or calzone) and enjoy it at leisure. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Roval India 329 Market Street, Downtown, 619-269-9999. This lovely, elegantly appointed dining room (and pleasing patio) features the standard classic North Indian menu (vou could call it North Indian Cuisine 101), exe cuted in clean-tasting, rather mild preparations — gentle in seasoning and in chili power (if you're not from India, you're unlikely to get anything higher than a three, whatever you request). The lunch buffet costs a bit more than rock bottom, but is a decent deal if you care about flavor — none of the dishes have that sludgy sameness that mars many of the cheaper buffets. Vegetarians and vegans will find at least a dozen entrées to choose from. Be careful with the wine, as markups are steep - you're better off with Indian beer or with cocktails from the bar. Lunch buffet (11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) daily, dinner nightly Moderate to expensive. - N.W.

Sea Rocket Bistro 3382 30th Street. North Park, 619-255-7049. With seafood, freshness counts, and nothing could be fresher than a daily catch from nearby waters (Baja to Santa Barbara) accompanied by local, sustainably raised produce — and by mainly Southern California wines, most of them affordable and all available by the glass (plus craft beers). Sea urchin bisque and grilled fresh sardines are top picks, along with plump, seared Baja scallops and any dish with Carlsbad mussels. Noisy dining room; no-frills decor. Small parking lot behind restaurant; access on Upas Street via narrow driveway to the left of the fast-food parking lot. Dinner nightly. Moderate. - N.W.

**Seoul B.B.Q.** 4344 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. This Korean restaurant means sitting before a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. Try the Korean B.B.Q. marinated short ribs (*tong galbi*) or thick marbled slices of sirloin

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(beef gui). You'll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy seaweed salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhwoe*). This is sensual, elemental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. — M.N.

Sluggers by the Ball Park 1219 Market Street, Downtown, 619-546-5973. Not your typical hot dog stand. Sluggers café is all glass, steel, cinder block, and new. This eatery catches much of the Padres business, selling Vienna-brand beef hot dogs and Polish sausages. "Served Chicago-style" meaning, the dog's topped with tomato wedges, mustard, pickle, relish, onions, and peppers, all, they say, on a steamed poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other goodies from the Windy City include the Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled Polish sausage dog) and the Italian Stallion (charbroiled Italian sausage in bun). Place is still a little cinder blocky but a good rendezvous for a brewski and a dog after work. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Spice House Café 9035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1028. When your "head feels like a nold potato" and your "tongue like a button hook" (to quote Kipling), Spice House's answer is its Hangover Omelet. We don't know if it's the Ortega chiles or Jack cheese or super tangy tomato sauce, but some guys swear they feel better for eating it. Other excellent choices include Portuguese sausage with hree eggs; Italian sausage frittata with ham, tomatoes, mushrooms; and thick French toast topped with strawberries and whipped cream. Emphasis on Greek-American cuisine. Breakfast and lunch, closes at 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

**Tabule** 535 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-0048. Eating is fun at this offshoot of a popular Tijuana restaurant, offering eclectic, Mexicanbased global fusion including fine steaks (mostly Brandt beef) and duck and seafood in unexpected preparations — sometimes with a touch of the owner's Persian heritage, other times glimpses of Southeast Asia. You can start with mesquite-grilled duck tacos or Thai baby-back ribs or the amazing Gohan Tabule (rice appetizer) that's like a mad, sweet, tropical sushi, minus

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All dishes are 100% vegetarian, most dishes and all desserts are vegan.

wrap. The menu (ceviches, sashimis, taquitos, on and on) is so long it can be daunting, but it's made for play — no boredom here. Smart, wide-ranging international wine list; full bar with "creative" martinis. Lunch and dinner daily until midnight or later. Prices run from low-moderate to expensive — cheap wraps to Prime beef. — N.W. **Toshi Sushi** 5943 El Cajon Boule-

vard, College Area, 619-287-3536. Don't ask what's in the "dynamite" sauce (besides the obvious mayo and smelt roe) — it's a house secret, one the restaurant dangles before you in numerous contexts. Try it baked onto the rich, everything-goes Garbage Roll, where deep-fried shrimp, freshwater eel, and tuna add flavor to the creamycrunchy interplay of sauce and vegetables. Rolls, both plain and elaborate, abound here. While some can be heavy on the rice and light on the fish, others are triumphs. The Toshi Tempura Spe cial Roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is then filled with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes — an exotic-yet-homey fried-fish alternative. The Johnny Roll shows octopus at its most tender, but watch out for spotlight-hogging sweet cream cheese. The simpler sushi can vary - a brilliant, translucent slice of tuna offset by a blander, duller salmon. Japanese entrées are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — A.M.

The Tractor Room 3687 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-543-1007. The folks who brought you the popular big-breakfast and lunch joint Hash House A Go Go (across the street) focus here on hefty portions of "plain American food" in a dinner house specializing in meat, game, and classic cocktails. The Brawny paper towel man would love it. The atmosphere combines a speakeasy (velvet curtains mask the doorway) and a hunting lodge. Menu highlights include identical stews of wild boar and buffalo, grilled salmon, and Prime grade bone-in rib eve, plus good sides of acorn squash and heavy-cream mashed potatoes and gravy. Nothing to write home to Mom about — it is Mom, if she's a Midwesterner, and Dad's a guy who says, "I shot it, you cook it." Well-chosen wine list with lots of appropriate Rhones and Syrahs; few by the glass. Huge list of cocktails. Wheelchair lift (painted to blend in) to left of front staircase. Heated, roofed



Located in Ocean Beach on Voltaire St. (Between Cable and Bacon Streets)

smoking patio above street level. Valet parking; reservations urged. Dinner daily until midnight or later, weekend brunch. Moderate to very expensive. — *N.W.* 

Whole Foods Market Hillcrest 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods' prepared food section will feed you better — and faster than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include the Emerald Mushrooms salad, and especially the *farofa* salad — it's like American stuffing, but it's couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods' vegetarian meals will tempt any meat eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 858-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N.* 

### NORTH INLAND

**Ashoka the Great** 9474 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-9749. Seek out this splendid Indian restaurant. The setting is lovely, the service excellent, and the food first-rate. Don't overlook the tandoori dishes. Numerous selections are available for vegetarians. An all-you-can-eat lunch buffet is served daily. Dinner buffet Monday and Thursday. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.W.

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Chef Patrick Ponsaty, a master of flavor, reigns in this unpretentious but beautiful high-ceilinged bistro, producing creative, classic-based Frenchmodern cuisine featuring fine seasonal ingredients. The food isn't merely creative, it tastes heavenly - the man's got a palate. You want to know what genuine (California-adapted) bouillabaisse should be? Or squab at its best? This is the place - and desserts are ravishing too. Servers are mainly well-informed, enthusiastic fellow foodies who are right on the mark. Alluring wine list at all prices includes top French growths at near-bargain markups, plus full bar. One vegetarian entrée most seasons. Slightly dressy, reservations urged. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive but not exorbitant. -

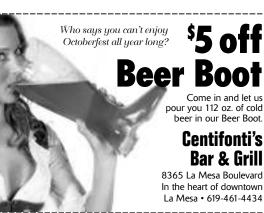
**Bistro 221** 221 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — *N.W.* 

Cavaillon 14701 Via Bettona, Suite 200, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-433-0483. Cavail lon is likely to become your favorite neighborhood French restaurant, no matter how far you live from its neigh-borhood — it's, as *Guide Michelin* would say, "worth a detour," Provence-born chef-owner Phillippe Verpiande (former chef de cuisine at Tapenade) offers sea-sonal, classic French dishes emphasizing his home region in a retro bistro setting. Don't miss the signature starter of panisse, a chick-pea cake with the tex-ture of a marshmallow. Other great dishes include transcendent cog au vin. superb slow-baked salmon, and a dream version of crisp-skinned duck confit. Moderate-priced three-course prix fixe dinners (\$32) Monday through Thursday nights are as fine as the à la carte menu, although it's difficult to resist the siren songs of the alluring nightly spe-cials. International wine list at lowerthan-average markups, French "bargains" on the pricier reserve list, and merciful corkage fees to BYO special bot-tle. Dinner nightly, brunch weekends. Moderate to very expensive. - N.W.

**El Galeón** 503 West Mission Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino ("squat lobster," in fishermen's terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

The Grill 10920 Roselle Street, Suite #104, Sorrento Valley, 858-587-7940. Sorrento Valley is where you commute to work, not to live, so forget warm neighborhood eateries. At first glance, the Grill is what you'd expect -- standard strip mall, bare-bones furnishings, office-lunch oriented. But the Greek owners give it character with generous but cheap breakfast dishes like the Mediterranean omelet and lunch specials such as the luscious Philly cheese steak. And they're flexible. Want bacon, sausage, and ham in your breakfast pita? They'll do all three, same price as with a single meat. Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Hacienda de Vega 2608 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-738-9805. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference — or two. The setting is a gorgeous restored Old California-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Senora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated man-







San Diego *Reader* February 26, 2009

ner of Mexico City, her hometown not border-food compromises. You'll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide choice of serious entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its overall flavor — this is not the land of the bland. The Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch offers a whole sampling of goodies brought to your table, with refills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu available; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. — N.W.

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co. -**Del Mar** 12840 Carmel Country Road, Del Mar, 858-481-7883. Oggi's has several branches throughout San Diego. Is it the pizzas, or is it the housemade brewskis (six ales, one lager, one stout) that make Oggi's so popular? Is it the sports-bar ambience (with multiple video screens) or just the ubiquity of branches that has won this chain nu-merous "best pizza" citations? The pizzas are American-style, with thick, slightly sweet crusts, many with elaborate toppings that sound more adven-turous than they taste. (All the cheese alternatives are equally mild.) The menu also offers pub snacks, decent soups and salads, hearty sandwiches, and American-Italian entrées so malladapted that no mamma mia in Bensonhurst or North Beach would even recognize them. Full bar, lunch and dinner daily at most branches; free local delivery with minimum order. Inex-pensive. — *N.W.* 

Pearl Chinese Cuisine 11666 Avena Place, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-3388. At Emerald Restaurant's younger, prettier suburban sister, you'll find modern Hong Kong-style Chinese cuisine, including both familiar and exotic dishes. Daytimes are for dim sum (Chinese tapas), served daily until 3 p.m., plus champagne dim sum brunches on weekends. Along with standard items, the choices here leap to the latest Pacific creations, some rarely found this side of the ocean, including irresistible Shanghai soup dumplings. Dinners range from folk food to showy "gold cup" dishes. For a taste treat and visual hoot, try the sea bass with pine nuts, sculpted to resemble a dish sponge. International wine list at modest markups complements the cooking. Full bar. Frying done in corn (not peanut) oil. Reservations advised. Lunch and dinner on weekdays; three meals on weekends. Moderate, with some expensive specialties. — N.W.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza — Del Mar 12925 El Camino Real, Del Mar, 858-259-6600. It's not Italian or New York pizza, it's...San Diego pizza The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Savory 267 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau was executive chef of the Four Seasons Aviara when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetu-ally packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal lo-cal produce. Highlights include an ultrarich macaroni-and-ham casserole. The adventurous mainly-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses (and modest corkage if you BYO). Dinner reservations urged; groups larger than ten accommodated with manager's ap-proval. High tea Saturday afternoon. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. – N.W.

**WineSellar and Brasserie** 9550 Waples Street #115, Sorrento Valley, 858-450-9557. This long-time favorite

SUSHI

"splurge" restaurant, located in a soulless industrial park (there's no "there" there), sits atop a serious wine store, and your dinner quaffs, from an encyclopedic choice of bottlings, will cost just 20% over retail. The food is the comfortably upscale French cooking that San Diego cherishes — luxurious and modern, without a hint of exoticism. And many dishes would shine in any galaxy — e.g., foie gras with mango and tender pheas-ant stuffed with foie gras, along with cured hamachi and yellowfin-tuna tartare. Dining room up staircase, no lift; accessible seating in first floor tasting room, with full facilities. (Call ahead to arrange, and to arrange vegetarian meals.) Reservations usually necessary, as restaurant holds many sold-out special events. Ask for directions, too, as all the architecture for miles is identical. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday (closed between meals). Lunches highmoderate, dinners very expensive. NW

### NORTH COASTAL

Azafran 1001 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760-435-0005. This place just feels Cuban, with its echoev inside, bongos, washed orange walls and giant Cuban jazz mural. We're talking Caribbean-style food, not hot by Mexican standards. Most delicious intro: traditional Cuban pressed sandwiches, hot-pressed to mix the juices of, say, smoked ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles (Cubano #2), or roast pork (lechón) with a mojo (garlicky-citrus) sauce that makes it juicy. The bread, baked right here, is news in itself crunchy and sometimes sweet (ask for medianoche). You get a lot, but don't leave without trying a plantain dish or the cheese flan. Or a cup of Cuban coffee. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Blanca 437 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-792-0072. The opening of sleek, sophisticated Blanca marks the arrival of our first 21st-century restaurant, highlighting perfect seasonal ingredients so radiantly and originally prepared that diners must rouse to rapt attention. Chef Wade Hageman, a protégé of renowned SF/Vegas chef Michael Mina, has imported a similarly complex, labor-in-tensive style of cooking that appeals as much to the mind as to the senses. He's imported a major Mina stratagem showcasing an individual ingredient by presenting it in several different incarnations within the same dish, like musical variations on a theme. Blanca's menu lists each item's pedigree and pri-mary garnishes, but those details don't begin to describe the behind-the-scenes enhancements of marinades, brines, rubs, soaks, and infusions that play subtle roles in the multilayered flavors that come to the table. Appetizers are espe-cially adventurous, the wine list is exceptional (if mainly very pricey), and the restaurant's decor is as modern and polished as the food. Dinner only. Reservations required. Very expensive. – N.W.

**Bubby's Gelato** 937 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3563. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelati, and sorbet) but does them exceedingly well. The "gourmet sandwiches" really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke hearts, black olives, grilled eggplant, Gorgonzola are among the choice of ingredients) on soft, round Italian bread. (Or you can just get a tuna melt if that's your flavor.) Gelati are about twice as rich as Häagen-Dazs, and feature an ever-changing array of bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and chocolate cinnamon. Open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closes later on Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.* 



Buy one entrée and two beverages, get a second entrée of equal or lesser value at 25% off. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 3/19/09.

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La Especial Norte 604 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-942-1040. This big, brightly lit roadhouse sports highly whimsical decor (take a look at the blue ceramic "pond" in the dining room, complete with cavman) and boasts a five-page menu, including a page of a dozen regional soups and another full page for seafood. The soups are superb - the authentic Mexico City-style chicken soup is laden with av ocados, chicken shreds, cilantro, and rice, and the savory eggplant soup includes airv little "croutons" of puffed relleno batter. The fresh, interesting seafood entrées outshine the relatively ordinary renditions of the standard stuffed-tor tilla variations. No wheelchair access to restrooms. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. - N.W.

II Fornaio — Del Mar 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-8876. II Fornaio's defensive architecture walls it off from the Great Unwashed — the tourists wandering around Coronado's Old Ferry Landing — but it's worth breaching if only to get your teeth into their todie-for bread. "II fornaio" means "the baker," after all. Beyond bread, we're talking rustic-feeling, herbal, ultra-fresh salads, and everyday Italian dishes ranging from sfilatino con bistecchina (thin grilled steak on a baguette with creamy dijon and salad) to a giant mesquitegrilled 22-ounce *bistecca alla fiorentina*, with lots of vegetarian and pasta dishes in between. A simple penne *alla sorrentina* — pasta tubes with a tomato, mozzarella, and basil sauce — is charming. Pizza *puttanesca* is heaven too, if you're into anchovies. Interesting regional menus from different provinces of Italy pop up during the first two weeks of each month. Most staffers seem mind-blowingly knowledgeable. Moderate. — *E.B.* 

Hill Street Coffee House 524 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside, 760 966-0985. Organic in Oceanside? Really! Look for the sign: "Organic Restaurant and Espresso Bar" in front of a restored and-white Victorian house from yellov O'side's past. Most of their meats, poultry, fish, and veggies are organic, and the menu is full of healthy dishes: tofu/spinach breakfast scramble, frittata espinaca ("Greek eggs"), and pain perdu (for us peasants that's French toast) with fresh fruit and syrups. Some vegan items. After 11 a.m., try their Cajun chicken. Open daily, breakfast to dinner. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Jamroc 101 Caribbean Grill 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish-andchips, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its back-patio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun

### **User Reviews** — restaurants

Best user comments from Reader website

### **Sipz**, Clairemont

It may be far away from my home, but it's definitely worth the drive from Imperial Beach to Clairemont. It caters to vegetarians and vegans alike, and by far the best Asian food I have ever eaten. My best friend and I keep on going back for the Thai "Chicken" Curry and Philly Rolls. their desserts are vegan and those are to die for too. We always walk out with a full belly after eating at Sipz, it's delicious!

By Diana 4:14 p.m., Feb. 17

### Harney Sushi, Old Town

I loved this place! Went there to preview the vibe, before spending the bread on a Valentine's Day evening. We went in on a Thursday afternoon and found a lovely bartender, who was super friendly and personable. It was very easy to make friends with a fellow patron, who just happened to be DJ'ing there the next afternoon. He gave us a CD of his mix and was happy to share his musical taste and background with my boyfriend, who also DJ's. My boyfriend went the next day to check it out. We did decide to make Harney Sushi our second stop on Valentine's Day and were so happy to see our lovely bartender. She made it especially welcoming, as she greeted us both by name! We had the best Dirty Martini's, which went perfectly with our edamame. We then enjoyed an inexpensive sake, White Crane. Bonus! Although our new DJ friend wasn't spinning, he was there enjoying another DJ that evening! We are so pleased to find such an attractive, cool, charming place away from the path of Newport Avenue.

By HRCordova 9:17 a.m., Feb. 19

### Arrivederci, Hillcrest

My partner and I recently visited this restaurant for the fourth time on Valentine's Day (maybe not the best time to do that given that this is the busiest day of the year for most restaurants). As usual, the food was faultless. My problems with this restaurant have always been the inadequate service. Valentine's Day (with a full house) only made things worse. I made a reservation seven days in advance, hoping that I could get a 6:30 time slot, only to be told that the restaurant was expecting 200 people around that time (there is no way that this restaurant could hold 200 people), so I changed it to 5:30 pm. Once we arrived, we were seated outside on a cold windy night next to a heater that was not working. (You would think that the management would make sure that an outdoor heater was working on the busiest restaurant night of the year.) Unfortunately, this was the only table they had available. Oh, and as for the 200 people that were supposed to be arriving at 6:30 pm, we never saw more than 10 people at a time waiting to get into this restaurant from the time that we arrived until the time we left at 7:30 pm. The waiter was very matter-of-fact — no personality and unfriendly. The hostess was even worse. With all the great Italian restaurants in San Diego, I'll stay away from Arrivederci and go someplace where the service is in the same league with the food.

By JLFpianist 8:38 p.m., Feb. 20

### \$20 gift certificate to La Jolla Brew House

to best three user reviews awarded each week. To write a User Review, visit SDReader.com, go to "Food & Drink" pull-down and click on "Search Restaurants."

Find the restaurant you want to write about and click "Write a Review." Deadline for user reviews is 12 noon Monday. deadly-dry salmon croquettes. Dinner dishes are modern Cal cuisine — that is, a mix-and-match of Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. But the view's the thing here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch and dinner; breakfast on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W. Potato Shack Café 120 West I Street,

dishes). Check out the bargain-priced

samplers, which include luscious soft-

fried plantains and splendid patties (em-

panadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spic-

ing of the jerks and curry entrées are

down-tuned to suit tourist tastes, but

the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch

Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right

up. Don't miss the fresh coconut water,

served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean) reggae set the

mood, and there's live steel pan weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks.

Open weekday nights until 8 p.m. and

weekend nights until 9:30 p.m. Inexpen-

Pamplemousse Grille 514 Via de la

Valle, Solana Beach, 858-792-9090. The

locals' favorite French provincial restau-

rant offers exquisite, creative cooking.

Favorites from an often-changing menu

include white fish served any style,

mushroom cappucini soup, and tarte

Tatin. Serene atmosphere with excellent

service. Dinner reservations urged. Din-

ner nightly, lunch Friday only. Dinners

Poseidon 1670 Coast Boulevard, Del

Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining

rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish

decor and ocean views, and the SRO umbrella-shaded patio is right at water's

edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burg-

ers, and fried seafood of ordinary com-

petence and uneven preparation: wonderfully coconutty fried shrimp, for

example, share a sampler plate with

sive. - N.W.

expensive. - E.B.

Encinitas, 760-436-1282. Check out the cute potato-toon mural on the side of the building — a sign for spud-lovers to load up on portions sized for lumberjacks from the Lumbervard across the street. American fries (served "all you can eat"), french fries, potato patties, and baked potatoes with various toppings are the heart of the menu, along with eggs, omelets, biscuits with sausage gravy, and beer-battered onion rings made from sweet reds. If size counts consider the daunting inch-thick "manhole" pancake that's bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to deli sandwiches (with potatoes), or a hearty bowl of chili con carne. Arrive early weekends. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — N.W.

**Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant** 517 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-5001. You don't have to be a Self Realization Fellowship follower to fit in in Encinitas, but it helps. Roxy was made for the veggie crowd who've grown up around the famous seaside compound. These days, that includes surfers, vegans, and even visiting Holly-wood stars picky about their food. Actually, it is no longer strictly a vegetar-ian eatery: the owners have added chicken and fish for Encinitas's "new people" — the carnivores buying up property in the hills. But the vegan-veggie spirit still rules. Most popular item on the menu is owner Shahram Naimi's own invention: the scrumptious Roxy falafelburger. Its green "meat" is made from garbanzo beans, potatoes, onions, cilantro, and herbs, all bedded down with tomatoes, a thick mat of sprouts, and melted cheese, covered by a wholewheat bun. For chicken lovers, the garlic chicken pizzas sell big-time. Other healthy treats include the three-egg avocado omelet with toast, the artichoke sandwich (with marinated artichoke hearts), and the squash enchilada dinner (steamed banana squash with corn, bell peppers, and low-fat cream cheese in a flour tortilla). Payoff? You come out feeling good and full, not bad and bloated. Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. - E.B.

### SOUTH BAY

Bistro d'Asia 1301 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-6677. The relaxing restaurant attached to the hardy "Lizard Lounge" serves gentled-down dishes from all over East Asia. Among the tastiest are delicate lemon shrimps, vegetarian "monk's curry," and ice creams from Mootown Creamery. Peking Duck is accorded the full service, with a waitress garnishing the table's first round of delicate "flower buns" with crackly duck skin, scallions, and hoisin sauce. Lizard Lounge next door now houses a sushi bar as well as a liquor bar. Reserve for weekend dinners. Street parking. Wellchosen wine list. Lunch and dinner daily. Other branch at 4628 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-295-5880. — N.W.

La Costa Azul Mariscos 1037 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-691-9812. Great family-run hangout for traditional seafood from Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico's crackling-hot desert/coastal states. Their ancient Sinaloa dish *aguachile* (shrimp in spicy brine) is simple, mouth-sizlingly effective, *langostinos* are lush, but maybe most satisfying are whole-fish dishes like *pescado Veracruzano*.Truly traditional offerings come in giant threelegged *molcajetes*. Even their less-traditional signature dish, *Camarones Costa Azul* (crab and cheese-stuffed, baconwrapped shrimp) arrives in a burning hot *molcajete*. Also delicious: the sizzleplate fajitas *mixtas*, with shrimp, beef, chicken. Many customers come around sunset, just to sit with a cool drink under palm fronds on the patio. Even if you're actually on Chula Vista's Broadway, it feels strangely like Cabo. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.* 

**The Family House of Pancakes** 562 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-5133. This is a great place for three things: your family, your kids, and your appetite. The restaurant is famous for its Grandma's buckwheat pancakes, its banana-pecan pancake, and its rolled pancakes, oozing with berries and topped with cream and powdered sugar. Just try and survive their *8-12* egg omelet! Other good bets include a deluxe burger with french fries, tomatoes, and house sauce, and a grilled tuna sandwich with fries. Breakfast/lunch only, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

**Giant Pizza King** 600 Palm Avenue, Imperial Beach, 619-423-7601. If pizza size matters to you, try on these nineinch-wide, foot-long, loaded pizza slices. They can flop, but they can't fail. For alternatives, the fish-and-chips dish is pretty generous, they make a large lasagna with garlic bread and salad, and the half-pound shrimp combo, fries, and salad is good value. You're near enough here to the beach to get supplies for sunset "green flash" parties this is a full-on Italian take-out eatery with ham or turkey subs, spaghetti with meatballs, half-pound burgers, and more. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Island Wok 922 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6835. This tiny indoor-outdoor-takeaway café is a standby with locals, especially the high school crowd. It serves good Vietnamese-Chinese food and plenty of it. The owner, Xuan, makes scrumptious fresh (not fried) Vietnamese spring rolls wrapped in rice paper with shrimp, pork, or chicken and vegetables in the middle. But most customers go for the steam-table combination plates. You always get chow mein, fried or steamed rice, and a fried spring roll to start off, and then you can add entrées like orange chicken, kung pao chicken, or sweet-and-sour pork. Inexpensive. -FB

Mexican Village 126 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-3111 One of the few old restaurants left in Coronado. WestPac Navy flyers who served in Korea and Vietnam would dream of this while on tour. After almost perishing, the Village is back. Old Coronadans say the new (Mexican) owner's "signature burritos (fillings, e.g., tripitas [tripe], carnitas con papas [pork with potato], chorizo, and eggs) match even their gilded memories. Try the carnitas with cactus. 11 a.m to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; till 10 p.m. Friday and Satur day. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B. Village Pizzeria 1206 Orange Av-Coronado, 619-522-0449. Mootime Creamery owner David Spatafore decided to set up what he's always wanted: a cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white-tablecloth, dangling-Chianti-bottle eatery where local families and amateur sports teams can come in and pig out. He wisely didn't destroy what was half of the famous old Mexican Village. Instant atmosphere! Ancient murals of guys with guitars serenading senoritas, arches, illuminated clusters of red grapes. The bad news: you might have to handle pumped-up kids' sports teams cramming the booths around you. The good news: great calzones and pizza by the slice. (Pizza-by-

### EAST COUNTY

slice portions stop at 6 p.m.) Open

lunch through dinner, seven days. Inex-

pensive. —  $\vec{E}.B.$ 

**Ali Baba Restaurant** 421 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-442-3622. First, the atmosphere: It's a world of wispy drapes, pavilions, and blue velvet hangings. You think, "sheikh's oasis encamp ment." The lamb shank on bulgur wheat is probably the most popular with local Chaldeans Lamb, fried fish. and chicken kabobs are staples. But try interesting alternatives like "potato chop," a kind of potato pie, *kobba* musilia, a "crushed wheat pie" stuffed with beef and fried. Remember, everything is filling. Especially with the won derful bread you get: the size of an elephant's foot, light as a butterfly, baked on the spot. Bring five friends and order the Feast for Three People. It'll be enough. Open 10 a.m. to midnight daily. Inexpensive to moderate. - E.B.

Antonio's Hacienda 700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9827. If the decor hasn't been updated from its original 1960s-fabulous Old California Spanish, it's because there's been no need. The enormous darkwood chandeliers, the padded-leather wooden chairs, the chainsaw-weathered wood beams — all top-shelf and aging well. Families abound, reveling in the guitar trio and the exposed kitchen station — such atmosphere! And the flavors are user-friendly, sweetness muting the spice in the salsa and the ranchero sauce. The Camarones Tequila is a little more exciting, the sweetness of its bacon-wrapped shrimp gets a fine counter from the bitter liqueur in the marinade. Excellent Enchiladas Suizas: pale, mush-tender, shredded chicken wrapped in tortillas and doused with good, tangy green sauce Lunch and dinner daily Champagne brunch on Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; all-day buffet Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. -A.M.

**Charley's Famous Hamburgers** 8213 Broadway Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-460-2690. When you spot an old red-and-white gas station that looks like a café, don't hesitate. That's Charley's. The palm and ficus trees have replaced the gas pumps and a fountain now gurgles where the air hoses used to be. The menu is a long list of hamburgers, as well as hot dogs, sandwiches, and kebobs. Mostly take-out, but you can dine out at their picnic tables under bougainvillea. Open daily, three meals. — *E.B.* 

Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers 2754 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-1264. Up here, Fred's it and that's that. You really get a bang for your burger buck, from the cheap junior burger to quarter-pounders and half-pounders to Fred's three-quarterpound "monster burger." Even the innocent-sounding BLT sandwich comes loaded with six slabs of bacon. Maybe the most delicious burger sandwich is a quarter-pound patty slithered between sautéed onions and oozing with cheese under grilled sourdough. Also good: the grilled chicken sandwich and the patty-melt special with fries and soft drink. Really hungry? Order Fred's Alpine Goliath, a two-pound burger that needs a ten-inch bun to support it. But, as they say, be careful what you wish for. Seven days, 10:30 a.m to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Jasmine Bistro 315 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon, 619-588-8228. A gleaming little architectural jewel surrounded by the big white boxes of its mall, Jasmine Bistro is a spin-off of the well-known Jasmine Hong Kong Seafood Restau-rant on Convoy. By day, the fare centers on fresh, expertly made Chinese dim sum (elaborate finger food) offered both by cart and by menu. At night, with a reservation, a fresh crew of multiethnic chefs steps in to cook up a Pan-Asian panoply, so if you're in the mood for Mandarin and your date wants Thai, no problem. Unfortunately, eaters in this suburban milieu won't stand for too much authenticity, so sophisticated diners may find the fare a little dumbed-down. Mainly California wine list suggests wine pairings for the food; numerous Asian beers, fruity drinks. Reserve for weekend dinners. Daily brunch/lunch through early dinner (until 9 p.m.). Mainly moderate (except for some special entrées). - N.W.

# **A Rebel's Revolution**

"One can understand everything only when one allows no one to be too ugly or too trivial."

eorg Büchner's *Danton's Death* has such a contemporary feel, it's almost impossible to believe he wrote the play—hailed by many as "the best first play in world literature"— in 1835, at age 21. Büchner explores the

facts and untoward ironies of the French Revolution with techniques we take for granted. But he was so far ahead of his time that *Danton* wasn't produced until 1902.

When Büchner wrote the play, the history of the French Revolution had become an epic melodrama, etched in granite. There were heroes (the charismatic Danton, for many) and villains (Robespierre, the austere butcher), and the events unfolded in an inexorable order. But, Büchner asks, how did it feel to live during such sweeping events? Life is always more fluid, diverse, and smarmy than the historical record. Didn't anyone ever wave? "I no longer intend to bow down to the dress uniforms and street-corner orators of history," he wrote in a letter. "One can understand everything only when one allows no one to be too ugly or too trivial."

Some say he didn't know enough about dramatic tradition to imitate it; others, that he did (and knew Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in detail). But Büchner scrapped rules and theories and wrote



out of an impulse to set free — not glamorize or make heroic — the last 12 days of a condemned, profoundly disillusioned man.

The play begins four years after the revolution began. What was once a fairly united front,

> advocating popular sovereignty and the overthrow of the aristocracy, has split into warring factions. The poor are still poor, heads still roll, but idealism has given way to vengeance. "Moder-

ates," like Danton, who originally advocated the guillotine, now urge a more tempered approach. Robespierre, whose God was a "radical democrat," envisions a new, pure, virtuous France. He sees the Reign of Terror as a moral, divinely inspired crusade and advocates beheading anyone remotely suspected of vice: no tribunals, no questions asked. "Uncertainty of punishment," he proclaims, "encourages the guilty."

The oppositions are clear, from afar. But Büchner unmasks them. He gives the absolutist Robespierre an amazing monologue: instead of being all-powerful, he confesses he's a mere pawn of unseen forces, a Pontius Pilate with bloodsoaked hands. Does he just walk on virtuous stilts? Some parts of his being spy on others, and he can't tell which from which. At the end of the



Danton's Death

#### Danton's Death by Georg Büchner

UCSD Theatre and Dance, Mandell Weiss Theatre, La Jolla Directed by Dominique Serrand; cast: Marshel Adams, Kyle Anderson, Matthew Bovee, Maren Bush, Maritxell Carrero, Christina Cervanka, Lorene Chesley, Ross Crain, Sara Garcia, Demetrius Greene, Bianca Harlow, Zachary Harrison, Spencer Howard, Meghan McCauley, Evan Powell, Dan Shapiro, Emily Star, Jessica Watkins, Bowman Wright; scenic design, Kristin Ellert; costumes, Rachel Shachar; lighting, Stephen Sakowski; sound, Christopher M. Luessmann

**Playing through February 28;** *Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday at 2:00 p.m.* 858-534-4574.

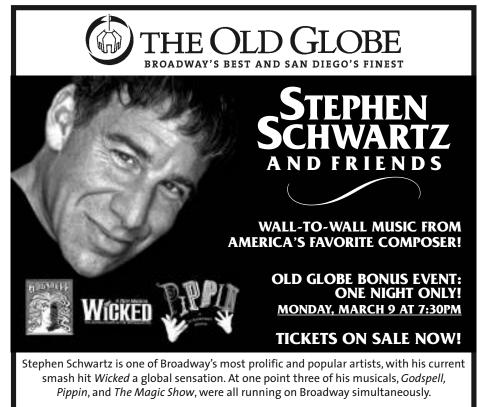
speech, he squares his shoulders, raises his chin, and goes back to being France's sacred avenger.

And Danton, trapped in the feeding frenzy he started, becomes so contrary that practically every move he makes reveals a new, unexpected side.

> "Side-splitting... Prepare to how!!

"Hilariously funny!

He's a devoted husband and a womanizer who wants to ingest his lover's beauty. He's a patriot who drew back because he became "bored" with having to be the same person every day. He's "lazy," a comrade says, and would rather face the guil-



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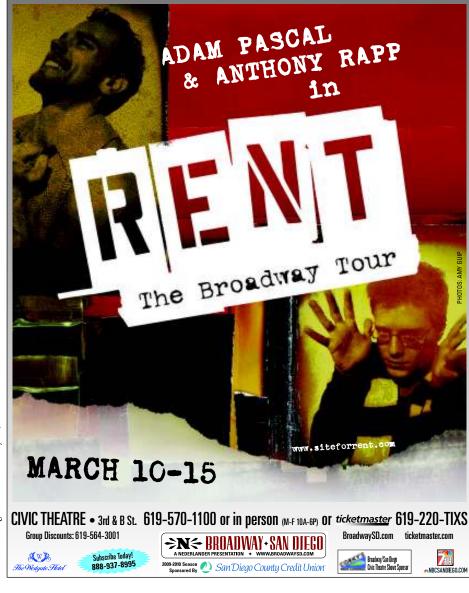
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# AMERICAN IDOL Winner TAYLOR HICKS is Teen Angel! is the word!

**OPENS TUESDAY!** 

### **MARCH 3-8**



### Calendar THEATER

lotine than give a rousing speech. He believes death is final and comforts others by saying that "the guillotine is the best physician," then wades neck-deep in denial. His creations have betrayed him. Like Macbeth, much as he wishes he could, Danton cannot un-create the forces he helped to unleash.

Instead of pinning Danton down and specifying precisely what made him tick, Büchner opened him up. Danton becomes so mercurial - so lifelike (and unlike the image fixed by history) - he often expresses conflicting emotions in the same breath.

Danton's Death has 32 scenes and 40 characters, which make it such a prohibitive piece to stage these days. UCSD Theatre's current offering has some intriguing visual elements but falls flat on the verbal. Directed by Dominique Serrand, former artistic director of Theatre de La Jeune Lune, the opening-night performance felt stagey, and much of the physical business (usually Serrand's trademark) became predictable.

The massive set, curtains and walls rising to expose new areas, was impressive to look at, especially a pyramid of empty chairs, stage left. But the center was a large, square hole, like an empty swimming pool, with stairs leading down. This configuration shoved all activity to the sides and necessitated actors often running in circles, then coming to sudden stops. These movements - also the woman in a rainbow-colored outfit Serrand invented called "Liberty," who eavesdrops on events with sad eyes - may suggest grave symbolic implications (even though Büchner loathed symbolism). But after a while they were just people running around, again.

The acting, vocally, was a disappointment. One of the hallmarks of UCSD Theatre is how its actors meld character and speech. Even in a few brief lines, tangible beings emerge. Most of the Danton cast, however, had vet to inhabit their roles (and no one could agree on how to pronounce the name

of Robespierre's henchman, Saint-Just). They speechified rather than felt their lines and underlined them with studied gestures. Even the interior monologues were more attitude than personal expression. The overall effect: opening night felt underrehearsed, the cast trying to lock into place what Büchner sought to liberate.

### THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

### **Anything Goes**

MiraCosta Theatre Department presents the 1934 Cole Porter musical with "mismatched lovers. supersized characters, and more on-stage marriages than a Shakespearean comedy." Tracy Williams directed.

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, ONE BARNARD DRIVE, OCEANSIDE, FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8

### Bulrusher

"Our names are our fates and our proper place," a teacher named Schoolch tells the title character, an orphan discovered in the bulrushes 18 years ago. Eisa Davis's drama is a tale of identities lost and found, of truths smothered and revealed. It's 1955, the eye of the Civil Rights movement, Young, mystical Bulrusher reads peoples' futures in water they've touched. She grew up in Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, where some locals still speak Boontling (a language invented in the 1880s, at first for people to stump each other, then to make objects more personal) and where the African-American Bulrusher was so isolated she had no idea about racism or sexuality. The arrival of Vera, a black woman from Alabama with a secret, awakens Bulrusher to realities both horrific and wonderful. It's easy to see why Davis's drama was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Character- and language-driven, it unfolds like a musical score about the varieties of innocence and experience. New Village Arts's opening night had many, but not all, of the play's elements in place. Kristianne Kurner's scenic design, a handsome triptych of three raised locales (a spare cabin, a manzanita near a river, the front room of a brothel, all backed by pine tree trunks), featured graceful rain effects. Mary Larson's rustic costumes and blues-rich background music enhanced the look and mood. The production, however, sometimes went fast when it should go slower, and vice versa. The cast often sped through the poetry and Boontling; and scenes often lagged with slow stage business, which lengthened the evening. Sandra Ellis-Troy scored

as Madame (don't call her "madam," even though she runs the brothel), a crusty perfectionist who also has a secret. Grandison M. Phelps III adds upbeat Logger, Boonville's only black man, to his list of impressive performances Tim Parker, with pomaded hair and James Dean outfit, energizes every scene, be it crooning with his guitar or being "Stook On" (infatuated with) Bulrusher. Though she could savor the language more, Jasmine Allen made Bulrusher part perplexed teen and part woodland sprite. A touching portrayal. Worth a try.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245, THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 3 AND 8 P.M. SUN-DAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 1.

### Burning in China

As part of the POW! foundation to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the Poway Center stages Gary Moore's drama about an American teacher who goes to Shanghai with 100 copies of the Gettysburg Address. Caleb Deschanel directed.

POWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 15498 ESPOLA ROAD, POWAY. 858-748-0505, SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. SAT-URDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

### Danton's Death

UCSD Theatre and Dance presents Georg Büchner's epic drama about the French Revolution. Charismatic leader Danton "sees the massive use of the guillotine as a kind of shadow logic." Dominique Serrand, Quinn Martin Guest Chair in directing, has staged the production. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO. 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, UCSD. 858-534-2230. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

#### **Driving Miss Daisy**

Point Loma Actors Theatre stages Alfred Uhry's Pulitzer Prize winner. Daisy Wertham, a rich, crusty widow, and her chauffeur, Hoke, an African-American, are an odd couple, at first. John H. Cochran directed.

POINT LOMA ACTORS THEATRE, 3035 TALBOT STREET, POINT LOMA. 619-225-0044. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 14

### Grease

Broadway\*San Diego hosts a nationally touring production of the musical salute to the 1950s and "the glory that was grease." SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, 858-570-1100. TUESDAY, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.

### The Greeks, the Murders

The Old Globe/University of San Diego Graduate Theatre Program present part two of "The Greeks" trilogy, an adaptation of Hecuba, Agamemnon, and Electra, Sabin Epstein directed. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 AL-CALÁ PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. SAT-URDAY, 8 P.M. SUNDAY, 2 P.M. TUESDAY, 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 8 P.M.

### **The History Boys**

Cygnet Theatre stages Alan Bennet's Tony Award-winning comedydrama about boys at a British boarding school preparing for a qualifying exam. Sean Murray directed

CYGNET THEATRE - OLD TOWN, 4040

TWIGGS STREET, OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 29.

#### **Killer Joe**

Compass Theatre stages Tracy Lett's drama about Worthless Son. He wants his mama "bumped off so he can get together some quick insurance money to pay off a drug debt." Lisa Berger directed. COMPASS THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AV-ENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210. SUN DAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 5.

### Love Is for Suckers

The Extraordinarily Tortured Writers Guild of Literary Intent honors Valentine's Day. Six local writers take the "hot seat" and tell "true stories of why love is for suckers." TWIGGS BAKERY COFFEEHOUSE, 4590 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-296-0616. SATURDAY, 8 P.M.

### Love Negotiated

"Lawyers in love," but probably not as Jackson Browne envisioned them when he wrote the song. Commitment so horrifies these lawyers they compose lengthy legal briefs for daily matters and devise "post-nups" to insure civility should the bond go south. Kevin Six's comedy, which placed second in a national contest, begins with a gathering at Richard and Veronica's apartment. He's a divorce lawyer who, given what he sees every day, is horrified of the M-word (marriage), the C-word (children), and just about every word in the language that begins with a letter! Something in that tasty punch works like a truth serum, however: four couples, chipper when they arrived, open up about their lives like never before ("I don't know if [she's] really great," says one, "or really co-dependent"). As the jokes fly, the partners flee each other, and the play becomes musical chairs. performed by a mismatched quartet. As they try to define love over a three-month span, they evolve better understandings of themselves. The Lotus Theatre Collective has given the play a lively production in which the entire cast contributes (Marc Biagi as Richard, Jennie Olson as Veronica, and Melanie Sutherlin as Maria, merit special mention). Sheila Rosen's costumes define character to a T. And Marie Miller's lighting's the best I've ever seen at Swedenborg Hall. There are so many relations, interrelations, and ex-relations, the play's hard to

follow now and then (and the second-act time shifts could be more apparent), but overall this is one very funny show. Worth a try.

SWEDENBORG HALL, 1531 TYLER AV-ENUE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS FRIDAYS 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 1

#### **National Comedy Theatre**

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian. Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. FRI-DAYS 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

### Peter and the Starcatchers

As part of its Page to Stage series, the La Jolla Playhouse presents a workshop production of this prequel to Peter Pan, written by Rick Elice and directed by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, UCSD. 858-550-1010. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

#### Portraits of Women

Chronos Theatre Group presents a 90-minute staged reading of five works by Alice Gerstenberg, one of America's earliest feminist dramatists

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-858-0322. MONDAY, 7:30 P.M.



#### **Red Light Winter**

Triad Productions stages Adam Rapp's drama, a triangle of unrequited love set in Amsterdam's redlight district. Scott Andrew Amiotte directed.

TENTH AVENUE THEATRE 930 TENTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 5 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 1.

#### **Room Service**

Who knew? Who knew that a doorslamming farce, first produced in 1937, would resonate with such relevance today? Seven years into the Great Depression, after Sam Harris dropped the project in Philadelphia, George Abbott became producer and director of a fledgling comedy. He turned it into a Broadway hit, then sold it to the Marx Brothers for the highest price ever. The situation's what theaters across the country face today: a producer on a shoestring has a hot script but no money. Backers are backing out, and he owes the White Way Hotel a small fortune for housing his 22person cast. The show must go on — but how? Amid a giant moose head, a big bunch of bananas, a stuffed owl, doctors (both

and doubly harried theater - folk, and maybe the world's most onthe-spot creative producer (a tribute to Abbott, who was just as inventive off-stage as on), the show not only goes on, the villain...well, see for yourself what happens to him. Robert Smyth and his Lamb's Players cast have obvious fun breaking today's rules of acting and going for broad portravals; the broader the better, in fact. Jon Lorenz's mellifluous-voiced producer flat refuses to accept defeat, as does John Rosen's Gregory Wagner, red-faced hotel honcho; the two are a frenetic pair, around whom the cast runs a two-act stee plechase on Mike Buckley's handsome, hotel suite scenic design. Special mention: David Cochran Heath keeps walking offstage as one character then, seconds later, comes back as someone else,

true and quack), harried hotel -

equally believable, detailed, and funny Worth a try. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, 619-437-0600 THURSDAYS 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUN-

### The Scarlet Pimpernel

MARCH 22.

DAYS, 2 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH

Welk Resorts Theatre presents composer Frank Wildhorn's musical version of the tale of Sir Percy Blakeney, an English aristocrat, who, disguised as the Scarlet Pimpernel, wreaks havoc on the French Reign of Terror. Jon Engstrom directed.

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. THURSDAYS. 8 P.M. SAT-URDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 1:45 P.M. TUESDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 26.

### Shipwrecked!

An Entertainment North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Donald Margulies's "amazing adventures of Louis De Rougement (as told by himself)." Matthew Wiener directed. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE. 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 15.

#### Since Africa

In Mia McCullough's drama, Ater is one of the Lost Boys of the Sudan. Like thousands of young males, he watched his family murdered and fled from his Dinka village, running hundreds of miles, barefoot, across the Sudan (there are no "lost" women; they were made slaves). Now 21. Ater is in Chicago, where Diane, a socialite whose husband died recently, and Deacon Reggie Hudson attempt to "resettle" him. But neither sees Ater. Each is a Pygmalion; they see who they want him to become. Are they aiding, or trying to colonize, Ater? Since Africa plays like an extended commentary on John Guare's Six Degrees of Separation, also at the Old Globe. Amid smallworld nearness stand walls, both personal and cultural. Breakthroughs are possible, even awakened awareness, though attempts to change a person often result in confirming differences. Until midact 2, the play is low on drama. The author tends to wade into a scene, for 10 or 15 lines, then paddles hard. The Globe made a smart choice in having Seema Sueko direct. She's staged the play before and knows its quirks. Linda Gehringer's unafraid to push Diane a few clicks past likability, which gives her performance an authentic ring. Willie C. Carpenter, Warner Miller, and Ashley Clements add dimension to slender roles. Since Africa plods but also offers payoffs, especially in its critique of intentions and in Kristin D. Carpenter's performance as the Nameless One, a statue that comes to life and dances with vigor and joy. Worth a try.

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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, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNES-DAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

#### The Sugar Syndrome

Like countless others, 17-year-old Dani feels she can be completely honest only on the Internet. Anonymity guarantees impunity. Dani recently spent two months at a clinic for eating disorders. She likes to help people who, like her, "need fixing." When she moves out

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A Play by EISA DAVIS

Directed by KRISTIANNE KURNER

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of the chat room, she almost creates a similar openness with two men in the real world. Almost. She connects with Lewis, a nerdy virgin who still lives with his mother, and with Tim, mid-thirties, who had shock treatments for pedophilia. The irrepressible Dani bonds with Tim (both are in a freak show, she says, "on the same side of the bars") and becomes for a time his therapist-friend. But problems confessed on a keyboard can magnify when experienced firsthand, as Dani, her mother, and Lewis find out in Lucy Prebble's highly original comedydrama. Once again, Moxie Theatre lives up to its name with a sharp production of a thought-provoking, surprisingly funny script. Amy Chini's set (steel gray, metallic

walls and platforms) could be actual living spaces or the inside of a computer. The cast, directed by Jennifer Eve Thorn and wearing JoAnne Glover's apt costumes, all perform admirably: Jesse Allen Moore, fine comic relief as Lewis: Sean Cox, an eerie calm to his speeches, which walk two paths at once; Terri Park, as Dani's semiditzy mother (who, Park shows with skill, is far less experienced than her daughter; the playwright loves to invert traditional assumptions); and Rachael Van Wormer glows as Dani

Worth a try. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097, THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

#### The Vagina Monologues

The Birth North Park Theatre hosts a San Diego Community Production of Eve Ensler's monologues, as part of the national V-Day celebration. A gala, across the street in Claire de Lune's Sunset Temple Ballroom, follows the performance. BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. THURSDAY, 7:30 P.M.



#### The Wizard of Oz Coronado Playhouse offers a stage version of L. Frank Baum's im-

mensely popular tale about a Yel-

low Brick Road and an intrepid quartet (if you don't count Toto) who dare to follow where it leads. Nick Reeves directed.

**National Comedy Theatre** 

**New Village Arts Theatre** 

North Park Vaudeville 2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park (619) 647-4958

The Old Globe Theatre

(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)

**Palomar College Theatre** 

1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos

www.oldglobe.org

**Patio Playhouse** 

**Onstage Playhouse** 

St., Carlsbad

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North Coast Repertory Theatre 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach (858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.org

Cassius Carter Centre Stage Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park

291 Third Ave., Chula Vista (619) 422-7787 www.onstage.itgo.com

(760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido (760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com

**Point Loma Nazarene University** 

3717 India St., San Diego (619) 295-4999 ational comedy con

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. THURSDAYS 8 P.M. FRIDAYS 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

### THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego

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28 Horton Plaza, Downtown (619) 497-5000 www.sandiegoperforms.com

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# **Viva la Restitution**

His execution is as lovingly dragged out as any screen staging of the Crucifixion.

ΜΟΥΙΕ

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

ΕW

RE

Steven Soderbergh's atonement for the *Ocean's* capers: a fourand-a-half-hour worship service in honor of Che Guevara, conducted in Spanish with English subtitles. Or

rather, if *Full Frontal* and *Solaris* were atonement for ...*Eleven*, and *Bubble* and *The Good German* were atone-

ment for ... *Twelve* (insufficient though they may have been), then *Che: Part One* and *Part Two* are atonement for ... *Thirteen*. As long as he keeps slipping down, he'll have to keep crawling back up.

The two parts of *Che*, scheduled to open March 6 at Landmark's Hillcrest in a "roadshow" format with an intermission in between and a higher admission price beforehand, are really two distinct movies. The first, in wide screen and in roomy frames, operates a time shuttle between vivid color re-enactments of the overthrow of Batista in the late Fifties and grainy black-andwhite *faux* news coverage of Guevara's visit to New York in the mid-Sixties for interviews with the press and speeches at the United Nations. Nothing is sustained (the shuttle runs continuously) until the extended battle in the last reel or so. We instead get scenes, glimpses, moving snapshots of the

Lifestyle of the Revolutionary and Famous: walking through the woods, resting up, slapping comrades on the

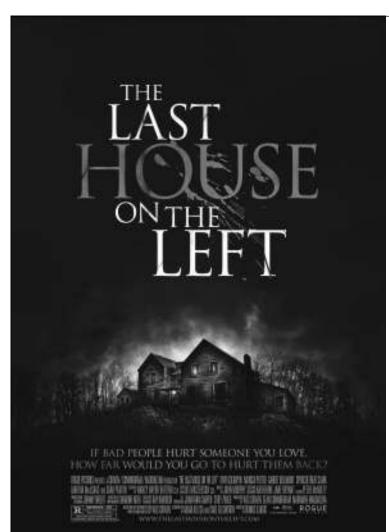
back, exhorting the troops, etc. There are no rises and falls in the narrative contour, just a kind of flatline. Benicio del Toro and Demián Bechir can pass for Guevara and Castro as well as anybody could in the same beards and hats, and with the same pipe and cigar. The curtain line, "We just won the war. The Revolution begins tomorrow," seems to indicate where the story will resume after the break, but in fact doesn't.

The second part, in narrower screen (although still in roomy frames), and in less vivid color and no black-andwhite, unfolds a straightforward chronological account of Guevara's final year, 1966-67, his ill-fated attempt to do in Bolivia what he had done in Cuba.



There is another extended battle toward the end of it, and prior to that a lot more of authentic-feeling shots of walking through the woods, resting up, etc., in addition to a worrisome increase in the hero's asthmatic wheezing. His post-battle execution is as lovingly dragged out as any screen staging of the Crucifixion. Richard Fleischer's average-sized 1969 film of the same name, minus the *Part One* and *Part Two* but plus an exclamation point, with Omar Sharif and Jack Palance as Guevara and Castro, was doubtless a Hollywood travesty, but that at least made it somewhat fun. (Jack Palance by his lonesome makes anything somewhat fun.) Soderbergh's corrective is no travesty and no fun. Walter Salles's 2004 film on Guevara's formative years, *The Motorcycle Diaries*, might have been thought to act as an appetizer, but only the glutton will be in it for the full feast.

*Two Lovers*, opening at the Hillcrest this Friday, has been rather overwhelmed by the advance announcement that its star, Joaquin Phoenix, is hereupon retiring from acting to pursue a career in hip-hop. It is a movie



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# Calendar

easily overwhelmed, an intimate little indie directed and co-written by James Gray (The Yards, We Own the Night, both with the selfsame Phoenix), about a suicidal jilted suitor who has moved back home with his parents in Brighton Beach and toils by day in their drycleaning store. In aid of his recovery, they try to set him up with a business associate's nice, sweet, kind daughter (the Hilary Swank-y Vinessa Shaw), whose professed favorite movie is The Sound of Music. "That is a good movie," he allows. "Underrated." But he, for his part, only has eyes for Trouble: the "completely fucked-up" drug-abusing girl next door (Gwyneth Paltrow), or more exactly girl upstairs and across the courtyard, who is deep in an affair with a married man. The simple story, a tony takeoff on Dostoevski's oftenfilmed White Nights, doesn't have far

to go and takes a long, slow time to get there. Phoenix's striking discomfort in the leading role — the adolescent awkwardness in his body, the Herculean effort of speaking clearly and audibly — inevitably raises the question of whether his discomfort is the character's or the actor's. Either way, it works in the role, but the question is a distraction.

The revival of Fellini's Amarcord at the Ken Cinema for a week starting Friday, so close on the heels of the revival there of Truffaut's Wild Child, will receive less of a hurrah from me. A prominent film of a prominent filmmaker, sure, but of all his couple of dozen films, this one from 1973 would not have been high on my list of ones to re-see. (I am still waiting to see for the first time The Voice of the Moon, his unimported swan song.) But that's what DVDs are for — are they not? See whatever you want whenever you want. In the interests of future revivals, I hope that if this Fellini is high on

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WATCHMEN, GREEN LANTERN and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC COMICS. Smiley Logo: ™ The Smiley Company. Watchmen's Tales of the Black Freighter and Under the Hood. Package Design & Supplementary Material Compilation © 2009 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Distributed by Warner Home Video, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522. All rights reserved. your own list of Fellinis, or if you have never yet seen it, you'll seize the opportunity.

With dates of March 12 through 22, the San Diego Latino Film Festival, sixteenth annual, is now near enough to begin to kindle excitement. I myself am excited about Carlos Saura's Fados, which looks to solidify further the Spaniard's standing as the unlikeliest custodian of the movie musical. The schedule also notably includes the newest work of Mexico's Carlos Reygadas, Silent Light. A personal recommendation from Arturo Ripstein in the lobby of the UltraStar Mission Vallev at last year's festival motivated me finally to watch my DVD of that director's Battle in Heaven from three festivals ago. Its mix of formal rigor and clinical detachment on the one hand, tabloid crime and snatches of hardcore sex on the other, proved to be provocative to say the least. I recognize a few other names, without aversion, from past festivals as well: Daniel Burman, of Family Law, back with Empty Nest, and Fernando Eimbcke, of Duck Season, back with Lake Tahoe, and Carlos Sorin, of El Camino de San Diego, back with La Ventana. But I must admit I always have a hard time absorbing the program online: www.sdlatinofilm.com. (Only in cyberspace could it seem sensible to alphabetize filmmakers by their first names.) I'm certain to have an easier time with the printed catalogue. Even then, the predominant excitement will be the excitement of the unknown.

I have complained in private and probably in print that the Oscar show set about mucking up its "In Memoriam" segment once it broadened the field beyond screen presences to those off the screen. This year I suspend my complaints for the inclusion of Manny Farber, Film Critic. ■

### MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Amarcord — Another in the Fellini line of semi-autobiographical entertainments, episodic and variable in quality from episode to episode, this one set in the hometown of his youth. In his choice of recollections, there is a strict ban on the banal (it hardly seems possible that this wonderland is the same sort of town that Fellini fled in I Vitelloni), and yet the familiar Fellini grotesqueries are mercifully toned down here, and the famous egotism is shut away in a closet. If something doesn't appeal to Fellini's playful side, it no longer ap peals to him at all. There is an ample supply of jolliness, of the director's carefully cultivated obsessions, and of flawless, limpid, controlled color images (once again, a

salute to the wizardly Giuseppe Rotunno). What is lacking is any modulation or momentum from one scene to the following; each one builds to an abrupt fade-out that's like a wonderstruck gasp, or sigh, and then the next one starts all over again, building. 1973.

★★★ (KEN, 2/27 THROUGH 3/5)

The Class - Free adaptation of François Bégaudeau's nonfiction chronicle of a single year of teaching French, or trying to teach it, to a group of restive fourteen- and fifteen-year-olds at a melting-pot public school in a rough district of Paris. Bégaudeau essentially - and needless to say, convincingly - plays himself on screen, under the fictitious monicker of M. Marin, and the students are nonprofessionals chosen with no eye to beauty and glamour, but a sensitive eye to a variety of shapes and shades. Laurent Cantet, best known for Time Out and Heading South, has directed the piece with standardized documentary affectations - an air of improvisation, a raw digital image, a bobbing camera and floating frame, no background music and the teaching sessions are far less compressed than in the typical school film of minute-and-a-half classes and saved-bythe-bell. (Many of the nuances of language and accent are unavoidably lost in the Eng lish subtitles.) The circle of action is strictly confined to the school grounds, and any parents who enter into the picture must come to campus to do so. There is no continuous story arc, although the disciplinary proceedings against a chair-rocking troublemaker from Mali become the focus of the final stretch. By then we have gotten to know a few of the students quite well, while others are still getting noticed for the first time. It all feels irrefutably and exasperatingly real; and the teacher, a youthful figure given to Socratic sparring with his charges, wins our admiration for his equanimity under the constant stress. A misunderstood use of the word "skank" (as it is translated) in class discussion can be readily pardoned. For all that, the drawback of the rigorously realistic movie is that it seldom adds up to more than the sum of its parts. This isn't the exception. 2008. ★★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE

**Confessions of a Shopaholic** — The addiction nightmare played as comedy, very frothy and formulaic and materialistic comedy: a dozen maxed-out credit cards of an aspiring fashion writer, and rapacious consumer, in Manhattan ("They said I was a valued customer. Now they send me hate mail!"). The effervescent Isla Fisher dives into the role as if it's her one shot at stardom, and she hits a small jackpot out on the dance floor with a Spanish fan in hand. Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter, Kristin Scott Thomas, Leslie Bibb, Julie Hagerty, Joan Cusack, John Goodman; directed by P.J. Hogan. 2009.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HOR-TON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Coraline — A piece of 3-D stop-motion animation about a little girl with blue hair and ski-jump nose (everyone hears her name as Caroline, and her last name of Jones will only encourage confusion in anyone who remembers the Morticia of TV's Addams Family, Carolyn Jones), who, unhappy with her preoccupied parents, is lured into a parallel universe of idealized replicas - a sort of Stepford Mom and Stepford Dad — but for their button eves Her price to pay for permanent residence in this universe is to trade her own eyes for buttons: "Soon you'll see things our way." (Distant echoes of Invaders from Mars and Invasion of the Body Snatchers: the lobotomy

bugaboo.) Director Henry Selick, heretofore of The Nightmare before Christmas and James and the Giant Peach, pays a lot of attention to landscape and surface, such that the film cultivates an aggressive tactility. But the dream world opens the door also to a self-indulgent succession of oddities and bizarreries - here a mouse circus, there an audience of Scotties - without much narrative drive. And it's plainly a higher priority to be dark and edgy and Tim Burton-y than to be kid-friendly. The catered-to adult is still apt to feel something extra was needed, and the distracting 3-D neither provided it nor disguised it. With the voices of Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher, John Hodgman, Ian McShane, Keith David. 2009. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN: CHULA VISTA 10: DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; HOR-TON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20: OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

### The Curious Case of Benjamin But-

ton — The central conceit, and little else, has been retained from an F. Scott Fitzgerald short story of the same name: a protag onist who ages in reverse. (The story of course was written and titled before the soundalike name of Benjamin Britten came to fame, and as long as they were changing everything else ....) With a script by Eric Roth, and with an historical scope and a 'special" hero that often recall his script for Forrest Gump, the movie is at some pains to shore up the plausibility of the tale — a painful undertaking for sure - and to expunge the humor of it. On screen, nothing is more absurd about it than its length, two and three-quarters hours, plenty long enough to read the Fitzgerald story five or six times over. And its wistful theme of transience frankly gains very little from the reverse-aging phenomenon, nowhere near as much as you'd want to gain from so mindbending a device. The theme, moreover, gains nothing at all from the movie's feeling of interminability. Director David Fincher, determined to show his softer side, softer than Zodiac and Panic Room and Fight Club and so on, manages first and foremost to show his technical side. The movie is replete with proficiencies of production (the periods are lavishly detailed, the brief tugboat battle with an enemy sub in WWII is dazzling, the duplex love nest is a splendid locale, etc.), and it serves as a virtual showcase for the art of makeup and/or art of digital touch-up, digital airbrush, digital prestidigitation, whatever went into the various aging effects on Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. The seamless surgery by which the leading man's head has been grafted onto bodies of different sizes is used, in this instance, responsibly. But it raises unsettling possibilities for the evolutionary next leap in screen body doubles. What's to prevent another filmmaker from putting Brad Pitt's head, in service of vanity, on Michael Phelps's body? Cate Blanchett's on Giselle Bündchen's? With Taraii P. Henson, Jason Flemyng, Jared Harris, Tilda Swinton, Julia Ormond. 2008 ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15:

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAWP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROME-NADE 24)

**Defiance** — Workmanlike account of the untold (or anyhow unfilmed) true story of a 20th-century Moses and his two brothers, who sheltered hundreds of Jews from the Nazis in the forests of Belorussia, such dark days that color itself evidently went into hiding, leaving behind only a greeny or occasionally orangey residue. Daniel Craig, a blond blue-eyed Jew like Paul Newman in *Exodus* ("He is a Jew?" wonders aloud a plain-spoken child), delivers heroic declarations on the order of "Our revenge is to live" and "We may be hunted like animals, but we will not become animals." Natural



lovelies emerge undimmed from the rustic privations to pair up with the heroes. A schoolteacher and an intellectual carry on a running sideshow of comical bickering. And Liev Schreiber, the hottest-headed of the three brothers, not content just to dodge the Nazis but itching to engage them, defects to the Red Army. The big hooray moment when he returns to the fold in the nick of time can be seen coming from so far off that we're surprised only that it didn't arrive sooner. Somehow, even with violin solos by Joshua Bell to put you in mind of Schindler's List, the saga doesn't quite sweep you up and away. But it at least stirs interest in the real story. With Jamie Bell, Allan Corduner, Alexa Davalos, and Jodhi May; directed by Edward Zwick. 2008. ★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8, FROM 2/27; FASH-ION VALLEY 18: HORTON PLAZA 14: PALM PROM-ENADE 24: RIVER VILLAGE 6, FROM 2/27: TOWN SOUARE 14)

**Doubt** — 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 playwright, perhaps best known to moviegoers as the writer of Moonstruck and writerdirector of Joe versus the Volcano, handles the direction of his own work on screen, and the freedoms of the medium enable him to detail operations of the parish to almost anthropological ends: the nuns' rising and dressing in the A.M., the altar boys' preparations for Mass, the crosscutting contrast between the bloody-roast-beef and red-wine dinner table of the jovial priests as against the silent and austere table of the milk-fed nuns, the students' coed dance lesson to "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," and so on. (The time, as the aforesaid musical selection would suggest, is early Sixties, the time of the playwright's own Catholic boyhood in the Bronx, although the sermon on communal despair after the JFK assassination — one of three pithy sermons in the script - could easily have been recycled post-9/11.) The three principal characters are types: the progressive priest who believes in a "friendlier" church that moves with the times, a friendliness that may or may not have gone too far in embracing the school's first black student, a vulnerable target; the hidebound and humorless old nun ("Penmanship is dying, all across this country") whose hawklike vigilance zeroes in on the priest; and the innocent and idealistic novice, young and pretty, who wants to believe the best of everyone. The clash of personalities, strictly limited by the play's title and tactical guideline, illuminates nothing so much as the players. Meryl Streep, overacting awesomely, is not only a holy terror as a nun but as a thespian, booby-trapping every scene with unforeseeable little diversions, inventions, stratagems, embellishments. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy

Adams, no slouches themselves, appear to enjoy their one scene alone together in the courtyard, no one to steal it from them, no one to show them up or slap them down. With Viola Davis and Joseph Foster. 2008.  $\bigstar$  (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, FROM 2/27; HILL CREST CINEMAS; RIVER VILLAGE 6, FROM 2/27)

Echelon Conspiracy — Thriller starring Shane West, Edward Burns, and Martin Sheen, directed by Greg Marcks. (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 2/27)

Frost/Nixon — Playwright Peter Morgan restages the 1977 "no holds barred" TV interview of Richard Nixon by British talkshow host David Frost, and the drum-beating buildup to it. A prizefight metaphor runs throughout, permitting director Ron Howard to slip comfortably into the underdog mode of his Cinderella Man, with Frost, as it were, failing to lay a glove on Nixon going into the final round, then at last pinning him in a corner and pummeling some semblance of a confession out of him. This spectacle may satisfy the undying urge to spit on the corpse of the 37th President, as well as supply a general-purpose stand-in for the still elusive and impenitent 43rd President. (The undying urge to spit, it must be pointed out, tends to contradict the film's premise that the interview in some way provided "closure.") As a job of stagecraft, however, or screencraft, it's a bit stunted, endlessly and explicitly talking out its points, and employing the unpardonable shortcut of pseudodocumentary interviews of various secondary characters, ostensibly at a later date, to further analyze, comment on, and embroider the points made elsewhere. With Michael Sheen, Frank Langella, Kevin Bacon, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Matthew Macfadyen, and Rebecca Hall. 2008.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA PALOMA, FROM 2/27)

Frozen River — Stoical prole sob story has some fresh ground to go over - the smuggling of illegal aliens through the slushy snow of the Mohawk Indian reservation on the Canadian border — and some stark scenery to go with it. Writer and director Courtney Hunt, whose plotting and pacing are sloggingly pedestrian, expends a lot of energy explaining how a law-abiding white woman could get caught up in that sideline: a gambling-addicted husband who skips out on Christmas week, a fifteen-yearold son eager to drop out of school and go to work, nothing to put under the tree for the five-year-old, a dead-end job at Yankee Dollar, bills due. Melissa Leo, aging in a characterful way, able to assume the lead role without a Charlize Theron reverse makeover, does a solid professional job, so

much so as to highlight the amateurism around her. Misty Upham, Charlie McDermott, Michael O'Keefe. 2008. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

**Gran Torino** — Clint Eastwood, director, serves Clint Eastwood, actor, a nice fat one, a softball lobbed right down the middle of the plate and effortlessly belted over the fence: a sort of Grumpy Old Man version of Dirty Harry, a scowler and a growler (looking and sounding uncannily like a dog in defense of a T-bone), a new widower who has seen his Detroit neighborhood taken over by Hmong immigrants ("HUMmong," in his two-syllable pronunciation), a hard-ass retiree defined by a pair of prized possessions, the M-1 rifle that commemorates his service in the Korean War and the '72 Gran Torino that commemorates his life's work on the Ford assembly line. The character's blatant bigotry toward his Asian neighbors, whereby he runs through every applicable epithet in a thesaurus of slang (past "fishhead" and "gook" all the way to "zipperhead") is somewhat problematic. Eastwood's endearing presence in the role automatically takes the edge off the racism in a way that just wouldn't happen if the role were occupied by, say, Gene Hackman, Rip Torn. And taking the edge off the racism is not altogether a good idea, regardless how many laughs you get out of it. What ultimately redeems him and his film is not the conventional, formulaic, soft hearted and simple-minded warming of relations with the two weakly acted Hmong teenagers next door, and not the tighter focus of wrath on the Asian street gang that's terrorizing the neighborhood, and not even the expediently plotted climactic act of karmic restitution (which in honesty had slim chance to work out as planned). No, none of that. What redeems him and his film, lending it, for all its entertainment value, a sense of gravity and personal conviction, is simply its place in line in his ongoing penance for the offhand violence, the incalculable casualties, of his earlier career: its place behind Unforgiven, A Perfect World, Mystic River, etc. Once was not enough. It was not just lip service, like an obligatory number of Hail Mary's after a long-postponed trip to confession. It was, so it would appear, a genuine conversion, a revelation. This stands as the further proof of it, and further refinement of it. With Bee Vang, Ahney Her, Christopher Carley. 2008. ★★★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: FASHION VAL-LEY 18: GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13: MIS-SION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**He's Just Not That into You** — As an explanation of romantic incompatibility, the catchphrase title is stunningly unilluminating, no matter which of its six words is

stressed. (On screen, the third one stands out in green from the white of the rest, but that seems an arbitrary reading.) Satisfied with the what and incurious about the why, it tends to slam the door on further discussion. The screen treatment of Greg Behrendt's and Liz Tuccillo's best-selling advice book, illustrated by way of a fictitious mating game for five women and four men, is similarly incurious. It's ... just ... not ... that ... into... anybody. Its objects of study remain light on personalities, preferences, professions, particulars of any type. The stubborn superficiality, even so, puts up no impenetrable barrier to enjoyment. The filmmakers grapple with real and eternal and universal issues, in precisely the same sense that their puppets, the characters, grapple with them: the transmission and interpretation of signs and signals, the exercise of power and will, the preservation of self, the hope of happiness. Ken Kwapis, while not a director of impressive imagination, is an efficient traffic cop, maintaining good spacing and smooth flow; and his ace cinematographer, John Bailey, oils up the action in luscious, flattering, sunsetty pinks and oranges. There are plainly too many characters, too uneven in numbers, for happy endings to be arranged across the board; and such arrangements are tricky enough to be not readily apparent from the start. As far as they can be made, they fall well short of Jane Austen, but they never

theless are deftly brought off, and they offer, for the susceptible, a couple of squeal-withdelight climaxes. Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Connelly, Ginnifer Goodwin, Scarlett Johansson, Ben Affleck, Kevin Connolly, Bradley Cooper, Justin Long, 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Hotel for Dogs — Fanciful, tasteful children's film, from the Lois Duncan book, about two foster kids who secretly transform a derelict hotel into a shelter for stray dogs (the homeless housing the homeless), and more than a shelter, a veritable amusement park. Nicely individualized dogs; tolerable kids; touches of real imagination in script and direction (Thor Freudenthahl in his feature debut); general geniality. With Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Don Cheadle, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon. 2009. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**The International** — A murky exposé of big-bank chicanery, not stopping short of paramilitary hit squads, is only a posturing



Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

#### CENTRAL CLAIREMONT

#### **Town Square 14**

4665 Clairemont Drive (877-789-6684) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Coraline (PG); Defiance (R); Echelon Conspiracy (PG-13); Fired Up (PG-13); Gran Torino (R); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); The International (R); Milk (R); New in Town (PG-13); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); The Pink Panther 2 (PG): Slumdog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13); The Wrestler (R)

#### DOWNTOWN

#### Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (877-789-6684) The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13); Fired Up (PG-13); Friday the 13th (R); Frozen River (R); Gran Torino (R); Hotel for Dogs (PG); The International (R); Last Chance Harvey (PG-13); Push (PG-13); Rachel Getting Married (R); The Secrets (R): Taken (PG-13): Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R); Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13)

#### Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) **Confessions of a Shopaholic** (PG) Fri. (10:00, 12:25, 2:55, 5:40) 8:05, 10:30 Sat.-Sun (10:00, 12:25, 2:55) 5:40, 8:05, 10:30; Coraline (PG) Fri. (9:15, 11:40, 2:05, 4:30) 7:10, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (9:15, 11:40, 2:05) 4:30, 7:10, 9:35; **Defiance** (R) Fri.-Sun. (9:40, 12:40, 3:40) 7:25, 10:25; Echelon Conspiracy (PG-13) Fri. (9:35, 12:05, 2:45, 5:25) 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (9:35, 12:05, 2:45) 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sun, (9:35, 12:05, 2:45) 5:25, 8:00, 10:25; Frost/Nixon (R) Fri. (9:30, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30) 8:10, 10:50 Sat. (9:30, 12:10, 2:50) 5:30, 8:10, 10:50 Sun. (9:30, 12:55, 3:45) 7:35, 10:20; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) Fri. (9:25, 1:05, 4:15) 7:15, 10:05 Sat. Sun. (9:25, 1:05) 4:15, 7:15, 10:05; **Jonas** Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience (G) Fri.-Sat. 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 Sun. 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00; Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) Fri. (9:55, 12:20, 2:45, 5:20) 7:45, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (9:55, 12:20, 2:45) 5:20, 7:45, 10:10; Paul Blart: Mall **Cop** (PG) Fri. (9:45, 12:00, 2:15, 4:40) 7:30, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (9:45, 12:00, 2:15) 4:40, 7:30, 9:45; Quantum of Solace (PG-13) Fri. (9:45, 12:15, 3:05, 5:35) 8:05, 10:40 Sat. (9:45, 12:15 3:05) 5:35, 8:05, 10:40 Sun. (9:45, 12:15, 3:05) 5:35, 8:05, 10:30; Revolutionary Road (R) Fri. (9:10, 11:55, 2:35, 5:15) 7:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun (9:10, 11:55, 2:35) 5:15, 7:55, 10:35; **Street** Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (PG-13) Fri.

(9:50, 12:20, 2:40, 5:20) 7:40, 10:00 Sat.-Sun (9:50, 12:20, 2:40) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00; Twilight (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (9:05, 2:00) 9:15; Waltz with Bashir (R) Fri. (11:50, 4:45) 7:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:50) 4:45, 7:05; The Wrestler (R) Fri. (9:20, 11:50, 2:20, 4:50) 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (9:20, 11:50, 2:20) 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

#### LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 2:35, 6:15, 9:50; **Echelon Conspiracy** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35; Fired Up (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30) 2:05. 4:45, 7:05, 9:30 Sun. 2:05, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30; **Gran** Torino (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20. 10:10; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:30, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20; **The Interna-**tional (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri.-Sat. 12:15, 2:45, 5:15 Sun. 2:45, 5:15; Push (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 7:50, 10:30; Revolutionary Road (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15; Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25; **Taken** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:10) 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20 n. 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20; The Wrestler (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00

#### La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Milk (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; The Reader (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Slumdog Millionaire (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; The Class (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

#### MISSION VALLEY

#### Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Coraline (PG); The Curious Case of Beniamin Button (PG-13); Defiance (R); Echelon Conspiracy (PG-13); Fired Up (PG-13); Fri-day the 13th (R); Gran Torino (R); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13): The International (R); Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); The Pink Panther 2 (PG); Push (PG-13); Revolutionary Road (R); Taken (PG-13); Twilight (PG-13); Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R); The Uninvited (PG-13); Waltz with Bashir (R)

Mission Valley 7 7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)

**MOVIE SHOWTIMES** 



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience  $\rm (G)$   $(10:00\ 12:00\ 2:00\ 4:00)\ 6:00\ 8:00\ 10:00;$  The Wrestler (R) (11:00 2:30) 5:15 7:45 10:30; Will begin at 10:00 am on Thu. only; The International (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45; Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45: No 10:15 Sat. & Sun.; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (11:15 2:00) 4:45 7:30 10:15; Taken (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:15 9:30; Coraline (PG) (10:15 12:30 3:00) 5:30 7:45 10:15; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun, only

No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

#### Mission Valley 20 1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:30, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20; Coraline (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35; **The** Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15) 1:45, 5:20; Echelon Conspir**acy** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; **Fired Up** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:25) 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Friday the 13th (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:00) 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 7:10, 8:20, 9:30, 10:40 Sun. (11:00) 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 7:10, 8:20, 9:30; Gran Torino (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:50) 2:35, 5:25, 8:10, 10:50 Sun, (11:50) 2:35, 5:25, 8:10; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:30) 1:00, 2:30, 4:05, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 9:55; Hotel for Dogs (PG) Fri.-Sun (11:35) 2:05, 4:40; The International (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30; Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience (G) Fri.-Sun. 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 11:20) 12:40, 2:00, 3:20, 4:45, 6:05, 7:20, 8:40, 9:50; **Paul Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:10) 1:35, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25, 10:45 Sun. (11:10) 1:35, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25; **Push** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45) 2:25, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45 Sur (11:45) 2:25, 5:25, 8:05; Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Taken (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; **Under-**world: Rise of the Lycans (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:25) 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:45, 10:55 Sun. (11:25) 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:45; **The Uninvited** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 8:50, 10:55 Sun. 8:50p.1 **The Wrestler** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 2:15, 4:50, 7.25 10.00

#### STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) **'Oscar Shorts"** (NR) Fri. 4:25p.m. Sat.-Sun. 3:30p.m.; Amarcord (R) Fri. 8:30p.m. Sat.-Sun. 5:35, 8:30

UPTOWN

#### **Hillcrest Cinemas**

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) **Doubt** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 4:25, 7:35, 10:10; **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30; **The Reader** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50; Two Lovers (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:45, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

### EAST COUNTY

#### LA MESA

#### **Grossmont Center 10**

5500 Grossmont Center Drive (877-789-6684) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Fired Up (PG-13); Gran Torino (R); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience (G); Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13); Milk (R); Slumdog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13); The Wrestler (R)

#### **RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

#### Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264) **Confessions of a Shopaholic** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 3:40) 7:20, 10:00; **Coraline** (PG) Fri. (9:25, 1:30, 4:40) 7:05, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (9:25, 1:30) 4:40, 7:05, 10:10; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (9:35, 1:20) 6:40, 10:20; Fired Up (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 1:50, 4:15) 6:45, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 1:50) 4:15, 6:45, 9:20; Friday the 13th (R) Fri. (11:25, 1:45, 4:25) 6:50, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:25, 1:45) 4:25, 6:50, 9:30; **Gran Torino** (R) Fri. (11:05, 1:55, 4:45) 7:45, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:05, 1:55) 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; He's Just Not That **Into You** (PG-13) Fri. (9:30, 1:15, 4:20) 7:25, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (9:30, 1:15) 4:20, 7:25, 10:25; The International (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 3:20) 6:55, 9:55; Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience (G) Fri -Sat 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00. 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 Sun. 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00: Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) Fri. (9:40, 1:35, 4:30) 7:50, 10:40 Sat Sun. (9:40, 1:35) 4:30, 7:50, 10:40; Milk (R) Fri. (9:20, 1:10, 4:00) 7:30, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (9 1:10) 4:00, 7:30, 10:30; Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri. (11:10, 1:40, 4:05) 7:10, 9:40 Sat.-Sun (11:10, 1:40) 4:05, 7:10, 9:40; **The Pink Pan**ther 2 (PG) Fri.-Sun. (9:35a.m.); The Reader (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 3:30) 7:35, 10:35; Slumdog Millionaire (R) Fri.-Sun. (9:10, 1:05, 3:55) 7:15, 10:15; Taken (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

#### (9:15, 11:45, 3:10) 7:40, 10:05

#### SANTEE

Santee Drive In 10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Friday the 13th (R): He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); Taken (PG-13)

#### SOUTH BAY

#### CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience (G) (11:00 1:00 3:00) 5:00 7:00 9:00; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:00 1:45) 4:45 7:30 10:15; Fired Up (PG-13) (11:00 1:15 3:30) 6:00 8:15 10:30: Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) (12:15 2:30) 5:30 7:45 10:15; The International (PG-13) (11.45 2.30) 5.15 8.00 10.45; Friday the **13th** (R) (11:15 1:30 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; Coraline (PG) (11:30 2:00) 4:30 7:00 9:30: **Push** (PG-13) (12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30; Taken (PG-13) (12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

#### Otav Ranch 12

*Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)* Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Coraline (PG); Fired Up (PG-13); Friday the 13th (R); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); The International (R); Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); The Pink Panther 2 (PG); Push (PG-13); Slumdog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13)

#### Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Confessions of a Shopaholic: Coraline: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Defi ance; Echelon Conspiracy; Fired Up; Friday the 13th; Gran Torino; He's Just Not That Into You; Hotel for Dogs; The International; Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience: Madea Goes to Jail: Paul Blart: Mall Cop; The Pink Panther 2; Push; Slumdog Millionaire; Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li; Taken; Underworld: Rise of the Lycans; The Uninvited; The Wrestler



### Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 3:55) 6:55, 9:35; **Coraline** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:20) 6:45, 9:15; **The Curious** Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) Fri.-Sun (2:45) 6:15, 9:45; Echelon Conspiracy (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 4:50) 7:35, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:00) 4:50, 7:35, 10:20; **Fired Up** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:55) 7:20, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:55, 7:20, 9:35; **Gran Torino** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:45) 7:00, 9:45; **He's Just Not That Into You** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 4:20) 7:25, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:20) 4:20, 7:25, 10:25; **The International** (R) Fri. (4:10) 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 4:10, 9:50; **Madea Goes to Jail** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 2:35, 5:05) 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:35) 5:05, 7:45, 10:20; **Milk** (R) Fri. (12:45, 4:15) 7:15, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (12:45) 4:15, 7:15, 10:05; **Paul Blart:** Mall Cop (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:40) 6:50, 9:20; The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:30p.m.); **Push** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:10) 7:05; **The Reader** (R) Fri. (12:30, 4:05) 7:10, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (12:30) 4:05, 7:10, 10:10; Slumdog Millionaire (R) Fri. (11:30, 2:15, 5:00) 7:50, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-**Li** (PG-13) Fri. (11:45, 2:30, 5:15) 7:40, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:30) 5:15, 7:40, 10:15; **Taken** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:20, 4:40) 7:30, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:20) 4:40, 7:30, 9:55; The Wrestler (R) Fri. (12:50, 4:10) 7:05, 9:40 Sat. Sun. (12:50) 4:10, 7:05, 9:40

#### **IMPERIAL BEACH**

South Bay Drive In 2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727) Call theater for program information

#### NATIONAL CITY

Plaza Bonita 14

3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-558-2262) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Coraline (PG); Fired Up (PG-13); Friday the 13th (R); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); The International (R); Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); The Pink Panther 2 (PG); Push (PG-13); Slum-dog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13); The Uninvited (PG-13)

#### **NORTH INLAND CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

#### **Carmel Mountain 14**

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (877-789-6684) Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG); Coraline (PG); Doubt (PG-13); Fired Up (PG-13); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13); Hotel for Dogs (PG); The International (R); Milk (R); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); The Pink Panther 2 (PG); Rachel Getting Married (R); The Reader (R); Slumdog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13)

#### FALLBROOK

River Village 6 5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience (G) (11:00 1:00 3:00) 5:00 7:00 9:00; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) (11:15 2:00) 4:45 7:30 10:15; **Milk** (R) (11:00) 4:30; **Doubt** (PG-13) (1:45) 7:15 9:45; **Coraline** (PG) (11:00 1:30) 4:15; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (11:15 2:00) 4:45 7:45 10:30; Taken (PG-13) (12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; Defiance (R) 7:00 10:00; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

No 11 am-3:45 pm shows Tues.-Thu.

#### POWAY **Poway 10** 13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience (G) (10:00 12:00 2:00 4:00) 6:00 8:00 10:00; The Wrestler (R) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; **The Reader** (R) (10:45 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45; Fired Up (PG-13) (10:30 1:15 3:45) 6:15

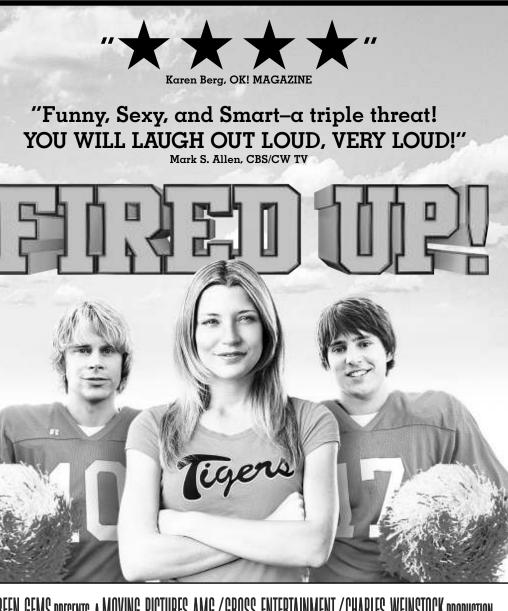
8:30 10:45; No 6:15 & 8:30 Tues.; The International (PG-13) 4:45 7:30 10:15; Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; No 10:15 Sat. & Sun.; Coraline (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15; Gran Torino (R) 7:45 10:30; Pink Panther 2 (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30); He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (10:45 1:30) 4:30 7:15 10:00; **Taken** (PG-13) (10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30 10:45; **Slumdog** Millionaire (R) (11:15 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

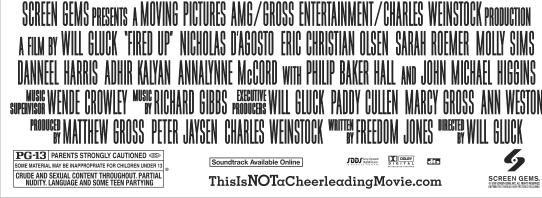


Del Mar Highlands 8 El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience (G)





**NOW PLAYING** CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

(10:00 12:00 2:00 4:00) 6:00 8:00 10:00; Fired Up (PG-13) (10:30 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00; No 10:30 Sat. & Sun.; Confessions of a **Shopaholic** (PG) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Coraline** (PG) (11:15 1:45) 4:30 7:00 9:30; Pink Panther 2 (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15; Defiance (R) 7:30 10:30; He's Just Not **That Into You** (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45; **Taken** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:00 7:15 9:30; **Gran Torino** (R) (11:00 1:45) 4:45 7:30 10:15; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

#### Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



The International (PG-13) (10:45 1:30) 4:30 7:30 10:15; The Reader (R) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 8:00 10:45: The Wrestler (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (10:30 1:15 4:00) 7:00 10:00 No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

#### **ENCINITAS**

La Paloma 471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Frost/Nixon (R); Milk (R)

#### LA COSTA

La Costa 6 6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience (G) (10:00 12:00 2:00 4:00) 6:00 8:00 10:00; Slum dog Millionaire (R) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:00 10:00; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; **The International** (PG-13) (2:45) 7:45 10:30; **Confessions of a Shopaholic** (PG) (10:00 12:30 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; No 10:00 Sat. & Sun.; Coraline (PG) (10:00 12:15) 5:30; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:15 10:15; Taken (PG-13) (10:30 12:45 3:00) 5:15 7:30 9:45; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat -Sun only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

#### OCEANSIDE

**Mission Marketplace 13** College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)



Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience  $(G) \ (11:00 \ 1:00 \ 3:00) \ 5:00 \ 7:00 \ 9:00;$  The Wrestler (R) (12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; Will also play at 10:00 am on Wed. only; Echelon Conspiracv (PG-13) (11:30 2:00) 4:45 7:15 9:45; Fired Up (PG-13) (11:15 1:30 3:45) 6:15 8:30 10:45; Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) (11:45 2:30) 4:15 7:00 9:30; The International (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:15 10:00; Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) (11:45 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00; Friday the 13th (R) (11:15 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; Coraline (PG) (11:00 1:15) 6:30; Pink Panther 2 (PG) (12:45) 5:45; Push (PG-13) (3:15) 8:15 10:45; He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:30; 
 Taken (PG-13) (12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30;

 Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:15 2:00) 4:45
 7:30 10:15; Gran Torino (R) (3:30) 8:45; Bob the Builder: Skyscrapers (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) Call theater for program information.



pretext for some pretty slick thriller maneuvers: the foot chase in pursuit of what turns out to be an empty car; the nifty detective work that reveals the presence and identity of a second shooter at a political assassination in Milan; the tailing scene on the streets of New York that leads to a running gun battle at the Guggenheim; the bugged assignation in a Turkish mosque. Tom Tykwer's very precisely balanced — or just as often, precisely unbalanced — compositions proclaim an iron hand. With Clive Owen, Naomi Watts, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Ulrich Thomsen, and Brian F. O'Byrne. 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MIS-SION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

#### Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience — Director Bruce Hendricks

documents the pop group in performance. (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROME-NADE 24; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; FROM 2/27)

**Last Chance Harvey** — The septuagenarian Dustin Hoffman secures a role he can really sink his teeth into, or sharpen them on: a jazz pianist *manqué* who makes do composing musical scores for TV com-

mercials. (Funny-sad sight of him staring intently at the little screen to appraise his latest opus for OxiClean.) With his job on the line, he flies off to London for the weekend wedding of his only daughter, has his rightful role in the ceremony usurped by the bride's debonair stepfather, misses his return flight home, gets fired long-distance, and stays on to unload his troubles at some length to a customer-relations employee at Heathrow: Emma Thompson, towering over the leading man by four inches, and showering him with her special brand of lifelike artificiality. The social mortifications of the early stages are amusingly observed (the solitary white jacket in a crowd of black, an unremovable security device still affixed to the cuff, etc.), but the extended dialogue - a Before Sunrise, if you like, for the sunset years - that deepens overnight into a Serious Relationship sounds distinctly unorganic, forced forward solely by the determination of British writer-director Joel Hopkins to engineer a never-too-late romance for a couple of underemployed old pros. It's all quite sweet, a little too-too. Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin. 2008. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

**Milk** — Gus Van Sant's celebratory biopic on Harvey Milk, the gay-rights activist and San Francisco City Supervisor martyred by assassination in 1978. However useful as pep rally or memorial service, the film comes up short as drama, relying altogether too much on Position Statements, Slogans, Bromides, primarily through the protagonist's stump speeches and a serialized inthe-event-of-my-death tape recording that ties the narrative together. (Screenplay by Dustin Lance Black.) What nonetheless humanizes all this plain talk is the transformational performance of Sean Penn, a totally

new and different Sean Penn, almost birdlike in his lightness and tightness, very vulnerable in his worries and very touching in his joys, unshy about the kissy-face with James Franco and Diego Luna, bravely not avoiding homosexual stereotype yet nicely avoiding caricature. It immediately takes its place alongside the performances of Mystic River, Dead Man Walking, Casualties of War, maybe one or two others, in the actor's best-of portfolio. With Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, Alison Pill, Victor Garber, 2008. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, FROM 2/27; GROSS-MONT CENTER, FROM 2/27; HILLCREST CINE-MAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; LA PALOMA; RIVER VIL-LAGE 6, FROM 2/27; TOWN SQUARE 14, FROM 2/27)

New in Town — Although movies had been set in Minnesota before Fargo (notwithstanding its misleading North Dakota title), movies as disparate as The Farmer's Daughter, The Heartbreak Kid, Purple Rain, Grumpy Old Men, it was the Coen brothers who converted that territory into grist for the mill. (On the laugh meter, Wisconsin and Iowa don't even register.) This one, set specifically in the small town of New Ulm, and directed by the Danishborn Jonas Elmer in his Hollywood debut, is nothing if not laboriously ground out, a campaign of cynical populism that simultaneously satirizes and sentimentalizes the natives, in a milky image that might or might not be meant to suggest the lensfogging frost of a Northern Star winter, snowed under by the standard quota of pop songs decreed for romantic comedies. Renée Zellweger, as the fish-out-of-water hatchet woman dispatched from Miami headquarters to downsize the local food plant but (in due time) digging in to fight for its survival, gauges her charm at about half wattage, which proves to be about twice

### User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

#### **Confessions of a Shopaholic 2009**

With a title like that you can't really expect much. Luckily, the film wasn't half bad due in most part to Isla Fisher's cute portrayal of a shopping-addicted magazine writer. I think this movie is a microcosm of our country. Our government spends spends spends without regard for whether or not we have enough money to pay for it. Fisher plays the part of the government. In the movie, she is hounded by an aggressive debt collector. This guy plays the part of the foreign nations that are lending the U.S. money. Sooner or later, you max out your credit cards and somebody comes knocking at your door to collect. It may sound funny, but maybe our government can learn something by watching this movie. Nobody can buy whatever they want, whenever they want, for as long as they want. Everyone pays in the end. By **spooks69** 6:57 p.m., Feb. 16, 2009

#### **Confessions of a Shopaholic 2009**

Why are credit card companies always the bad guys? This movie is a classic "chick flick" with a handsome leading man and a cute, funny, likeable leading lady. She is literally addicted to shopping. Just as a drug addict needs his next fix, she needs more clothing/shoes/purses/accessories and pays no attention to her growing debt on her many credit cards. In an ironic twist she is hired to write a column advising people on their own finances and is a huge success. She continually hides from her debt, and literally hides from the debt collector. There were a few funny scenes in the movie, but if you are expecting a high-fashion film such as *Sex and the City*, this is not even close. It felt much more like *Legally Blonde*, except even more cheesy. As a watcher of this film, though, I came out of the movie wanting to go shopping because buying things really does feel good! (I'm not in debt, though.) By **kris10x99** 7:23 p.m., Feb. 21, 2009

#### The International 2009

An international espionage yarn with a beat reminiscent of a '70s era flick. Clive Owen has taken over from Sean Connery as the leading Euro actor playing rough-hewn tough guys who are always in need of a shave but look great in spite of it. Women love him and don't know why. Men want to be like him because he gets women who don't know why. It's a movie relating high finance, war, treachery, and revenge — all the good stuff of classic international intrigue. Our hero wins, sort of. Stay with the story and you'll get it too — that is, how banks own more than your mortgage... By **pilote** 10:28 p.m., Feb. 22, 2009

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as charming as full wattage. (Cf. Leatherheads, another pinch of Minnesota grist for the mill.) Her reactions to snow, ice, and subzero wind are nicely mimed, and the scene of her untamably erect nipples at her welcoming dinner party is one for the books. Harry Connick, Jr., the uninteresting love interest, has been written as a Carolina transplant to protect him from ridicule and preserve him for romance. Meantime, Siobhan Fallon Hogan, as a friend of Jesus with a secret tapioca recipe, does the heavy lifting on the Scandihoovian accent; and the character's surname of Gunderson, shared with the heroine of Fargo, seems an open tribute to the Coens. With J.K. Simmons, Frances Conroy. 2009. ★ (TOWN SQUARE 14)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop — A hypoglycemic overweight eight-time reject from the Jersey State Troopers, trying to make the most of a job as security guard, can't handle a speeding old duffer in a wheelchair or a bellicose fat lady at Victoria's Secret, yet he rises to the challenge of a highly trained team of professional armed robbers. Die Hard for the common schlub (Kevin James, highly trained in his own way), with a hot chick as a bonus. Better call it Dream Hard. With Jayma Mays, Keir O'Donnell, Raini Rodriguez, Shirley Knight, and Bobby Cannavale; directed by Steve Carr. 2009. • (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROMENADE 24: PLAZA BONITA 14: TOWN SOUARE 14)

**The Pink Panther 2** — Steve Martin carries the Inspector Clouseau torch into a sequel, thoroughly doused though the flame may be. (Kevin Kline got out while the getting was good, leaving the role of Clouseau's superior to John Cleese, with unaltered British accent. And previous director Shawn Levy handed the bag to Harald Zwart.) The juggling of bottles from a teetering wine rack is the only flicker. With Emily Mortimer, Jean Reno, Andy Garcia, Alfred Molina, Yuki Matsuzaki, Lily Tomlin, Jeremy Irons, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. 2009.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MAR-KETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Push** — Differently gifted paranormals, on the model of the Fantastic Four and the X-Men, battle over a wonder drug in a secreted syringe in Hong Kong. The possibilities are endless, and so, in consequence, is the tedium. Paul McGuigan's hopped-up direction only increases it. Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning, Camilla Belle, Djimon Hounsou. 2009.

• (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Quantum of Solace — The first true sequel in the twenty-odd entries of the James Bond series, picking up our Blond Bond (Daniel Craig) on the trail of vengeance after the death of his ladylove, Vesper, at the end of Casino Royale. (This was a trail closed off to the newly widowed Bond at the end of On Her Majesty's Secret Service, when poor George Lazenby, the only onetimer in the series, got booted out the door as if he never should have happened.) The film fails, however, to solidify, much less build upon, the promise of the fresh start in its forerunner. It perhaps meets the fundamental requirements of action and pace. hurtling forward with only the briefest of pauses and coming in at a tidy hour and three-quarters, the shortest Bond film in the entire series. As a likely result of that, it can seldom make time for the preparation that would give the action scenes sense and import. They are little more than turbulence. And the underlying split personality still remains: Why bother to infuse the Bond character with a greater air of reality if he's going to continue to be allowed the acrobatics of a Jackie Chan? Surely our rougher and tougher superspy wouldn't want us snorting in derision, or even chortling in delight, when he's busy exacting payment for the snuffed-out life of his beloved. James Bond appears to be turning little by little into Jason Bourne. It's not a step up. With Mathieu Amalric, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Jeffrey Wright, and Giancarlo Giannini; directed by Marc Forster. 2008. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Rachel Getting Married — A sort of Rainbow Coalition wedding weekend: the father of the Jewish bride had remarried a black, the bride too is marrying a black (it might be noted that Sidney Lumet, the father of first-time scriptwriter Jenny Lumet, had remarried a black himself), and the theme of the wedding is inexplicably Indian. Director Jonathan Demme, striving for an improvisational feel, stages the goings-on with an almost Danish dishevelment: a hand-held camera in the grasp of an arm-weary cameraman. Anne Hathaway, as the bride's just-out-of-rehab sister, a constant and tiresome threat of disruption ("She needs a lot of acknowledgment"), proves to be too actressy for the style; but Rosemarie DeWitt makes a fine impression as her well-behaved sister, and the conviviality of the gathering, with heavy representation from the cool cats of the music industry, is by and large believable and admirable. With Mather Zickel, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith, Tunde Adebimpe, and Debra Winger. 2008. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, FROM 2/27;

GASLAMP 15) The Reader — Stephen Daldry's tight and trim adaptation of the Bernhard Schlink best-seller on German war guilt and the filial estrangement of the postwar generation. It begins in 1995 in the frigid colorless antiseptic Berlin apartment of Ralph Fiennes, lit by way of Vermeer, but soon it retreats to his adolescence in 1958, his incarnation in a very dissimilar young actor named David Kross, his scarlet fever, his torrid summer affair with an older streetcar attendant played by Kate Winslet, and his habit of reading to her in bed and bath: The Odyssey, Huckleberry Finn, The Lady with the Little Dog, Lady Chatterley's Lover ("This is disgusting," huffs the naked lady beside him). In school, his Lit, teacher broaches the universal theme of secrecy - a nudge to us viewers - and it's clear that the boy's secret is his older lover. But what's hers? Again it's clear, from the shaded and shifting emotions of the unfailingly fascinating Winslet, that there's a lot going on inside which we don't know about. And not because Winslet, as the torrid affair abundantly lays bare, is to any degree inhibited. It would not be giving away too much to reveal that several years later, when our protagonist has enrolled in law school, his advanced seminar attends for educational purposes a war-crimes trial in which his former lover is unmasked as an S.S. officer at Auschwitz. It's still clear even then, from all the shading and shifting, that she harbors secrets. The provocation of the protagonist to divulge his own secret and to interpose himself in the proceedings becomes quite urgent and suspenseful, although in both courtroom and classroom the film has now entered a polemical mode that can only be termed uncinematic. All the same David Hare, the screenwriter, is a fastidious wordsmith; and even if the film drags on a bit once the time line catches up to Ralph Fiennes, drags on seemingly to justify his place on the payroll, it eventually comes to a satisfying end in a highly charged sitdown between him and Lena Olin, a concentration-camp survivor. The clean clear

color and the pinpoint focus (Chris Menges and Roger Deakins, co-credited as cinematographers) belie the moral muddiness. 2008.

 $\bigstar \bigstar (\text{CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FLOWER HILL 4; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; POWAY 10)}$ 

Revolutionary Road — Director Sam Mendes returns to the suburban stamping ground of his filmmaking debut, American Beauty, but at the very opening of that territory in the 1950s, at the inception, that is to say, of all the clichés of cookie-cutter conformity, Little Boxes, the Lonely Crowd, lives of quiet desperation, and so forth. As the central couple — the Wheelers, residing with strident irony at the titular address in Connecticut, the dead end of the American Dream — it must have seemed a bright idea to reunite the lovebirds of Titanic, as if to hint at the illusion-shattering grimness of the married life ahead of them had the iceberg not got in the way. But the birds have matured at different rates in the intervening eleven years. Whether in rage or frustration, cajolement or surrender, Kate Winslet (Mrs. Mendes off screen) appears much too strong for Leonardo DiCaprio, whose perennial boyishness clings to him, dogs him, drags him down, even in, or perhaps especially in, his face-caving moments of total emotional nakedness: "You're not worth the powder it would take to blow you up!" (Now, now, sonny.) You could wonder, to divide the faultfinding fairly, whether she's not too strong for her own role. The movie, taking its lead from the Richard Yates novel and then going beyond the novel in search of a present-day perspective, is trying to do something a bit different, and a bit difficult, in suggesting that the would-be free Wheelers are not as superior to, or separate from, their neighbors and surroundings as they would like to imagine, and in nudging the spectators, at the same time, to recognize that they themselves are not as superior as they might suppose to the central couple, the Fifties, their neighbors today. The codified view of postwar suburbia has over the years undergone too much expansion and elaboration for the movie to escape a sense of cliché and sense of hyperbole. But the cliché and hyperbole are done to a turn. And the period and its archaisms ("I must scoot. Toodle-oo"), its formalities and manners (no one but a certified madman, an institutionalized mathematician on a day pass, dares speak the truth in mixed company), combine to produce a stylization that brings out the satire in the piece. Revolutionary Road beats American Beauty, not terribly hard to do, for both seriousness and funniness. Kathy Bates, Michael Shannon, David Harbour. 2008.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18, FROM 2/27; HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 2/27; LA JOLLA 12)

The Secrets — The academically advanced daughter of a fundamentalist rabbi, postponing her arranged marriage in order to study the Talmud at a seminary for women in the holy city of Safed, gets thrown together with a cigarette-smoking rebel from France, and the two of them (the ardent Ania Bukstein, the kittenish Michal Shtamler) take upon themselves a customdesigned program of redemption for a dying French expatriate and ex-convict (the regularly magnificent Fanny Ardant, more magnificent than usual). It's a story, twists and turns aplenty, of feminism and sisterhood in an exotic culture with specific obstacles and specific personalities to negotiate them. The logic of it can pass as the logic of destiny, the bringing together of these people in this place for this purpose, to carve out a life path that diverges from the path that had been charted, a twisty, turny one in place of a paved straightaway. To say it a different way, the logic of it can pass as an object lesson in the art of fiction. This is how the trick is supposed to be done, one thing leading inexorably to an other with step-by-step credibility, cumulative implication, climactic impact. It fascinates and illuminates. Directed by Avi Nesher. 2007.

★★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Slumdog Millionaire — Feverish daydream, partly amorous, partly avaricious, around an unschooled Bombay teenager who, hoping to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart, climbs toward the top prize on the Indian Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? It breaks down into three time zones, shuffled together in a jumble: the game show itself, the torture and third degree of the contestant by police who presume he's cheating, and the flashbacks to the life experiences that explain how he could answer the questions. Much squalor and brutality, but filmed by Danny Boyle with a heedless, almost uncaring, exuberance and exhibitionism. Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Irfan Khan, 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SOUARE 14)

#### Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-

Li — Action film with Kristin Kreuk, Chris Klein, and Neal McDonough, directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak. (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; FROM 2/27)

**Taken** — A ring of Albanian white slavers (Middle Eastern buyers) has the bad fortune to shanghai the virgin daughter of a retired American superspy - "I was a preventer," he understates - on her first morning of vacation in Paris. There is no satisfaction in the quick-as-a-blink detective work that leads him to them, only satisfaction, for those who can take it, in watching him mow them down, a Weedwacker in a field of dandelions. (Too late to "prevent" the kidnapping, but not too late for the defiling.) Nor is there satisfaction in watching an eye-lifty Liam Neeson playing Steven Seagal. Nor in watching the native director Pierre Morel, sell out his country on top of himself. Catharsis, you learn anew, can't come out of crud. A hot shower afterwards would be your closest approximation. Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Olivier Rabourdin. 2009.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Twilight — Teen vampire romance from the popular series of girls' books by Stephenie Meyer, a sort of *Nancy Drew* — *Vampire Lover*. It merits a modicum of credit for attempting to bring some virgin blood to a tired old genre: the nonnuclear vampire family, having settled in the rural Northwest for maximum privacy and cloud cover, strive to fit in and stay straight, fancying themselves "vegetarian" for dining only on animal blood instead of human. Because the narrative point of view is that of an ordinary flesh-and-blood high-school girl, we don't witness the gory details of their daily diet. (Exsanguination of deer and rabbit, to say nothing of pet dog and cat, could tend to alienate the audience. ) What we mainly witness is the cultivated aura of mystery and danger around the eternal seventeen year-old adopted son of the family. And the business of being a bloodsucker in the 21st Century takes a distant backseat to the business of campus courtship: the classic pattern of Good Girl meets Bad Boy. He flatteringly lusts after her ("You're like my own personal brand of heroin"), but even more flatteringly he respects her ("I can't ever lose control with you"): a parent's least nightmare, and little wonder that the hearts of schoolgirlish readers, and now moviegoers, might go pitty-pat. Given the general level of innocuousness and salubriousness, we don't expect the frustrated teen sweethearts now or in future installments to explore the engorgement option in Theodore Sturgeon's novella Some of Your Blood, namely menses. (Eeuuww!) But given the fixation on the girl's "scent" and given the old-fashioned proscription against Going Too Far or indeed Going All the Way, that option insistently comes to mind. Kristen Stewart, a cashew head on a pipe-cleaner body, to all appearances unsullied by vanity, does very well with things like adolescent insecurity, crippling self-consciousness, unvoiced feelings, and the scariness of sex; and on those counts Catherine Hardwicke is a sympathetic director. She is less sympathetic in shooting everyone in the cast, human and vampire alike, with a deathly bluish pallor. Robert Pattinson as the bloodthirsting heartthrob, meanwhile, achieves little more than Cornball Cool and requires a lot of slow-motion and a lot of hair gel to help him with it. 2008. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18: HORTON PLAZA 14)

Two Lovers — Reviewed this issue. With Joaquin Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow, Vinessa Shaw, Isabella Rossellini, and Elias Koteas; directed by James Gray. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 2/27)

#### Underworld: Rise of the Lycans —

After two installments, Kate Beckinsale and her director husband, Len Wiseman, have dropped out for the backstory, but the murkiness and the monotone continue unabated, and Rhona Mitra fully matches the tire pressure in Beckinsale's lips. The plentiful action is cut to tatters. With Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy, and Steven Mackintosh; directed by Patrick Tatopoulos. 2009. • (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Uninvited — Unwelcome remake of a Korean shocker: wicked-stepmother mechanics tricked up with pseudo-supernatural "visions" and a hopefully mind-blowing ending. Fuse-blowing, more likely. Direction is credited to "The Guard Brothers," Charles and Thomas. With some people, two heads are no better than half a brain. Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel, Elizabeth



Vicky Cristina Barcelona — You can't claim that Woody Allen's rapid rate of production doesn't show. Even the title of this one sounds more like brainstorming for a title than like a final decision: three names off the chalkboard of keywords. Vicky and Cristina, two separate people, are dissimilar American friends, the first pragmatic and steady, the second capricious and restless, together visiting Barcelona for the summer. (Allen's British sojourn seems to be over, though he's not ready to come home.) The young women are picked up in tandem by a brooding Catalan artist with a legendarily tempestuous love life, flown off to Oviedo, seduced in sequence, separated by choice. Then the artist's ex-wife re-enters the scene after her attempted suicide, setting up a ménage. The film is almost more a sketch than a fully filled-in picture, a skeleton thin on flesh. (If Allen tends to hurry his ideas, it may be because he always has new ones waiting to join the queue. More than he can get to in a lifetime.) The dialogue, much of it in the writer's laziest declarative vein -I'm this, you're that, he or she's the other has not been polished anywhere near his brightest sparkle. And the dryasdust omniscient narrator spares him a heap of expository labor: "One evening Mark and Judy took them to the opening of a friend's art gallery." The half-baked aspect has its upside. In consequence of the cut corners and rushed development, a lot happens in only ninety minutes, and Allen can lay out on a broad canvas his vision of human discontentment and self-ignorance. He can lay it out as a pattern, not as an isolated instance. The complicating appearance of Penelope Cruz as the ex-wife, shrewdly put off till just past the halfway point, is a potent pickme-up in a flagging narrative, a powerfully physical, sensual, passionate presence that deliciously shows up the callow blankness of Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. With Javier Bardem, Patricia Clarkson, Kevin Dunn, Chris Messina, 2008. ★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Waltz with Bashir — Anomalous animated film, autobiographical in nature. The premise has Israeli documentarist Ari Folman delving into his repressed memories of the Lebanon War twenty years earlier, in particular his role as a foot soldier in a massacre at a Palestinian refugee camp. Drawn in a "realistic" comic-strip style, Judge Parker as opposed to Dick Tracy, and set in motion in what we could call a viscid as opposed to a fluid style, the animation makes a useful investigative tool for a probe of memory, dream, imagination, well suited to conveying a sense of unreality, a sense of remoteness, well suited, in other words, to fictionalizing the facts, cerebrally processing the data. It also helps smooth over the familiar talking-heads pitfall, generating illustration where none exists. And it offers an easy solution to depicting the twenty-year age differences between past and present. The last-minute switch to live-action archive footage is hair-raising. 2008.  $\star \star \star$  (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; FROM 2/27)

The Wrestler — It was a stroke of fortune if not of genius for filmmaker Darren Aronofsky to cast Mickey Rourke in the title role of Randy "The Ram" Robinson (né Robin Ramzinski), a Dodge Ram-driving, self-described "old broken-down piece of meat," two decades past his prime, vet 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 Francisco Rabal, and his noisy, labored breathing is excruciating. There is, however, an inherent sentimentality 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 (Evan Rachel Wood), a clumsy courtship with an over-the-hill stripper (Marisa Tomei, 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 postmatch 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 shoulder, as in a Dardenne brothers 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 climaxes, are crucibles for the actor and the character alike. Not to forget the spectator. 2008. ★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MAR-KETPLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MISSION VAL-LEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SOUARE 14)





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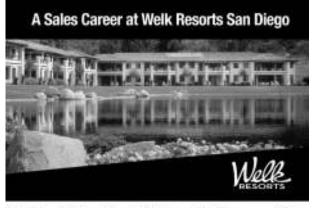
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ABLITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment- to- moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm. Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

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7574. AUDITIONSI California Youth Conservatory is staging the San Diego premier of "Rent- School Edition!" This teen version of the smash Broadway hit will play this summer at the Lyceum Theatre in downtown San Diego. Auditions are 3/6-3/7. For information and to schedule an audition, go to: www. cyctheatre.com, or call: 619-944-7574. BEST NEW ACTING WORKSHOP.

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#### Describe your worst haircut.



Matt Savage IT

National City asked them to leave it long. I was and liked having long hair. They ended up cutting a few inches off. They said it was to get all the loose ends out, but I don't care about that stuff. I just wanted it to be long. So, it wasn't like the haircut was so bad. It just wasn't what I wanted.



Stephanie Miner Office Manager Ontario

 $\overline{I}$  t was when I was in middle school. My mom shaved the back of my head, and I have curly hair. I was about six feet tall and had this huge 'fro. I didn't know about hair products then, and my hair was so big. In the school photo it looks ridicu-lous, and you can't see the people that are standing behind me. Some times kids would call me "poodle head" when they'd see me. This was in Fontana, which is white trashville. To this day, my mom doesn't realize she did me wrong.



Lindsay Andrews Student

Chula Vista When I was 12, I went to a chain called Great Clips. My hair had grown out long, and I wanted it layered. And I asked her to only trim a few inches off. Instead, she cut about five inches off and didn't layer it. She was chatting a lot with her

coworkers while cutting my hair. I

remember going home and look-

ing at it and wanting to cry.



Daryl Sterling Jr. Programmer

Mira Mesa I had this great Afro. Everyone knew me by it. It was perfectly round. It was the second time I had been to this place, and the guy I used before was busy. This old guy then said he's [cut] many Afros and could do it. My back was against the mirror, and when he spun me around to see it, I noticed half my hair was gone. I told him I had wanted it round. He just said, "Yeah, that's a good cut."



Mike M. Contract Manager Golden Hill

went to this guy for 16 years. He started to go blind, but I didn't know that. They still let him cut hair. My last haircut with him was a disaster. I basically wanted a reasonable-looking haircut. What I got was unreasonable. I wanted half an inch off, and he took two and a half inches off. I didn't say anything. He was going into retirement soon, so why upset him?



Rie Nishida Exporting Golden Hill

haven't had all that many bad l ones, luckily. Once, though, I asked them to cut it shorter. I didn't realize they'd make it that short. It looked like those '80s hairstyles. I hesitated to say anything because it was a place I always went to. I didn't want to make them mad. So, I just went with it.

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CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT (Association CANNABIS PAILENIS ACT (Association Cannabis Therapeutics). Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patient interns with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

#### DEBTOR'S ANONYMOUS. 619-525-3065.

www.dasandiego.org. DIVORCECARE. Sundays, 9am. 10791 Tierrasanta Boulevard, East Wing, CVCF Campus. Free support group for those heartbroken by divorce, separation. DVD

seminar, refreshments, conversation bruce@sdfunding.com; 619-461-4480. FOUND SILVER RING in Little Italy nea Ameci Park. Contact Bill, I'm always Ameci Park

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS! "How to Start a Business" (for people with disabilities). Wednesday March 4, 1pm-4pm, at State Department of Rehabilitation, 7575 Metropolitan Drive, 92108. Off- street parking available. Bus #928 from Fashion Valley Mall. Sponsored by Able-Disabled Advocacy. To reserve your spot, call Cindy Lennon, 619-231-5990 x315.

FREE CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT Program for Veterans with a Service Connected Disability or those Honorably Discharged within the last 48 months. Space is limited... call 619-424-6860.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING/LECTURE Clinic. Free reading for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4. Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite 108. 858-509-

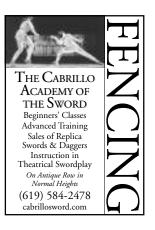
GAIN SKILLS TO SUCCEED. Are you 14 to 21, low income, need high schoo diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691. 9643

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS. 12th Annual Career Day. Wednesday, 3/18, 9am-2pm. Industry speakers. Freel GJ Building. Palomar College. 1140 W. Mission, San Marcos. 760-744-1150

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY/SEX Addiction? Out of control? You're not Addiction? Out of control? You're not alone. Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. 12-step fellowship. PO BOX 3791, San Diego 92163, 619-685-7211, www.slaa-san-diego.org.

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INSTRUCTION



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MENOPAUSE STUDY. UCSD light study. Women ages 40-75, not cycling, using prescription medication or smoking. Treatment for depression. 5 months, 6 overnight hospital stays. 619-543-5575. MOVIE BUFFS: interested in watching (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-231-0647.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. No dues or fees. 619-521-2538. www.oasandiego.org.

www.oasandiego.org. PATHWORK DISCUSSION. "What it takes to overcome childhood hurts." March 31st. 7pm-9pm, Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee. Materials available. Directions, call 619-296-9040. PMS SLEEP/LIGHT STUDY. PMS medication/birth control with regular menstrual cycles. UCSD 5- month study. 8 hospital stays. 619-543-7393

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#### PERSONALS

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#### MUSIC **EQUIPMENT /** INSTRUMENTS

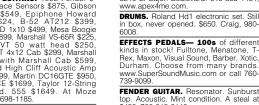
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14

17

#### 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 com-plete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-

0489 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803 or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions must be attached to e-mails in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. 5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly! And now for the really small print: 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

2) Late entries will not be considered 3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified. 4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

#### Across

- 1. To and
- 4. PGA great Sam
- 9. Ladies' room?
- 14. One who may cry foul
- 15. "My Dinner With Andre" director Louis
- 16. 2006 spinach invader
- 17. "If memory serves ..."
- 19. Room under the roof
- 20. They serve and protect the capital of India
- 22. Co. honchos
- 23. Sweltering
- 24. Actor who plays Dr. Gregory Pratt on "ER"

- 32. Suffix with expert 35. "Peek-\_\_\_!"
- 36. Olin of "The Reader"
- 37. Where Outlanders and Endeavors are made
- 42. Contents of una fontana
- 43. Like a busybody
- 44. A golfer often looks down on it
- 45. Meson having a mass 6,687 times that of an electron
- 49. Prefix with night or light
- 50. Maidenform products
- 54. Closely connected ... or this puzzle's theme
- 61. Catalan architect Antonio
- 62. "Definitely!"
- 63. 2001 bankruptcy filer
- 64. Stop stopping up
- 65. Butterfly catcher
- 66. Fn (as a group)
- 67. Equals
- 68. CIA forerunner

#### Down

- 1. Old French bread?
- 2. View anew
- 3. "Sands \_\_\_\_\_ Jima"
- 4. Captain Hook's henchman
- 5. Table salt, to a chemist 6. Tommy Lee Jones film "In the Valley of \_\_\_\_\_'
- 7. "It's \_\_\_\_\_ ever wanted!"
- 8. Oracle site
- 9. Part of HMO
- 10. When Romeo first notices Juliet
- 11. Campus military org.
- 12. Nobelist Wiesel
- 13. Nas hit "One \_
- 18. Byways: Abbr.

Charlotte Brown, Clairemont,

Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont,

"Human overpopulation diminishes

Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 7. Pat DePew, San Diego, 7. Gerard Dermody, Encinitas, 7.

"The unruly infant went on a lamb

Gary Dismukes, Scripps

tee?

E.T. Cage, Carmel Mtn., 7.

Phillip Castle, Carlsbad, 7.

Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 7.

"John, give Sophia my regards

"How are you Mirko?

quality of life." A.T. Certik, Bonita, 7.

#### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

#### indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 7. "Be looking good War-

ors...all the way back to Coney Cecile Alcaraz, Chula Vista, 7. Looking forward to Legoland! Mary Arana, Encinitas, 7. "Try Hand and Foot card game." Stuart Aunger, Chula Vista, 7. "Matthew's Mai Tai at the Galley has perfect marbling." Jen Barnes, University Heights, 7. "Dear Mrs. G: I miss you every day." Shannon Barry, Pine Valley, 7. "Y is for yakitty-yacking!" Jeff Battles, Serra Mesa, 7. "Let it ride!" Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 7. "T and S = MLF. T + S = TMW."

Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 7. "// I can't get a T-shirt can I get a kiss?'

#### Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 7. That was like a 10K race

Kurt Dornbusch, Mission Valley, 7. "Ken, you better be right!" Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 7. "Welcome to SD Phil! Did vou bring coil? Bette Eberhardt, Pine Valley, 7. "Seventh soiourn

#### See Your Ranking Online!

makes you well spoken!" Rand Feura, Santee, 7.

Justin Finke, Sorrento Valley

Barney Firks, Ocean Beach, 7,

Ralph Hayward, El Cajon, 7.

"Pressure makes diamonds.

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

-EVINSON 20 21 MIL 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31 27 33 34 35 36 32 37 38 40 41 39 42 44 43 41. 18th-century English poet 45 46 47 48 50 51 49 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 64 65

67

We cannot accept your entry without the following: Name: Address: Neighborhood/City: \_\_\_\_ Zip Code: State: Circle T-shirt size: M L XL Personal Message: \_\_\_

15

18

#### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

68

10

16

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12

2009

DAVID

ASWELLAS MIRROR PTOMAINE ONEIDA NORTHFACEJACKET EONRETDATE ALOG DIVISIVE SURFACETENSION TIEDIN ||||||| TWENTYONE YESIDO QUEENANNESLACE STEMARIE SACO ARANMTANOB 
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 MARSBARS KANSAN

#### Ernie Hsu, San Diego, 7. Mary Hutchings, City Heights,

Benvicky Javier, San Diego, 7. "Pinoy ito matanda na. Join US Navy 1963, ano ka? Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 7. "Kiera! Bodo! Hip-ĥ o hoorav Peter Kronfeld, Normal Heights, 7. Michael Lodahl, Mission Valley, 7. "Twnty-one? Why, we're a third of the way there!" Joe Maginn, Mission Beach, 7. "Today the crossword, tomorrow the world. Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 7. Kyle Matzke, Vista, 7. "Lower wages, higher taxes. Way to stimu-

late state economy Sacramento. Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 7. "Black Jack Anna McCutcheon, Down-

town, 7. "Paint your home or office like new! paintwithdan.com'

Ron Meyer, Santee, 7. "3 weeks to an for Marlborn Ranch Gary Mocko, Ocean Beach, 7. "Hobos recommend sdmrm or C.J. Muellner, Spring Valley, 7. "Again: 7/10 tees to newcomer Chosen randomly needs to be more random.

Ed Murphy, Ocean Beach, 7. "Steppenwolf, pages 40-50." Marge Nelson, El Cajon, 7. "Heartland Lions We Serve Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 7. "Is Ptomaine Ptolomy's neglected brother?'

Jim Odell, Vista, 7. "Check out the Urantia Book (try libraries)." Julie Osburn, North Park, 7. "For some reason I thought this week's puzzle was hard. Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 7. "It's in the cards.

John Pertle, Santee, 7. "Problem: 2 Timothy 3:1-7. Solution: John 14:6: Acts 16:31."

William Edwards, Kensington, Harry Engel, La Jolla, 7. "Welcome to the newborn seals.

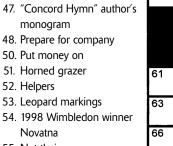
Ranch, 7. "Ok, who stacked the deck? And what happened to San-

Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 7. "Look out France for a verv fresh Lance!' D. Faulkner, University Heights, 7. "Riding your bike

2009

San Diego Reader February 26,

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- 56. Nuptial exchanges
- 57. Top-notch

21. "Alley \_\_\_\_!"

25. Decline

24. Egyptian \_\_\_\_\_ (cat breed)

26. Ornamental pond fish

27. Mubarak of Egypt

28. Under the weather

29. Accomplishment

31. Give a G to, say

33. [lsn't he dreamy?]

34. Decorative sewing kit

39. Ad \_\_\_\_\_ committee

40. "Lost" setting: Abbr.

Henry James

46. When many stores open

32. Computer with an iSight

30. -ess relative

camera

38. Devitalize

- 58. Arrogance in the 'hood
- 59. Bunny slope device 60. Skirt bottoms
- 61. Little beauty

53. Leopard markings 54. 1998 Wimbledon winner Novatna 55. Not theirs

#### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

indicates T-shirt winner

Thalia Sue!

weekl

and use turn signals.'

! We love vou!

double down on eleven.

get the donkev rats!

'Thanks for the T-shirt!'

GUITAR SET-UP. Received a new guitar for Christmas? For \$25, I will 1)Change strings on your electric or acoustic; 2)Adjust action (string height) so guitar is easy to play; 3)Set intonation with strobe tuner; 4)Adjust truss rod if necessary. Tom: 619-857-5463.

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CILIM21'

972-0080.

Penasquitos, 7.

Gil Patricio, San Diego, 7. Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, Robert Phillips, Downtown, 7. Pamela Swain, College Area, "Give bicycles a break. Hang up 7. "Who stacked the deck Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission 7. "The less one knows the more Valley, 7. Matt Read, La Mesa, 7. "Uh oh, confident he is.' Mark Wilde, Spring Valley, 7. "Another T-shirt would be nice! Ann Winder, Hillcrest, 7. the Santee copy cats missed a Don Reckles, Carmel Valley, 7. "Thanks Tim, I appreciate all you do "Happy 3rd birthday Spencer and for me. Ric Witt, Clairemont, 7. "Experi-Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, ence is overrated. Ever met a stupid 7. "Always split aces and eights and 3 year old?" Ken A., Ocean Beach, 6. "W is Doug Rodgers, Rancho a monkey, Rush is a junkie, McCain is a flunkv. Sheila Ágahan-Price, Ocean-Marc Rutter, University Heights, 7. "Congrats and good side, 6. "Should have gone with luck on your house Ali and Will!" . my gut feeling." Eric Sandquist, Allied Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 6. Gardens, 7. "You can almost spell Santee from schadenfreude." "Happy Birthday Dad!" Martha Awdziewicz, Claire-Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 7. "It don't mont, 6. Leo Baggerly, Encinitas, 6. matter. He's not coming back. Happy Thanksgiving." Capn Skarz, Encinitas, 7. "Don't "Yes we car Bruce Bell, South Park, 6. Turn up the heat. Tom Somich, Clairemont, 7. Jay Berkowitz, La Jolla, 6. "Jorrie really did it! Hooray! Leslie Chase, Campo, 6. "Oh Eddie Spaghettio, Coronado, 7. "1431 115 Farth to unit fifteen! no we missed one Bill What' your twenty, recherche? Sue Coffey, Southwest SD, 6. "Yeah - I got 2 games for Ms. Marjorie Stewart, Point Loma, Cochorros. 7. "Yikes! Missed the mail or a clue Jon Connor, Oceanside, 6. What do you call a 1/4 pounder in Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del France? Mar, 7. "Terri, so sorry about your Ben Cooper, Gaslamp, 6. "Hit accident. Hope you heal quickly." me aqain.

Craig Curtis, Escondido, 6. 7 can't get me no T-shirt action." Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 6. "Let's send up a cheer, Connor's 21st birthday is here! Robin Drubin, Vista, 6. "Mikey is a auitter and an IJIT. Alfred Egaran, San Diego, 6. "/ can't believe we both got last week's puzzle wrong! Don Erickson, Carlsbad, 6. Manny Faria, Point Loma, 6. "Hello again Pooh! Props to the High Bay! I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 6. "Hey Matzke, see inside the Meltdown. Inform vourself." Marie Grace, College Area, 6. Joe Griffin, Crest, 6. "Go Jimmie #48. Fellow Crest boy!" Bill Griffin, Crest, 6. "I should have 7 wins but editor lost my email." Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 6. Happy 44th Birthday Big Brian. Bryan Hartman, Golden Hill, 6. "Always take even money on 34 Across against an Ace. Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 6. Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 6. Julie Hocking, Normal Heights, 6. "Go crazy!" Ron Hootman, Santee, 6. "Hoot 101: Blackjack, 2 1/2 to 1 vou win!" Edward C Horbett, Jr., Crown Point. 6. "Hiromi rocks Billy. George Jackson, Oceanside, 6. "Who voted for this guy any way Sara Khwaia, Poway, 6, "Anvone need a controlle Thisby Krakatoa, San Diego, oney! Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 6. "Read my lips - no new taxes!

Lane and Gaby Litke, Chula Vista, 6. Michael McGriffin, Bay Park,

6. "Friends remain unastounded. Am I famous? Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 6. "Bring back Remote Control King! Pam Mecklenborg, Pacific Beach, 6. "Congrats A! Chuck Merritt, Spring Valley,

Irving Metzger, San Diego, 6. "Marcia's nice

Jenny Miner, North Park, 6. "I'm enaaaed!" Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 6. "Mabuhay tayong mga pinoy, Cecil A

Sarah Murphy, Ocean Beach, 6. "I need Girl Scout cookies ASAP. James C Nelson, El Cajon, 6. Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 6. Bill Pischke, Ramona, 6. "Perfection is not required to have an enjoyable time, Leslie. Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 6.

"How come so many first timers always win shirts?" John Prince, Serra Mesa, 6.

"For never did nature betray the heart that loved her." Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 6. "Lotsa Thin Mints, Samoas, Lemon Shortbread! Brownie Michaela or

local Matthew Rosello, San Diego,

Chief Shiflett, San Diego, 6. "I'm gonna need these by email during deployment.

Dave Small, San Carlos, 6. "I'm

original material. Needs interns, copyists, songwriters. We have professional tools. 619-528-0907; www.myspace.com/ sherilopez; www.myspace.com/ isitrankzappa; www.myspace.com/ phyllispryor; www.myspace.com/ mindcontrolemonkeys; www.myspace.

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Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 6. -town 4 life

Lisa Torrescano, Spring Valley, 6. "Happy Birthday CC. We luv vou!' Jim Vaughan, Carlsbad, 6.

Jack Hawkins, Encinitas, 5. "To

Scott Heimer, Mission Valley,

Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 5. "/

Gerard Hoskins, Bonsall, 5. "A

Reader T-shirt - #87 on my bucket

Richard Hutchings, Santee, 5.

Susie Lektorich, Coronado, 5.

"Ski Park City, it's pretty." Wayne Mathieu, Clairemont, 5.

Willie McGee, San Diego, 5.

Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 5.

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Oscars rule

homeowners!

labv. Albv. Maltbv.

fresh snow, priceless!"

dens, 5.

letharaic

Mars Bars!"

"Loved the 21 themed puzzle

P. Drew Papas, La Jolla, 5.

5. "We did it my love - we are

Michael Rewa, Allied Gar-

Jav Sato, Carmel Valley, 5.

"For Cuvvies: Ashby, Sand Dabs,

Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 5.

Estevan Soto, Chula Vista, 5.

'I'd be more apathetic if I weren't so

Rich Tschiegg, Scripps Ranch,

5. "Bob Dole says, Bob Dole likes

Marie Turock, North Park, 5.

Nathaniel Uy, East Village, 5. Kierkegaard Victoria, San

Diego, 5. "Spring's almost here!"

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"Two puzzles missed for two feet of

Laura Patterson, Azalea Park,

Jerry Jones, Oceanside, 5.

solve or not to solve - that is the

5. "3 more weeks until vacation

Billy Horton, Santee, 5.

puzzlement.'

love New York

list!

Nedda Viscovich, Cardiff, 6. "Random my foot! 7 first timers last week.

#### Steve Wilson, Spring Valley, 6. M. Zimmermann, Vista, 6. "www.gopnot4me.blogspot.com"

Steve and Dawn, North Park, 5. "Visit the San Juans and ski Telluride

Mike and Karen, Talmadge, 5. "B is for broken bones I kiss and make better "

Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 5. "Padres need a winning se Mike Bullock, Rancho winning season Bernardo, 5. "Thanks Teresa." Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 5.

"Blackjack fun - you can never get enough Maria Coda, Oceanside, 5. "Hi

Marilyn Cooper, Chula Vista,

5. "How many points in a Power Point? John P Domingo, Chula Vista,

5. "Looking forward to watching Tiger at the WGC...go Tiger!" John L. Drehner, North Park. 5. "There are no left-handed polo

players." George Elam, Vista, 5. "You

dropped my drop!

John Fabry, San Diego, 5. "Love mv Bunnv Jon Ford, Santee, 5. "Always

here to sing you lullabies Greg Harkless, San Diego, 5.

"Gee, I wish I had one of them doomsday machines."

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all in. Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 6. "Imagine me forgetting to do a Reader puzzle!"

#### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

"Yee haw

indicates T-shirt winner

#### Dave Washington, La Jolla, 5. Happy Birthday Nancy! Westie, San Diego, 5. Tom and Jenn, Mira Mesa, 4. "Boyfriend, I love the beautiful flowers. Thank you, xoxo." Clemencia Angus, Linda Vista,

4. "You forgot to list my name last

Jean Marie Barnes, Grantville, 4. "Jayme luvs Amy. Yeah yeah." Karen Bartlett, Nestor, 4. "Thanks again Mike. I love you!" Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 4. Thank you to my wife. I love you,

ves I do Marilyn Contreras, El Cajon, 4. Jim Corbett, San Diego, 4. Susan De Masi, Fallbrook, 4.

"Ollie Andre Desilets, Downtown, 4. "Obama - send my stimulus now, not next year.

Rosalie Dow, Tierrasanta, 4. "Happy Birthday Dad. Thanks for teaching me to crossword

Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach 4. "Let me stand next to your fire Gian Ghio, Chula Vista, 4. "And one more thing, I'm gonna pay by check "

Joaquin Guerrero, San Marcos, 4. "Happy Birthday David Wade! 57

down, many more to go!" T.K. Halverstone, Mission Val-ley, 4. "Thanks Mutma." Tom Laurin, Chula Vista, 4.

Stress is a self-inflicted wound and life causes death!"

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**92** 760-696-2877.

#### "Conserve water everybody; we're till in a major drough Douglas Mevers, La Mesa, 4. See your ad here! Send a Reader T!" Michael Panther, Point Loma, 4. "Good thing we thwarted them" boogie board thieves." Adam Roberts, San Diego, 4. "Everywhere is within walking dis-tance if you have the time."

Jenny Hughes, Escondido, 4.

James Mayfield, Bay Park, 4.

Eddie and Andrea Schroder, **Carlsbad, 4.** "You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it!" Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 4. Rob Warren, Sabre Springs, 4.

"Double down nah!" Terry Wasley, Solana Beach, 4. "Josh Radin: I wish I had my \$15 back!

Tom White, University City, 4. Elizabeth Wood, Poway, 4. "Whose? Yours!" Michael Wright, Downtown, 4.

"Happy 30th Birthday Ashly!" J.D. Boucharde, North Park, 3. "2 days and counting." Rick Chambless, San Diego, 3.

Mike Deliman, Santee, 3. "Miss Otter if you're nasty!

S. Depka, Vista, 3, "lane are you out there? Hello? Hello Chris Donnelly, Carlsbad, 3. "Give blood. Play hockey. Todd Gleed, Del Mar, 3.

"My friends are astounded and everyone recognizes me!

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www.exun 739-9700.

Joseph Gold, San Diego, 3. Push push in the Bu Terry Golden, Clairemont, 3. Thanks Mom! Sharon Jones, El Caion, 3.

"Kicking myself...1 stinking letter!" N.C. Lyman, Poway, 3. "Beautiful women...you and Audrey Hepburn...143.

Jenny McReynolds, Linda Vista, 3.

Noah Najbert, Mira Mesa, 3. "Cartman says, Derr!"

Carol Rabner, Escondido, 3. Henry Romero, San Diego, 3. "Go Bears!" Joanne Sanchez, Mira Mesa,

3. "Whoa, I did this in pencil! Craig Smith, Clairemont, 3. "Life's too short for boring salsa and popsicles. www.ilovevivapops.com. Jennifer Underwood University Heights, 3. "My

neighbor's cats are crazy David A. Weim, Chula Vista,

Michael Williams, Downtown, 3. "Tony Madrid says Code Blue/ Code Yellow/Code Black - Ahhh! Peter Woodbury, Chula Vista,

Dennis Balint, Pacific Beach, 2. "Antioxidants."

Kaye Benton, San Diego, 2. "Hoping for a happy, prosperous

2009 David Bombart, Clairemont, 2. "Lu Lu Lu I've aot some apples. Erica Brewer, San Diego, 2. "Happy 21st Birthday Cody Isabella Busch-Sorrenson, Ocean Beach, 2. "Must be all the cod liver oil I took."

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Max Calhoun, Vista, 2. "Schooner and Gaby RIP. They were the best dogs. Carlos Chamberlain, Bonita, 2. "I miss mv kids!" Mike Crowley, Ramona, 2.

Jane Depka, Mission Hills, 2. "/ remembered to send the puzzle Ralph Fear, San Diego, 2. "Did Robert Forst, San Marcos, 2.

"Hooray! More fun - and a challenge! Jessie Hansen, Oceanside, 2.

"Eat more fiber. Don't eat vellow Jim Hitchcock, 2. "Live well, love

Naomi Kashiwabara, Clairemont. 2. Misty McDaniel, Lakeside, 2. "Hi Da

F.A. Nalu, El Cajon, 2. "Happy St. Patrick's Day. Remember Lent." Phil Nichols, Escondido, 2. "Eat at Tanao

Cindy Pancer, Pacific Beach, 2. "Hi Bryce and Natalie Rebecca Piekos, Encinitas, 2. "Thanks for the help sesch!" Joyce Quinn, Point Loma, 2. You must alwavs celebrate. Denis Rees, Alpine, 2. Don Romero, Ramona, 2. "Don loves Mei Ling Dennis Roth, Santee, 2.

Tom Stam, Lakeside, 2. Michell Thitathan, Downtown 2. "Riboletto's coming to town. Let's

go to the opera!"

Pat Zenz, University Heights, 2. "Hey friends astounded yet? I got it right! Amen!"

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REHEARSAL IN OCEAN BEACH at Spotless. 1922 Bacon Street across from Winston's. 3 air-conditioned rooms with PA, available for hourly rentals. Parking, loading. 619-523-3073.

ReHEARSAL STUDIOSI Current special: \$100 off first month's rent with ad! Two locations — Sports Arena and Miramar. Monthly and hourly available. Universal Sound, 619-306-2222.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS. \$15/hour PA. Monthly \$350-\$475. 1/2 off month's rent! Ventilated. V ff first Wi-Fi connection. Affordable recordings, screen printing, DVD, CD duplication, web design services. Dead Records, 760-967-1420. Cell, 760-707-8606.

REHEARSE AT ADDER. New rooms open now! Upscale Kearny Mesa facility. All rooms have individual air conditioning high ceilings and 24- hour access Monthly rooms available. 858-505-8644

REHEARSE AT HINDSIGHT Miramar Hourly rooms, fully equipped (drum kit, two half stacks, bass rig, PA), starting \$18/hour. PA only \$16/hour. 858-635-9611, www.hindsightrehearsal.com.

WIN AN IBANEZ GUITAR Sunday, March 1, at the free Larry Mitchell guitar clinic. Guitar Trader of San Diego, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 858-565-

#### ROOMMATES

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE READER call day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

ALPINE. \$525/month + 1/2 utilities. References required. Furnished room in 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Single story. Pool, gym, recreation room,

"It's about time! John Alberto, Bonita, 1. A.D. Albright, Mira Mesa, 1. D. Asencio Jr., Ramona, 1. been awhile Warren Barnhart, Point Loma, 1. "Point Loma Seafood is the best! Jeremiah Barry, North Park, 1. "Hi kids. Love, Dad." Manny Battaglia, Kearney Mesa, 1. "Still trying to get in the book. Jessica Bazo, Clairemont, 1. "297 Indian birds! Dustin Beabout, Temecula, 1. "Slumdog, Slumdog, Slumdog. James R. Brown, Santee, 1. "Love ya, Teacup. loel Curiel, Oceanside, 1 "Julian and Frankie's dad rocks. Leah Dadich, Pacific Beach, 1. "For my Sweetie Sweeterson! XOXO!" Judy Emaus, Carlsbad, 1. "Babycakes, you just don't know Joy E. Fernandez, Chula Vista, 1. "What up Fred? Ate in da house. (Arah. Otins!)" Giselle Gervy, San Diego, 1. "My mom rocks and my dad's a stud! Sandra Groves, Bonita, 1. "This

Michael Sheridan, San Diego,

was fun! Janice Harrison, San Diego, 1. "Don't always have time to finish in time.

Dara Heizel, Escondido, 1. "Never interrupt your opponent whicle he is making a mistake Emile Jossi, Ocean Beach, 1.

"And 4 2 ! Holden Juggs, Solana Beach, 1. "I did this while making a

poopie!

jacuzzi. No smoking/drugs/pets. 619-ALPINE. Beautiful home. \$800. 1 bedroom. Includes utilities. Pool, Jacuzzi, outdoor and indoor kitchen. Also, loft available. Photos online, www.craigslist. com/rooms, search Alpine gazebo. 619-219-4600.

BAY PARK. \$545/month. Laundry, quiet atroat off-street parking. Near clairemont Drive. Male preferred. No smoking. Cats OK. \$395 security deposit. 619-275-6260. BAY PARK/CLAIREMONT. \$650. utilities

included. New townhouse. Large master bedroom with own full bath. Washer/ dryer. Pool, spa. Views. Close to all. 619-200-9668.

CARDIFF Private room/bath in spacious Valking distance to Cardina Village/beach. Have dog, no additional pets. Utilities/cable, Internet included. Nonsmoking. \$775. 760-753-0356. CARLSBAD. \$700, \$500 deposit, 1/2

utilities. Room in beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Centrally located. Washer/ dryer. No pets/smoking. References. Available now. 760-942-8164. CARLSBAD. Room for rent (choice of 2

rooms) in 3 bedroom 3 bath house. Ocean view. Calvera Hills. No pets. \$650, 1/3 utilities. 760-271-4510. CHULA VISTA. 2 furnished rooms/view.

\$555, includes utilities. Cable/internet access. Nice, quiet neighborhood. No drugs, smoking, alcohol, pets. East of I-805 freeway. 619-482-9478/619-840-

CHULA VISTA. Nice room in big, remodeled house. Share bath, kitchen, remodeled house. Share bath, kitchen, living room. Parking, cable, washer, dryer. Jacuzzi. Includes all utilites. Female preferred. \$500.619-227-8512. Female preferred. \$50U. 619-221-0312. CITY HEIGHTS. 4- bedroom, 3- bath house, 2400 square feet, fully remolded. Excellent location. Security gated. Alarm systems. Cable access. Large outdoor deck. Garage not included. \$775/each room. 619-277-1720.

CLAIREMONT. \$475, Room with great canyon view, \$475 deposit, 1/4 utilities. Share: kitchen, bathroom, washer/dryer, big screen, Internet Tivo. Available now. no pets. 858-277-9075.

Sorry, no pets. 858-2/1-90/5. CLAIREMONT. 2 rooms, one with private entrance/bath. \$475/\$550 month. Relaxed, friendly home. Free cable TV/ laundry. Parking. No pets. Female preferred. 858-569-0105.

preterred. 858-508-0105. **COLLEGE AREA.** \$580. 1/4 utilities, \$200 deposit. Female only. Furnished/ unfurnished room- clean, quiet home. No drugs. Housekeeper twice/month. Consider dog. Available 3/1. 619-302-3530

COLLEGE AREA. Furnished bedroom with bath in 3 bedroom 2.5 b townhouse. \$600 month, \$300 dep Month to month. Nonsmoker desired. bath er desired. No pets. Parking. 619-365-9304.

Trish Kaufman, Clairemont, "Hi Amelia and Lily: Liz Kave, University Heights, 1. "Please please, I always miss it by one letter Señor Manos, Chula Vista, 1. "Put over aas! It's expensive! Deidre McClanahan, La Mesa, 1. "No wrong letter this time. Happy 21 st Mr Willis " Michael McClarville, Leucadia, 1. "I love Mia." Stephanie McNicol, Rolondo, 1. "Bob, Squab, and Aengus Og: the cutest wee auvs ever Cece Moreno, Ocean Beach, 1. "I am so dorkin' it up 2009! Thanks Elvern Orr, Coronado, 1. "Red Neck speak, Yee Haw.

🖝 John Skoubis, La Jolla, 1 Clancy Sloan, Clairemont, 1. "Go Celtics!" Art Spencer, Oceanside, 1. Felina Thom, Lemon Grove, 1.

Big Lex Torres, San Marcos, 1. "Big all over. Michael F. Towey, Mira Mesa,

1. "The nay sayers do little to help their felow man " Holly Valentine, El Cajon, 1.

"Help! My parents locked me in this room with crosswords!" Patrick Whalen, San Diego, 1.

Leslie Wittman, Seattle, 1. "Mo, had a great time in SD. XO."

> COLLEGE AREA. Medium room \$375 month, utilities included. \$250 deposit. Pool, Jacuzzi. Laundry room in complex. Available now. 858-272-3931

> COLLEGE AREA. Room for rent, \$500 and deposit. Nice house with yard, close to SDSU. 1-1/2 bath. Split bills. No pets. 619-583-1354.

> b19-b33-1334. DOWNTOWN. Carpeted, high- ceilinged room in 5- bedroom Victorian house. Off-street parking. Shared utilities, Internet, washer/dryer. \$450/month, \$400/deposit. Cats OK. 619-234-3898.

ENCINITAS. \$600 includes utilities Spacious com, Large, quiet house. Near all amenities/MiraCosta College. 2 miles to Moonlight Beach. Single occupancy. No pets/smoking/drugs. 619-318-1742.

ENCINITAS. Private room in clean, quiet home. Tropical yard, pool, jacuzzi. Beach, lagoon, canyon, shopping, I-15. No smoking/pets/drugs. Rental history required. 760-445-6369. FASHION VALLEY. Beautiful, quiet room/

private bath, walk- in closet, in 2000-square- foot townhome. \$700/month plus utilities. Wi-Fi. Parking. Pool. Jacuzzi. Tennis. 858-472-1857.

GOLDEN HILL. \$460/\$475. Utilities included. Large, quiet. Centrally located. 3 private bedroom apartment. Share bath and kitchen. Deposit. 2220 E Street. Appointment necessary. 619-584-5900.

**GROSSMONT** COLLEGE. Single bedroom, share bathroom, \$500, available now. Walk to Grossmont College. Pool, cable TV, computer hookup available. Female only. Have one dog. 619-667-9142.

LA JOLLA SHORES Share 2 bedroom 2 private bath furnished condo, except bedroom. Washer/dryer in unit. Pool, jacuzzi. Gated parking. \$800/month. 858-642-6733.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$650. Furnished, cable, Internet, laundry, share bath. Utilities, kitchen privileges. Safe parking. Near UCSD. No smoking/pets. Near I-5, 805, 52, 610 605 5062 2 619-602-5052

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA. \$750-\$865. Lovely completely furnished room also master bedroom. Private entrance. Utilities/wireless Internet included. Cleaning service. Nonsmoker. No drugs/ pets. References. 858-459-3089.

LA MESA, S480/month, \$200/deposit, utilities included. Clean, bright, furnished room, private bath. Washer/dryer, on-site pool. No drugs/heavy drinking/indoor smoking. 619-741-5818.

LA MESA. \$540. Large room, large closet, either unfurnished or furnished. closet, either unfurnished of furnished. Semi-new carpeting, laundry, quiet street, easy parking. Cat(s) possible. Storage possible. Leave message, 619-287-6903.

LA MESA, \$620/month, Utilities included Private entrance, walk to trolley and SDSU. Washer/dryer in unit. Shared house. Quiet, safe neighborhood.

YORKIE POO MIX. Adorable puppy for sale. 4 months. 5 pounds. A must see! Asking \$700 firm. Purchased 12/08. Please call 858-201-8193 or 619-456-3554. AQUARIUM SALE at Octopuss Garden. 20H aquarium \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopuss Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

BENGAL LEOPARD babies. The mild side of wild. Spectrally beautiful. TIKA registered. Canaries also, as well as Jacob sheep babies. North County, 760-724-9316.

COCKATIELS. Beautiful, sweet, tame babies. For more information, please Kris, 760-842-5596 or 619-957-8543. ise call LEOPARD GECKO. Carrot tail. Comes with 10- gallon cage, food and water bowls, hide and heat pad. \$40/all. \$30 for just the gecko. 619-370-5638.

MINIATURE PINSCHER MIX. Energetic. 3 legs, lost one from injury. Very sweet, likes dogs/people. Needs a chance for forever home. Neutered, shots. \$150.

SHIH TZU PUPPY. Female, white and ixed, all updated shots licensed. \$200, price negotiable. For more information, call Ms. Joi Shelton, 619-727-3698.

AOUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/ AQUARIUMS AND PONDSI Freshwater/ saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie – cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www. aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

AVIARY/PARROT CAGE. Large metal cage on wheels. Great for small or large birds. 6'. Serious buyers only, cash only. \$75. 619-444-2420.

LARGE RABBIT CAGE. New. Decorative, includes foam steps. \$75. Call Cynthia, home- 760-741-2543, cell- 760-855-4599. BLUE NOSE PITBULL puppy. Beautiful, male, 4 months old. With brindle. Stocky, big paws. \$300. 619-674-8284. CHINANUA. Puppy. Gorgeous male, 20 weeks. Approximately 5 pounds. Born September 19, 2008. White, playful, potty trained. Has first set of shots. More information, 619-395-6183.

RED NOSE PIT BULLS. Pure. Puppies need a Please help, these puppies ne home. Asking \$150. 760-877-4616. BUNNY DWARF rabbits, 8 weeks old. \$39.99 each. Hand-raised, do not bite. Free 2 bags of food. Cages, \$20 each.

BLUE PIT BULL PUPPIES. Razor Edge and Greyline. \$300. 3 males, 1 female. 2 months. Come check them out, you won't be disappointed. Call 619-985-0735.

LAB PUPPIES. Ready for home. Colors range from cream to gold (fox red). Mom-Golden Labrador Retriever, dad-

chocolate lab. Vet checked, shots, dewormed. 619-316-7445.

BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Larges

reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom,

619-224-2841. **RABBITS.** Rescued! 2 large New Zealand white bunnies, 2 dwarf male bunnies/1 female. Super sweet, loves people. \$45/pair, \$40 single. More information, 619-479-7179.

DOG MISSING. Since 1/28/08. Have you seen our Mocha? 35 pounds, 2.5 years. Rust/light chocolate brown lab/retriever/

spaniel mix. Long, curly coat; golden highlights. Brown eyes/nose. Printed canvas collar with light blue/tan pattern. Lakeside area. 619-733-3110.

AKC POODLE. Toy. 3 years. Male. \$150. Second poodle, 4 months, male. \$275. Also an AKC Siberian Husky, blue eyes, solid white, \$375. 619-691-0198.

AMERICAN PARROTLET. Yellow, female, young, healthy. Semi tame. \$75. Please call 619-660-0176.

619-224-2841

Available 3/1. \$600 deposit. 858-243-

LA MESA. Bedroom in 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom upstairs condo. Available 3/1/ 09. Share bathroom. \$475 includes utilities, \$475 deposit. On-site laundry. No pets. 619-464-2254, c\_contursi@

LA MESA. Female. Gated complex, great view! Large bedroom, private bath. LA MESA. Female. Gated complex, great view! Large bedroom, private bath. Kitchen privileges. Covered balcony. Quiet surroundings. Washer, dryer. Utilities included. Near Grossmont shopping. Good freeway access. Parking. Nonsmoking, no drugs. \$600/ month. Jane, 619-463-5169.

LA MESA/GROSSMONT area. Room for rent with own bathroom. Pet OK. Park view. Easy freeway access and shopping. \$550. 619-251-3835.

LEMON GROVE. \$475 plus \$100 deposit, utilities included. Furnished/cable TV, internet. Laundry. Shared bathroom/ kitchen. Male only. nonsmoker. No drugs/pets. 619-602-1824.

LINDA VISTA. Move- in special! \$480. 3-bedroom home. Ocean view, central, tropical yard. Quiet. Marble. Laundry. \$300 deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

MIRA MESA. \$565. Utilities and Internet included. \$250 deposit. Near freeways and shopping centers. Share bath. No smoking/alcohol/pets. Available March. 951-/01-1607

951-491-1607. **MIRA MESA.** \$700. Master bedroom with bathroom, large house, safe neighborhood, all utilities—gas, electric, water, cable TV— included. Washer dryer. No pets/smoking. 858-699-7870. **MIRA MESA.** Room for rent with own bath. Nice neighborhood. Female only. No illegal drugs or smoking. \$650, includes utilities. Available now. 858-382-1663.

NIRA MESA. Room in clean, quiet home. Pool, Jacuzzi. Near Miramar College, buses, recreation. Nonsmoking male, no drugs/pets. Available now. \$530, includes utilities. 858-695-9892.

Includes utilities. 858-695-892. **MIRA MESA.** Share beautiful condo. 2 master, 12x13 bedroom, private bath. \$800. Couple-\$1000. \$75. TV. No deposit. Washer/dryer. Patio. Outside smoke. Available. 714-539-1298.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom in large 3 bedroom, large balcony off bedroom, washer/dryer in unit, fireplace, wireless/ satellite. Steps to beach/bay. \$940. 858-488-33

MISSION HILLS. Room in sunny, bright 2 bedroom 1 bath. Partial view of bay. Laundry. Gardens, Garage negotiable. Parking, Female preferred. \$700. Cats ok, 619-254-4645.

ok, 619-254-4645. **MISSION VALLEY.** \$775. Share 2-bedroom condo. Own bedroom/ bathroom, additional entrance. No pets/ smoking/drugs. Available 4/1/09. \$200/ deposit, \$35/credit check fee. 858-568-1974.

MISSION VALLEY. Room/private bath in 2 story condo. Pool, spa. Cable, wi-fi, washer/dryer, utilities included. \$599, \$300/deposit. No smoking/drugs/pets,

MISSION VALLEY/USD. \$450 plus utilities, deposit. Quiet nonsmoking townhouse. Washer/dryer. Cable tv. Olympic pool, jacuzzi, sauna, security patrol. No pets. Available now, 858-495-9128.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$550, \$50 utiliti Great area. Above Mission Valley Mall, between El Cajon Boulevard/Adams Avenue. No pets, drugs, smoking, For appointment, 619-281-8987.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Large room, private bath in 2 bedroom apartment. Share with female and her dog. Nonsmoking. \$550, Month to month, 1/2 utilities, \$300/ deposit, 619-516-2454.

NORTH CLAIREMONT. \$530 plus shared utilities. Available now. Bright, suny room. Large house, yard. Shops/ restaurants/freeway close. Kitchen/ laundry. No pets/drugs. J.R., 858-337-1349.

NORTH PARK. \$1000, plus 1/2 utilities Roommate wanted. Beautiful canyor home. Master suite with small room Roommate wanted. Beautiful canyon home. Master suite with small room. Walk- in closet and storage. Big private bath. 619-282-8414.

bath. 619-282-8414. NORTH PARK. \$400/month, includes utilities. Clean, furnished, private room. Shared kitchen and bath areas in small



house. Month- to- month rental. 619-281-NORTH PARK. \$650/month, \$325/

deposit. Large room for rent. Quiet house on canyon. Share bath. Kitchen privileges, cable, Internet, electric included. Available 3/1/09. 858-997-

NORTH PARK. Female to share 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Off- street parking, garage. Large bedroom, quiet, spacious apartment. 3 blocks Balboa Park \$487 50 619-200.0557 619-299-0557 OCEAN BEACH. Male roommate wanted

2 bedroom. Close to beach. Yard, cable, utilities. No smoking, drinking, drugs, pets. \$550/month. \$550 deposit. Dennis, 619-523-1172, 619-971-3613. OCEANSIDE. \$650/\$600. Deposit \$300

Close to 76. Newly furnished. Pool, tennis court, 3000 square feet house. All included. No smoking. 760-634-2666. Included, No sinoking, 700-534-2000. PACIFIC BEACH, \$700. Large bedroom/ bath. Sunny, spacious house. Great location. Safe. Large kitchen, dishwasher, washer/dryer. Fireplace. Large yard. No smoking. Female only. 858-483-326.

PARADISE HILLS. \$500. Own entrance Quiet, Furnished, Includes utilities— refrigerator, microwaves, cable. All amenities. Female preferred. Close to freeways, shopping, and more. Parking spot. 619-434-4508.

spot. 619-434-4508. POINT LOMA, Point Loma Park. Room available, \$675. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Olympic pool, spa, washer/dryer, utilities included. Available now. Russell, 619-994-9965; 619-300-8424.

**POWAY.** \$500. 1 room, share bath with one another. Close to I-15, shopping and bus line. No pets, drugs, drinking. Call 858-679-9459.

RANCHO BERNARDO. Room includes free utilities, internet, cable, club membership, gym, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, racquetball. Near shopping/freeway. Nonsmoker/outside okay. \$650 + deposit.858-231-9996.

deposit. 858-231-9996. **RANCHO PENASQUITOS.** Black Mountain Road. 1 bedroom 1 bath. \$625 includes utilities, washer/dryer. Pool/spa. Deposit required/Month to month. No pets/smoking. 858-243-4374.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. View room \$500 plus \$100 deposit, utilities paid Easy I-15/56. Pool. No smoking/drugs, pets. Message, 858-538-9556. SAN CARLOS/LA MESA area. \$495

furnished bedroom. Great location. Includes utilities, all amenities. Laundry, sauna, Jacuzzi. Near lake/mountains. \$300/deposit. Nonsmoker. 619-469-3468

SAOD SAN DIEGO/BONITA. Two rooms in townhouse. \$475. Other \$525. Pool, jacuzzi. Many extras! Share SDG&E. Near freeway 54. Must have own phone 619-987-0865

619-987-0865. SANTEE. Share utilities and bath. \$500/ month, small deposit. Male preferred. Near shopping and bus. Available immediately. No smoking/drugs. 619-995-9659 or leave message, 619-562-

SERA MESA. Room for rent in 3-bedroom, 2- bath house. Game room (pool table). Pool. Washer/dryer. \$650, plus 1/2 utilities. 619-571-3361. PIOS 1/2 Unitlets. 619-5/1-3301.
SERRA MESA. Room in home. Close to major freeway, Mission/Fashion Valley.
\$650/month, includes utilities, cable, etc.
\$400 deposit. No drugs, smoking, pets.
858-277-7003; 858-449-6449.

SERA MESA. Room in very clean 3 bedroom 2 bath. No drugs/pets. Patio smoking ok. Female preferred. \$467/ month, \$467/deposit. 619-696-4946. Month, \$467/deposit. 619-696-4946. SPRING VALLEY. Furnished room for rent near Spring Valley Swap Meet. Utilities included. Very quiet neighborhood. Pet considered. I have dog. \$500/month. 619-889-7080.

TALMADGE. Room for rent in 5-bedroom, 2- bath house. \$625 plus 1/3 utilities. Near SDSU. 323-873-4660. unimes. Near SUSU. 323-873-4660. TIERRASANTA. \$595 plus utilities plus \$350 deposit. Washer/dryer. Very large room, furnished/unfurnished. Near all. No smoking, drugs, pets. Male preferred, 858-292-0145.

858-292-0145. TIERRASANTA. 1 huge room, own bath, closet, \$665. Second room \$500. Both rooms available April 1. Great location, near I-15/52. Male only. Furnished. Utilities included. 858-565-7664.

Sunny's Spa Oriental Massage Shower • Jacuzzi Relax/Renew Restore/Energize \$10 Off 30 Min. \$20 Off 1 Hour With ad. 619-583-5722 4938 El Cajon Blvd. (at Winona Street) 7 days 9 am-9 pm

Lic. #2006012505

TIERRASANTA. Near Qualcomm Stadium, bedroom with private bath, air conditioning, pool, trees, Internet, phone jack, gated community, quiet. No pets. \$595 plus utilities. 858-502-1240.

**UNIVERSITY CITY.** Private home, furnished, own bath. Female only. UNIVERSITY CITY, Physica nome, furnished, own bath. Female only. Nonsmoker/pets. References. Deposit required. Available immediately. \$600/ month includes all utilities/Internet. 858-453-6719. Cell, 760-622-7407. UNIVERSITY CITY. Share 4 bedroom

me. Relaxed atmosphere. Utilities cluded, Internet, high definition cable. ce neighborhood. No deposit. No ugs. \$650/month. 858-583-1534.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Bedroom/bath master suite. Have 2 semi-outside cats. Female only. No pets/smoking. \$625 plus 1/2 utilities. First, last, plus \$250/deposit. 619-291-7887.

619-291-7887. **UTC**. \$600/month, \$600/deposit, 1/4 utilities. Master bedroom/private bath. Digital cable. Pool, fireplace, barbecue. No smoking/drugs/pets. Parking. Great location. Tony, 619-300-5059.

#### ROOMMATE SERVICES

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE READER call 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Mon-day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

ALL AREAS-ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www. Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

#### RENTALS COMMERCIAL

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE READER call day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

OFFICE SUITES (3) FOR LEASE. Fully Building, 7290 Navajo Road. Suites are 672, 720, and 1020 square feet. \$1150-672, 720, and 1020 square feet. \$1150-\$1735/month plus maintenance charges. Building includes new HVAC, newly paved parking lot, landscaping. Elevator, plenty of parking, coffee cart. Located at corner of Navajo and Golfcrest. Near Cowles Mountain, Mission Trails, Lake Murray, Grossmont Center, SDSU, etc. For additional information or for tour, contact Yamel at 619-723-3734.

SOLANA BEACH commercial/office space, \$1679. 650 square feet. Three rooms plus full bath and storage. 118B S. Acacia. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-

OCEAN BEACH. 4653 Lotus Street. Garage. Dry storage only. \$175. \$175 deposit, required 3 months in advance. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH RETAIL/OFFICE space. 750 square feet. \$1500/monthly. Newly remodeled building. 4850 Cass Street. 619-890-9210.

619-890-9210. **PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1.50/square foot gross. Nice professional building. 640-1100 square feet available. Utilities included. 2180 Garnet Avenue. Agent, 110 Square 100 Squ 619-231-2727 x233

CARLSBAD VILLAGE. Offices in Old World Center, Two 650- square- foot World Center. Two 650- square- foot offices available, \$1200/\$1300. One 378-square- foot office, \$785. All on second floor, elevator/stair access. Other tenants include Irish pub, salon, clothing shops,

about vour health.

52

Sick & Tired?

Stress Kills!

We all know it, but what can we do about it?

Start getting adjusted regularly! But why

Chiropractic? Start at the cause: stress

(chemical, physical, mental) irritates our nerve

system. Your nerves control everything

Chiropractic gets stress off your nerve sys-

tem. Chiropractic is **natural health care** 

Elifesousce

Mission Valley -

Texas just south of I-8

not disease care like drugs and surgery.

etc. Ample parking in charming complex. Broker, McMurphy Developments, 760-Broker, 434-45

POINT LOMA/MIDWAY. \$1.10/square foot gross. Great street frontage at this high-traffic location. Lock in your low rate now! 3333 Midway Drive. Agent, 619-231-2727.

LA JOLLA COMMERCIAL SPACE. Room for rent in beautiful Wellness Spa, 17 years in La Jolla. Reception area. Restroom. Ideal for health practitioner. www.detoxspaoflajolla.com. 858-551-9228.

PACIFIC BEACH. Office space. \$1900. 1400- square- foot ground- floor office, ample parking. Easy access. 4455 Lamont Street, Suite #3. 858-270-4492

EL CAJON OFFICE SUITES with baths near courts and downtown. 360 square feet- 720 square feet. 140 and 152 W. Park Avenue. Vic Zeman, 619-442-8871. GASLAMP ART SPACE! \$150/ up. High GASLAMP ART SPACEI \$150/ up. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 100-600 square feet. 402 Market. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www. HughesManagement.net. POINT LOMA. 1264 Scott Street. Office/ commercial space. \$550/\$550. Upstairs, 550 square feet. 1- year lease. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

#### RENTALS HOUSES

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE READER call day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-

cay.
ALPINE. House, \$1300. 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus den, fireplace, air conditioning, dishwasher, carport, washer/dryer hookups, storage shed. Incredible view! Water, trash and sewer included. 619-200-8205. www.sdaptbrokers.com.

200-6203. Www.soapluitokeis.com.
BAY PARK. \$2650. Awesome bay views from this private 3- bedroom, 2- bath home. 2- car garage, carport, laundry hookups. 1893 square feet. 3252 Donely Street. Ready nowl Call Leigh, 858-483-3534 x12. www.Cal-Prop.com.

BAY PARK/CLAIREMONT. \$1800, \$1800 BAT PARK/CLAIREMUNT, S1800, S1800 deposit, year lease. 3. bedroom, 2. bath 1050- square- foot house. Canyon, quiet cul-de-sac. Garage as bonus room. Dragan, 619-884-9523. BAY PARK, 4- bedroom, 2- bath cottage

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9437. CLAIREMONT. Beautiful, quiet 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath canyon home. Mountain views. 2- car garage. Washer/ dryer. Fenced yard. Close to UCSD. \$2000. Agent: Michael, 619-886-9565.

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### **Reader Pop Quiz**

#### This week's questions

- 1. What group was playing at the Casbah the night that the sewage came up and flooded the whole front room, turning it into a cesspool?
- 2. Who was the black South African woman brought to London in 1810 and exhibited caged and seminude as the "Hottentot Venus"?
- 3. Although written in 1835, the play Danton's Death by Georg Büchner was never staged until what year?
- 4. The way Ollie describes it, on previous records, locals Emery Byrd wrote pop music typical of the period before the Beatles did what?
- 5. At least \_\_ percent of all house pets over age ten will suffer from cancer.
- 6. Name the guitarist with Les Claypool who adorns his head with a Kentucky Fried Chicken bucket.
- 7. What crisis does Barbarella's hubby suffer that triggers their epiphany about her emotional mechanisms?
- 8. According to Don Bauder's figures, until "just a bit ago," U.S. households had \_\_\_\_ more debt than income
- 9. Give the age of John Brizzolara's roommate.
- 10. The song "Chicken Milk Alien Babies" by the Homeless Sexuals has been the object of attention from the producers of what documentary film?

#### Last week's answers

- 1. In his lawyer's face. (p. 93)
- 2. June 19, 2008. (p. 26)
- 3. Little Walter. (p. 82)
- 4. 1968. (p. 18)
- 5. Yes. (p. 7)
- 6. County district attorney. (p. 113)
- 7. Copper. (p. 19)
- 8. Five to seven times. (p. 15)
- 9. "Credit card." (p. 95)
- 10. Finland. (p. 70)

Last Week's Winners:

Brian Albers, Dana Collins, Jeffery McMenamin, Jeanine Marie Miller-Cairns, and Paul Sandbo

Rules Pop Quiz answers must include page numbers from the Reader print edition on which the answers are found. First five entrants to deliver correct sets of answers win Reader T-shirts or \$25 (indicate preference). Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one winner per household or email address per month. Multiple entries will be disregarded. Mail answers to: Reader Pop Quiz, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or email to Quiz@sdreader.com; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

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Www.cendedig.itel. 619-290-0699. DEL MAR. Ocean-view 3- bedroom, 2-1/ 2- bath split-level home. \$4750. 3000 square feet. Gated. Tennis. Pool. Hardwood floors. Formal dining. 13222 Caminito Pointe Del Mar. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www. altavistamanagement.com.

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**DOWNTOWN.** \$1025. 1- bedroom, 1- bath apartment, dog OK with deposit, 682 square feet. Ask about lease terms. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. 1 bedroom

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DOWNTOWN. \$1350. 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo, 800 square feet, Balboa Park/. Hillcrest close, air, ask about lease terms. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

#### Downtown/Gaslamp Urban Míni Lofts

Historic Beaumanor, unique urban mini lofts, \$675-\$875. Several sizes, 12' ceilings, brick, hardwood floors, near Horton Plaza. Hardwood furniture available. Paid cable/electric/water. Most available. Paid cable/electric/water. Most include sleeping decks. Refrigerator/ microwave included. High-speed Internet available. On-site laundry, barbecue deck, outdoor kitchen. Impeccable renovation. No pets. 927 6th Avenue. Michael, 619-523-1517. beaumanor927@ yahoo.com. ht news/rent2127. http://www.sdreader.com/

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$486-\$625. Very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www. HughesManagement.net. sdreader.com/news/rent2099. www

**DOWNTOWN.** Comfortable rooms, \$450/up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Piaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. www. HughesManagement.net. www. Management, 019-201-2000 HughesManagement.net. sdreader.com/news/rent2097. www

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared rooms. Shared baths. Utilities included. Near City College. \$450-\$595/month. Weekly rates from \$125. 719 14th Street. Villa Victoria. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net. DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management. www.HughesMangement.

**DOWNTOWN.** Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

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Street. 619-232-3400. **DOWNTOWN**. Premier location. Furnished studios with full baths, from \$199/weekly. Two award-winning buildings to choose from with 24-hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sundecks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second and Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www. affordablehousinsd.com.

affordablehousingsd.com. DOWNTOWN. \$1450. Newer 1 bedroom condo, Union Square. Granite/tile, washer/dryer. Balcony/courtyard view. Secured building/parking. Spa/gym. Storage. Near Petco/Gaslamp. Lease. 619-669-1470.

619-669-1470. DOWNTOWN. \$1710. 2- bedroom, 2- bath apartment, pet OK, 1- car parking, balcony, views, large closets, pool, fitness, barbecue. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**DOWNTOWN.** Private/corporate. Near courts, Little Italy, bay. 17th floor. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Underground parking. custom sound, flat screen TVs. Storage. \$1950/month. 619-962-1515. DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in

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DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week, deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www. btelmeded.com

elmed-sd.com. **DOWNTOWN.** Gaslamp area. \$425-\$550. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Huges Management. HughesManagement.net. **DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL** 1 bedroom, \$895. Studio, \$785. Limited access building. Charming, quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities paid, on-site laundry, no pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

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com. 619-367-3333. DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$550-\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www. HughesManagement.net

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available. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333. **DownTown.** \$695 and up. Cozy studio. All utilities included. Laundry. Street parking. No pets. Close to Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724. **DOWNTOWN.** \$750 studio. Nice view, hardwood floors, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, on-site laundry. No pets. 1830 Market. 619-405-7368.

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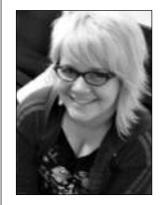
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### **Say What?**



Kayleen Konold | Age: 21 | Occupation: Barista | Lives in: University Heights

F'tchou! It's a noise you can use to mean whatever you want. It's a sound. It's a placeholder for whatever word you can't think of. Chills McGillicutty means it's cold outside. It's freezin' outside; it's chills McGillicutty. The ushe is short for "the usual." Same thing, different day, it's "the ushe." Same coffee order, different day, it's "the ushe." Same work. different day: same relationship, same money, same feeling: it's "the ushe." "How

you doin'?" "The ushe." Someone gets the same vanilla latte every day, it's "the ushe."

For past Say What columns, go to sdreader.com.

**DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE.** Large 1 bedroom, extra large patio, secured parking, 2 blocks Petco. Generous storage, walk- in closet, appliances. Small pet negotiable. \$1800. 619-278-1691.

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760-753-6575. ESCONDIDO. \$795. Huge 1 bedroom with balcony/patio and quiet open space between units. Gated entrance, air conditioning, fireplace. Pool, spa. Small pet OK. Se habla Espanol. \$500 off 1st month! 720 East Mission. TPPM, 760-815-6210.

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Agent, 019-298-5820. FASHION VALLEY. The Courtyards. \$1295. 850 square feet, 1 bedroom, underground parking, resort- like: pool/ spa/sauna/tennis. Lease. No pets/ smoking. ETS Realty, rosie2801@aol. com, 858-560-5564.

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724-0558. **GOLDEN HILL.** Duplex. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1200 square feet. Charming, light, front house of duplex. Off- street parking. Great block. 1 year lease. Washer/dryer on premises. Nonsmoking. Pet possible. 619-980-6700.

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westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333. LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1650. 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath condo, 2-car carport, washer/dryer in unit, pool, stove, microwave, balcony, dishwasher. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333. **LA JOLLA.** \$1025. Lovely studio, 1-1/2 blocks from ocean, large living/bedroom combo, full kitchen and bath, small dining room. 396 Kolmar Street, #5. www. centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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"Introductory special rate applies to first visit only.

### **BestBuys**

**M**y efforts to help my stressed friend Barbara prep for her upcoming nuptials continue. Her plea: "I want to arrive in style!"

"We have a white wedding trolley, the 'Felicity," said Erica Frost with Old Town Trolley Tours (619-298-8687). "It's a propanepowered trolley on wheels, so it

goes all over San Diego. It seats 22, and it can be used for pretty much anything the bride or groom would require. It's great you can see the people in it, and you can stand up in it, and there's plenty of room for the bride's dress. The inside is decorated with basic

flowers and fairy lights, but some brides dress it up with their own colors. On the back is a little platform, and there's a sign that says 'Congratulations.'"

If you'd like to use the trolley only for a photo shoot, "You can book it for just one hour, which is **\$410**. After that, the booking

minimum is three hours at **\$275** an hour. Those rates include everything — tax, fuel, and gratuity" ...and a tuxedoed driver and red-carpet rollout for passengers.

Michael Gunnerson of Rolls Livery (619-518-7655) took me through his lineup of classic rides. "We have a 1969 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow formal limousine. It's a stretch — four inches longer than the standard Silver Shadow. It's intended for just the bride and groom —

there's a privacy divider. If you want more passengers, we have a 1967 Silver Shadow that will carry eight. The exterior is still antique on that one, but the interior has been updated: stereo and CD player, TV with VCR/DVD player."

I was tickled by the pink '55 Cadillac Fleetwood limo. "That will accommodate six passengers," said Gunnerson. "There are seats that

fold out from the front seat to make a third bench. It's great for photos, and since it's a couple of feet longer than a regular Cadillac, there's even more of that classic boat-ride feeling."

Prices range from **\$175** for single cars, up to **\$1900** for multiple cars, with many options in between. "At weddings, all these cars come with red-carpet service, a Champagne or sparkling-

cider toast, and a tuxedoed chauffeur."

"It's intended for just the bride and groom — there's a privacy divider."

I pushed back even further into history. Heather Parker, owner at Carriages of San Diego (619-390-8255), told me that the company's wedding carriage was "all white on the outside, dec-

orated with silk flowers, and drawn by a white horse. It can fit with a modern wedding while still feeling old and romantic. Some brides will want their florists to decorate the carriage. We once had a florist for a bride. She wanted no flowers, just bows on the horse. That was fine; we try to customize where we can — once we had our drivers wear fringed jackets for a western-themed wedding."

The carriage, said Parker, "is ideal when the venues for ceremony and reception are close together. Usually, we'll meet the bride and bring her to the ceremony. Then, after the ceremony, we'll take the bride and groom for a short ride while everyone else transitions to the reception. This gives the bride and groom a bit of time to relax and talk to each other — it's the first time they've been able to talk all day, and it will be the last until after the reception. And it gives the photographer time to take lots of pictures. Then we bring the bride and groom to the reception for their grand entrance."

The company also offers a cream-colored

wagon. "It can be used to carry the wedding party or to give rides to guests." Rates depend on location and range and run from **\$550** to **\$1000**. "Typically, we're there for about two hours, but if someone wanted us

to give rides to guests, we could stay for four hours."

Finally, I looked into a limo bus. Russ Van Huizum at Top Dog Limo Bus (858-581-3644) said he was one of the first to bring a bus to a bridal bazaar. "At first, it didn't get the reception I was hoping for. But now it's one of the hotter tick-

ets for wedding transportation because people can fit their whole families. It's convenient for keeping people together in a group — especially if you have a separate

location for photos. We have leather seating for 28 to 30 people, a granite-top bar, adjustable lighting, and stereo. And we can take out the dance pole, which is nice when you've got Grandma on the bus." Average cost is **\$140** to **\$160** an hour.

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

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/ Kensington. \$300 moves you in! Free credit application! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths at \$1795. Gated community! Pool, spa. Free WiFi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab with printer. Laundry center with flat screen TVs! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Call today, 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific pacificliving@c rossfiremail.com. www. sdreader.com/news/rent1010.

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116 Palm. Call 619-474-4441. NATIONAL CITY. 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo, \$1150. Fenced patio, golf-course view, water/sewer/trash included. Washer/dyrer, storage room, parking. Cat OK. 1824 Via Las Palmas #16. People Helping Others Property Management 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com. NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$840. \$200 off. Large 1 bedroom. Upstairs. \$400 deposit. Air conditioning. Parking. Laundry. Garden setting. Gated. Caring management. No pets. Available. 619-584-7790. sunriseliving.com.

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Tozer. OCEAN BEACH. \$1350 plus \$1350 deposit. 2- bedroom, 1- bath cottage, patio, 1- car garage. 1 block to beach. Laundry. No dogs. Available 3/6. Open house March 1, 5pm-6pm. 4982 Cape May Avenue. 619-224-7583.

OCEAN BEACH. 4712 Point Loma Avenue, upstairs. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1500. \$1000 deposit. Parking. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher. 619-226-7368 or ww w hkhinc

OCEAN BEACH. \$1050. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. All amenities. Off- street parking. Laundry facilities. No pets. 4825 Del Mar #6. 619-758-9565.

758-9565. OCEAN BEACH. Renovated 2 bedroom, 1 bath available now. Parking, laundry. Two blocks to beach. No pets. 2175 Cable Street. Poseidon Property Group, 619-501-5866. www.poseidonproperty.com. OCEAN BEACH. Studio apartment for rent. Small patio. Ocean views, overlooking the cliffs. Laundry/Jacuzzi on site. Available March 1. Water paid. \$1000/month 619-223-7977. \$1000/month. 619-223-7977.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$925. Large 1- bedroom apartment, near beach, patio, laundry. No dogs/cats. \$650 deposit. 5047 Lotus Street. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1050. Large 1-bedroom apartment. 4811 Del Monte bedroom apartment. 4811 Dei mon. Avenue. All appliances, laundry, parking, near beach. 619-224-4215. OCEAN BEACH. 5055 Muir Avenue. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. \$895. Deposit

bedroom, 1 bath duplex. \$895. Deposit \$895. Refrigerator, stove. Close to beach. No pets. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.

OCEANSIDE. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms, \$995-\$1195, west of Interstate 5, just 8 blocks to beach, in vibrant downtown village. Beautiful, remodeled units. 508 North Nevada Street. See photos at www. wexfordliving.com. 760-433-8810.

OCEANSIDE. \$1050. 2- bedroom, 1- bath triplex, 6 blocks to beach and Downtown, 1- car parking, close to all. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619

367-3333. OCEANSIDE. \$1395. Move- in special. Ocean/golf course views with tropical setting. 2- bedroom, 2- bath roommate-friendly dual masters. Granite countertops, wood floors. Pool, spa. laundry, gated parking. Cat OK. 760-439 www.casavistaapartments.com.

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bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo. Gated. Next to MiraCosta College. Vaulted ceilings, wood floors, french doors. Private patios. Garage. \$1900, 858-735-5945.

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OLD TOWN. \$695-750. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios, alcoves, in excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242. OLD TOWN. \$900. Upper 1 bedroom, 2065 San Diego Avenue. Off- street parking, laundry on site. Near Thomas Jefferson School of Law. No pets. 858-

270-9086. **OTAY MESA.** \$1295. Condo, large 2-bedroom, 1-1/2- bath, 2- story. Wood floors, fireplace, new appliances, fixtures and tile. Washer/dryer hookups, patio and garage. 3153 Caminito Quixote. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com. **PACIFIC BEACH.** 2-3 bedroom, \$1625-\$1975. Large units, laminate floors, dishwasher, tandem parking and laundry. Cass/Agate. Near shops and freeway. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189. DADLEC DE ECOL.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$2700. 3 bedroom, 2 PACIFIC BEACH. \$2700. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Very large upstairs condo, locking entry system. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace. Washer/dryer, freight elevator, 2- car garage parking with door opener. Extra large storage unit, private balcony, Bay view. 3907 Gresham. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolam com

PACIFIC BEACH. 2- bedroom, 2.5- bath, 2- story condo. Private patio, on-site laundry, less than mile to beach, 3 blocks to bay, Hornblend. 858-740-8595.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. Very clean 1 bedroom in well- maintained complex bedroom in Weil- maintained complex. Upstairs with night light views, updated bathroom and kitchen. Includes 1 parking space. Cat OK. **Open Saturday 10-11.** 2112 Garnet Avenue. TPPM 858-00 0851

PACIFIC BEACH. Move- in special! \$2595. Townhome a block from beach. Large 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Fireplace. Washer/dryer hookups. Two- car garage. Refrigerator. Stove. Microwave. Dishwasher. 818 Emerald. 619-223-0254.



PACIFIC BEACH. \$1800. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs of a duplex. Laundry. Parking. Fireplace. Balcony. Open floor plan. No pets. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 PACIFIC BEACH. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Move in now. Block to beach. 2 parking spaces. Laundry in unit. Extra storage, dishwasher. 1100 square feet. No pets. 842 Agate Street #1. Call Leigh, 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACFIC BEACH. \$1150. Great 1 bedroom in immaculate property in the heart of Pacific Beach. Laundry, parking, no pets. 1656 Reed Avenue, #7. TPPM no pets. 1656 858-581-6415.

858-581-6415. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper level. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off- street parking, Laundry on site, no pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available March. Call 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1195. Junior 1 bedroom. Middle unit in 3- unit property. Stove, refrigerator, garage. All utilities paid. Shared lawn. Dog OK with additional deposit. Available 3/10/ 09. 1936 Reed. 856-270-2074. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Studio, 1- bath apartment, sunny and clean, 6- month lease. Fee. Free search at www.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Steps to surf. Located in small garden complex. No pets. 725 Chalcedony. TPPM. 858-699-3851. PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. 1 bedroom

quiet four-plex. Garage, yard, bright/airy, tile filloors, carpeted bedroom. Laundry hookups. No pets/smoke. \$1125. Lease. 1532 Chalcedony. 760-942-0826. PACIFIC BEACH. \$850. Studio with PACIFIC BEACH. \$850. Studio with all utilities paid. Stove, refrigerator. Large closet. Small fenced. yard area. Pet OK with additional deposit. Available now. 1358 Pacific Beach Drive. 858. 270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolpm.com.

delsolpm.com. PACIFIC BEACH. 1/2 off first month! \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2-4 blocks from Mission Bay and the beach. Store. Refrigerator. On-site laundry. 4408 Dawes Street. 619-804-3324.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, laundry facilities. Near I-5, minutes to Downtown San Diego/La Jolla. Available immediately. 3432 Del Rey. 619-222-9308.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1145. 1 bedroom. Large top-floor end unit. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry. Elevator. Pool. View. No pets. Available 3/25/09. 1433 Oliver. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage; small, private patio. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 4119 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1045. 1- bedroom, 1-bath remodeled apartment. Hardwood floors, granite countertops, private patio. 4331 Morrell Street. Xilarent.com. 619-

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT \$1495. Neat 2 bedroom, hardwood floors, quiet, residential. Steps to Mission Bay. 3918 Sequoia Street, Laundry. No pets. Long term. 858-454-1375.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1695. 2 bedroom, totally remodeled, block to ocean, 2 parking spaces. Ceramic tile in kitchen/ bath. All appliances Patio, barbecue. bath. All appliances Patio, barbecue. Patrick, 619-275-2977.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, upstairs, stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Available now. 959 Chalcedony. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 4067 Sequoia Street Nove in 2/26/09, \$2350. 3- bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome in Crown Point. Fireplace, washer/dryer, parking. No pets. Call Leigh, 858-483-3534. www.Cal-Pet

Prop.com. PACEIC BEACH NORTH. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, downstairs in quiet triplex behind 1859. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace. Parking. No pets. 1-year lease required. Available now. 1861 Chalcedony. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom with Parking. No pets. 1461 Missouri Street. TPPM 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. Apartment, \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit, parking. Near bus and beach. Small dog OK. 4426 Olney Street. www.centrecity.net. 619-

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1595/\$1745. 2 **FACIFIC BEACH.** \$1595/\$1745. 2 bedroom, 1 bath and 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 950-1100 square feet, balcony, views, intercom entry, dishwasher. Laundry. Lovely courtyard, heated pool, parking included or garage available. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom on beach. 6 month- lease. Pets under 30 lbs. OK. Roomies/co-signers OK. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670. PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. \$1545. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, garage space, coin laundry. 1 block to ocean. No pets. Available now. 830 Sapphire. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful North Pacific Beach property. Great amenities, view over Pacific Beach, parking. No pets. \$500 off at move in! 1530 Chalcedony. TPPM, 858-270-5847.

Chatcedony. TPPM, 858-270-5847.
PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. 3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse, parking included, in-unit washer/dryer, dishwasher. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 1433 Grand Avenue #1. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. **\$200 off first** month! \$1395; \$1000 deposit OAC, Downstairs. Laundry, parking. Great location. No pets. 619-226-7368 or www. bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1-1/ 2 bath in garden setting. Easy access location. Laundry, parking. No pets. 2155 Felspar Street. TPPM, 858-274-9250. PACIFIC BEACH. Upper 1 bedroom, \$1035. deposit \$550. New refrigerator, stove. Quiet, gated building. 4 blocks to beach. Manager on site. No pets. Available March 10. 4445 Fanuel Street. 858-883-3221.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. \$1195. 1 bedroom end unit in quiet 4- plex. Stove, refrigerator. Large, private fenced patio. Garage. Coin laundry. Nice shared front lawn with white picket fence. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 3/20 99. 1015 Opal. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolm com .com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1695 Move in now! 2 PACIFIC BEACH. \$1695. Move in now! 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome, contemporary design. Air conditioning, flat screen TV, granite and stainless kitchen, stained concrete flooring. No pets. 3509 Del Rey Street, #212. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1450. 2 weeks free rent. 2- bedroom, 1- bath condo. Yard, laundry, parking. 1710 Oliver Avenue. Available 3/1/09. email: melmarshall@ call 40<u>8-203-8313.</u> neast not or

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$795. 1 bedrooms from \$925. 2 bedrooms from \$1375. Parking, laundry, Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

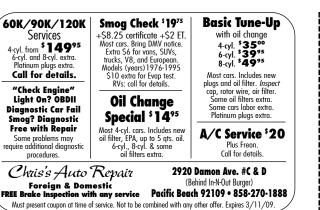
PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1450. PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT, \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large upstairs end unit. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, balcony, fireplace. Coin laundry, garage, no pets. 1- year lease required. Available 3/1/09. 4122 Jewell. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm. com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1425. 2 bedroom. 1 bah duplex apartment. Designer paint colors. 3 blocks to beach. 1 parking space. No pets. **Open Saturday 11:30-12:30.** 909 Chalcedony Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$995. Studio. Downstairs in quiet duplex behind 3970. All utilities paid. Free laundry. Carport parking. Available now. 3974 Honeycutt. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom cottage near transportation and shopping. Parking. No pets. Available now. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1900. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, balcony, bar, laundry. New paint/carpets/blinds. No smoking/ pets. 858-272-7616; 619-379-3771.









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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1775. Available now 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs unit. Parking, laundry, upgraded interior. Bike to beach and bay! 1524 Thomas #3. 858-483-3534 x12, www.cal-prop.com /w.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom. Large, upstairs, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, coin laundry. Gated entry, parking. Available now. 1448 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management. broker. www. Management, broker. www delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2300. 3- bedroom, 2-bath upper level apartment. Off- street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines. Available. 858-270-4492 x203. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1695. 2 bedroe Garage. Appliances. Steps to beach, restaurants and shopping. 734 Emerald. Owner, 858-272-9547.

Owner, 555-272-9347. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495. Newly remodeled unit above commercial on trendy Garnet Avenue. Private, controlled access with parking. Large bedrooms with skylights. Walk to beach, rentaurang, and observed. with skylights. Walk to beach, restaurants and shops. **Open** Saturday 10-11. 1322 Garnet Street, #201. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$200 off first month! \$1595. 2- bedroom, 2- bath apartment, 1100 square feet. Fireplace, balcony. Walk-in closets. Laundry. 2 parking spaces. No smoking/pets. 858-272-7616.

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$825. Large, quiet. Utilities included. Sun deck. Easy access to 1-5. No pets. 2176 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-0929.

Avenue. 858-270-0929. PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upgraded apartment, 3 blocks to the beach. No pets. Street parking. Laundry on site. 825 square feet. Move in now. 1073 Missouri Street. Call Leigh. now. 1073 Missouri Street. Call 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com. PACIFIC BEACH. \$500 off first month's rentl \$1425. 2 bedroom with garage, new carpet. Laundry. 1920 Felspar. No pets. 858-457-4509.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Move in now. 2 blocks to bay. Upstairs unit, bonus room for office/den. Garage, laundry, dishwasher. No pets. 4013 Honeycutt Street. Call Leigh, 858-482-353

483-3534. www.cal-prop.com. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495.2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, gated entry. Coin laundry, parking. Available 3/10/09. 1448 Thomas. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com com.

PACIFIC BEACH \$1600. Duplex, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New appliances, carpet, paint. Laundry room, private patio. Storage shed. 2 parking spaces. Pet on approval. 2685-1/2 Figueroa Boulevard. Owner. 858-273-1189.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2045. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer, on-site parking. Close to all. 1016 Hornblend Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2- bedroom, 2-bath apartment. Off- street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1050. 1- bedroom. Private, fenced yard. Pet OK! Quiet, single- story duplex. Generous kitchen storage. Remodeled bathroom. Parking. On-site laundry. 2112 Grand. 858-272-2172

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1125. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper duplex. Beautiful hardwood floors. Excellent freeway access. 2 miles to the beach. No dogs/smoking. Laundry. 2732 Hornblend Street. Available 3/1. 619-997-9383.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom above garage. Near bay! Cathedral ceilings, storage space, stove, refrigerator. No pets/smoke. Water paid. osit. 858-270-7497.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1- bedroom, 1- bath apartment, granite kitchen countertops, garage with opener. Immaculatel \$1100 with 6- month lease. One- month deposit. No pets. 1459 Hornblend, 858-245-9508 No pets. 1459 Hornblend. 858-245-9508. PACIFIC BEACH North. \$1195, 1 bedroom, large, upstairs, 951-A Missouri. Studio, \$995, redwood deck, 869 Missouri. Both: laundry, yard, gardener. No pets. Ocean 1-1/2 blocks. 619-275-2610.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095, 2- bedroom, 1.5- bath townhouse, will consider pet, 1-car garage parking, two- story unit. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1150-\$1195 Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 baths. New Hemodeled 1 bedroom, 1 baths. New carpet, new paint. Assigned parking. No pets. Available now. Open house Sunday, 10am-3pm. 1156 Hornblend. 619-818-1541. www.melroyproperties.

PACIFIC BEACH. First month free with Proceive Beach. First monitor field with apartment, \$1050. Upstairs, 1- car garage, laundry room, water/sever/trash included, 700 square feet. 1345 Grand Avenue #C. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Walk to the beach! 3 bedroom plus den, 2 bathrooms at \$2375. 1/2 month free with a 12 month lease! Free Application. Short lease available! Only 1 block from the beach! Located in the north Pacific Beach neighborhood with beachfront access only minutes away. Short distance to downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a guiet include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1995 rent. \$998 deposit 3 bedroom 2 bath Washer/ deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/ dryer. Dishwasher. Parking. 1- year lease. 1749 Reed Avenue. Call 858-490-1600 or kandrproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. 1 bedroom, view of ocean. Single- car garage, appliances. Just steps to beach, shopping, restaurants on Garnet Avenue. 728 Emerald Street. 858-272-9547. PACIFIC BEACH. Large 1 bedroom duplex, downstairs, lots of windows. Near bay. No pets. \$950/month. Available 2/ 15. 1971 Grand. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melrovproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, remodeled. Upstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Microwave. Coin laundry. Pool. Elevator. Garage space. No pets. Available now. 1433 Oliver. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Manacement, Broker. Property Management, Broker www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095 with move special! Large downstairs condo- quality, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near bay. Newly remodeled unit with granite counters, limestone tub enclosure, built- in microwave, new paint, new carpet, crown molding, mirrored closet doors, lots of cabinet space, on-site laundry room, assigned parking. No pets. Available now. 2138 Thomas #8. Call 858-483-

now. 2138 Thomas #8. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com. PACIFIC BEACH. \$950. 1- bedroom, 1-bath apartment, month- to- month lease, 1- car parking, pool, close to bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move- in Special: \$300 off first month's rent with 1- year lease! \$1075-\$1125/month: 1 bedrooms. 2 bedroom, 2 bath: \$1550/month. Spacious, remodeled apartments. 6- month or 1-year lease. Parking. Pools. Laundry facilities. Cats 0K. 2 blocks from Mission Bay. 3883 Jeweil Street. Call Manager, 858-272-0068. For photos, floor plans, virtual tours, see www. a p a r t m e n t s . c o m / tuscanapartments.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move- in special: 1 month free! Well- maintained 1 bedroom, \$900; and 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1150. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available now. 619-270-0031 fans, pool 279-0031.

279-0031. **PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1150. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Second level. Off- street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. 858-270-4492 x203. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. 1 bedroom duplex. Stove, refrigerator, wood floors. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. 4 blocks to ocean. Available 3/15/09. 4417 Dawes. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Propert Management, Broker. www.delsolpm

Morrell Street. Studio, \$895 with \$500 deposit. Quietunit right on Mission Bay. Laundry on site. No pets. Available end of march. 858-483-3221. PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. 3976

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedrooms at \$1195. \$300 deposit. 1/2 off first month/free credit application. Free poolside Wi-Fi. Sundeck. Cardio fitness center. Equipment and weight room. Across from Mission Bay bike trail. Spectacular views. Super floor plans. Limited availability. Cat friendly. The Pacific at Mission Bay, 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. p a cific at Mission Bay \_ pacificliving@ crossfiremail. com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/ rent1049.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2- bedroom luxury condominiums. 2 bedroom luxury condominiums. 2 locations. Hardwood floors, fireplace, washer/dryer. Pool, spa, new kitchen. Just steps to the beach. www.ApartmentFindersInc.com. 619-296-2787.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1345. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. No pets. Nice, shared courtyard. Coin laundry, garage space. Available now. 3711 Ingraham. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Manaement buckar www. Management, broker. www delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1445

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1445. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Nice and quiet property, two blocks to bay. Cn-site laundy, 2 parking spaces. **\$500 off 1st** month/ 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400. www.vilalaplaya.com. **PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1350. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. No pets. Near shopping, restaurants. 4413 Kendall Street. Agent, 858-272-4770.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. \$1545.2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large. Upstairs. Front unit. Stove. Upstairs. Front Unit. Stove. Refrigerator. Parking. Private balcony. Coin laundry. 2 blocks to ocean. Available now. 830 Sapphire Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. 2- bedroom cottage - style apartment, 1 - car parking, shared yard, walking distance to bay, beach, shops. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333

PACIFIC BEACH. Steps to the ocean. 1- bedroom cottage, wood floors, on-site laundry, off- street parking. \$1300/ month. 626 Diamond Street. 760-634-1746

1/46. PACIFIC BEACH. Large downstairs 1 bedroom, assigned parking. Balcony, on site laundry. Near beach and bay. \$1095/month with move: in special 1663 Diamond Street, #3. No pets. Call

858-483-5111 x10, www,melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus den at \$1795. \$300 deposit plus 1/2 off first month's rent! Free application fee. Free poolside Wi-Fi. Sundeck. Cardio fitness center. Equipment and weight room. Across from Mission Bay bike trail. Spectacular views. Super floor plans. Limited availability. Cat friendly. The Pacific at Mission Bay, 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. p a cific at m is si on b a y pacificliving@crossfiremail. com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/ rent1049. PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2

PACIFIC BEACH/LA JOLLA. \$1150. Spacious 1 bedroom cottage style near Tourmaline beach with large own garden. Quiet. parking, No pets/ smoking. 851-1/2 Agate. 858-459-1252 1352

PACIFIC BEACH. 4418 Bond Street #7 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$200 off 1st month. \$950/\$800 deposit. O.A.C. Downstairs, fridge, stove, on-site laundry, parking No pets. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2650. Clean, light and airv 3- bedroom, 2-1/2- bath and airy 3- bedroom, 2-1/2- bath townhome. New carpet. 2- car garage. Cathedral ceilings. Fireplace. Washer/ dryer, patio, deck, no pets. 1527 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 X203.

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bath apartment. Upper unit. No pets. 1 parking. Newer carpet. Nicel 2112 Balboa Street #10. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com. PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. Extra- large,

quiet, upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry, parking. Bright and sunny. No pets. 2228 Felspar. 858-270-0929. PENASQUITOS. \$1250. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse. Complete remodel— kitchen, bath, flooring, windows. Central air. 1 garage parking plus space. Cat OK. sabinalb@pacbell. net, 858-342-0338 net, 858-342-0338

POINT LOMA. Newly renovated apartment homes starting at \$1175! City/bay views, stainless- steel gourmet appliances, custom Euro-style cabinetry, bamboo laminate floors, sculpted bedroom carpets. Barbecue, fire pit/lounge, resort-style pool, oversized hot tub, brand-new fitness center. Pet friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place #2N. 619-223-6577. Gables.com. www.sdreader.com/news/ rent1003.

POINT LOMA. \$1175. Large 2-bedroom 1-bath upstairs apartment with new carpet! Laundry on site! No pets! 3612 Kemper Court #11. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com

POINT LOMA. \$1195 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, garage and parking, laundry, no pets, at 4359 Mentone Street #6. Agent, 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$1445. Spectacular 2 bedroom apartment with hardwood bedroom apartment with hardwoo floors. It's ready and waiting for you! you want the best, we have it. Thi you want the best, we have it. Inis unit has just undergone a condo-quality remodel in excess of \$30,000. The owners decided it was time to upgrade the property, which has been in the family for over 40 years. Gourmet kitchen with granite confidenced accuration state countertops, stainless stee appliances, all new cabinets, Italia appliances, an lew cabines, tailain ceramic tile floors and recessed lighting. Full ceramic tile bathroom with a granite vanity top. Clear glass shower enclosure and beautiful tile floor. The rest of the unit has refinished original hardwood floors that are like new. Crown moldings word added ac well ac new that are like new. Crown moldings were added, as well as new baseboards. All new hardware, light fixtures and ceiling fans. Nothing was left unattended. We also installed new vinyl windows. In fact, the entire property is being remodeled. Close to shops and fine dining. Walk to Shelter Island. Gated with intercom. Unit comes with one off. street narking Island. Gated with intercom. Unit comes with one off- street parking space. \$1000 security deposit and 1-year lease required. Application fee is \$30 per applicant. Excellent credit and references are a must. 2817-2831 Carleton Street. **E-mail you** 

Caneton Street. E-mail your inquiries to scott@ hendershawandassociates. com or call 619-846-6615. POINT LOMA/LA PLAYA. \$2795. Completely remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Laundry. Travertine floors. Granite countertops. Stainless steel appliances. Views! Private balcony. Underground parking. Secured building. Steps to the beach. Available now. 2955 McCall Straet 610.213 0114

Street. 61/247-2114. POINT LOMA. \$199 first month's rent ! Large 1 bedrooms, \$925/month. Parking, laundry. No pets. Available now. 619-523-3969.

POINT LOMA. \$925 or \$1125. 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment. New carpet, pool, parking, no pets at 2707 Camulos Street #13 or #8. 619-523-2411. Camulos Street #13 of #8. 019-323-2411. POINT LOMA \$1900. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Top floor. Bright, open floor plan. Views to Mexico. Washer, dryer. 2 parking spaces. Available. Pet OK. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www. 2 parking Alta Vista

altavistamanagement.com. POINT LOMA. 1/2 off first! Great location! Spacious 2 and 3 bedroom and 2 baths starting at \$1350. Garage, all appliances, balcony or patio. Pet negotiable. 3782 Tennyson #2, #4. 619-804-3325.

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#N. 619-222-9308. POINT LOMA/LOMA PORTAL. Condo, \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, dual master suites, secured building and parking. On-site laundry. 3140 Midway Drive, #A-308. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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Boulevard. 619-222-0152. **POINT LOMA.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath, hardwood floors, coved ceilings, bright, sunny. Fenced yard. Near Downtown, Shelter Island, restaurants and marinas. \$2500. 3135 Hugo. 619-267-6114 marir 6014

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POINT LOMA. \$1350 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Huge 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo. 2- car garage, large balcony, community pool and spa, laundry, no pets. At 3215 Midway Drive #702. Agent, 619-299-8515.

Agent, 619-299-8515. **POINT LOMA.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1350/month, \$1200 security deposit. Stove, refrigerator. Clean unit. Available now. Pets OK. 3110 Jarvis Street. Lance, 619-222-6020.

Point LOMA. \$1465. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. No pets. 800 square feet 3140 Midway Drive #A214. Call 858-592 0192. www.coll.com.com 583-0182. www.cal-prop.com

583-0182. www.cal-prop.com. POINT LOMA \$1565. Spacious 2-bedroom, 1-1/2- bath townhouse. Hillop ocean views! Private patio, new carpet, appliances, fixtures. Walk-in closets, saunas, recreation room, pool. No pets. Laundromats. 619-226-8158. POINT LOMA. \$1050, utilities paid. Large 2 bedroom apartment. Parking. 1537 Rosecrans #E. No pets. Open 619-224-0306. PDWAY 1 hpdroome \$015 Nice und

POWAY. 1 bedrooms, \$915. Nice, well-maintained complex with air conditioning, off-street parking, community laundry. Near all. No pets. 12529 Oak Knoll Road. 858-486-0109.

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POWAY. Beautiful 2- bedroom, 1.5-bath townhouse apartment. \$1325. Apply now! Only one unit available. This unit has just undergone an extensive remodel. The kitchen features all new cabinets, counterlops and appliances including dishwashe and microwave. The downstairs livin and microwave. The downstairs living area has Italian ceramic tile flooring throughout. Crown moldings, new baseboards and ceiling fan. Half bath with pedestal sink. Large private patio. The upstairs bedrooms have mirrored closet doors (master bedroom has a balcony with storage). Both bedrooms have ceiling fans. Full bath has tile floors and new vanity. All new two-panel decorative doors. All new hardware, light fixtures and blinds. Plush carpeting in the bedrooms. Unit is painted in designer colors. Property is gated with intercom and has controlled access parking. Unit comes nstairs living is gated with intercom and has controlled access parking. Unit comes with 2 assigned parking spaces (1 covered, with storage). Newly remodeled laundry facilities, 1 year old. Pool and spa. Friendly common area featuring barbecues and picnic table. Water and trash paid. Just one unit is available! Apply nowl table. Water and trash paid. Just one unit is available! Apply now! Application fee: \$25/each adult. Security deposit: \$500. Rent: \$1325 with one-year lease. Serious inquiries only. We do not participate in subsidized programs. Small dogs 15 pounds and under OK. 13340-13348 Community Road. Contact Mary at 858-679-0643 or at villagepines@cox.net to schedule a viewing and to apply. Scott@ hendershawandassociates. com.

POWAY, \$950, Nice 1 bedroom, Pool dishwasher, patio or balcony, parking laundry. Beautiful courtyard. No pets. 12500 Oak Knoll. Agent, 858-679-1789. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT. San Diego County Property Management is a full-service property management company. For a complete list of services, please call 619-220-4840. v@sdcpm.net.

RAMONA. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$895/month. \$200 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to shops. On-site laundry. Pool. Off. street parking. Habla Espanol! 1606 Montecito Road. Agent, 619-469-5010.

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bedroom, 2 full baths, remodeld condo. Pets considered. Parking, Jacuzzi, sauna. Laundry on site. Available now. Near SDSU, freeways. 858-395-8500.

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SAN MARCOS. \$1075. Manager's speciall \$500 off 1st month's rent! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New throughout, view, large balcony, carport, private storage. Gated, small complex. No pets. Call for appointment for showing, 760-son onew.

SERRA MESA. Spacious 3- bedroom 2.5- bath, 2- car garage condo. Hardwood/tile/carpet throughout. Multiple balconies/patio. Nice common areas with pool. \$1900. 619-804-0461.

SERRA MESA. \$1550. 3- bedroom. 2-JERKA MESA. \$1550. 3- bedroom, 2-bath condo in Woodbridge Condos. 2 parking spaces, all appliances, fireplace, pool. Move in 3/1/09. No pets. 9149 Village Glen #285. Call Leigh, 858-483-3534 x12. www.Cal-Prop.com.

SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with travertine, newly remodeled duplex, large patios, on-site washer/dryer. \$1200. \$900 security. 4753 Castana. Linda, 619-203-9233. SOUTH PARK. \$1125. 1 bedroom, hardtwood floors, nersonal natio on-site

hardwood floors, personal patio, on-site laundry, cat OK. 3008 Hawthorne. 619-300-1365, 619-588-4106. SOUTH PARK. \$850. 1- bedroom, 1-

bathroom apartment, upper unit. Wood floors. Available now. 3013-1/2 30th Street. www.stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

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TALMADGE/CITY HEIGHTS. \$299 first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850/ month. New floors, balcony, pool, barbecue. Pets negotiable. Section 8 OK. 610-284-1045

619-284-1045. **TALMADGE**. \$900. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Quiet building. Upstairs. Large rooms. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

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TALMADGE. \$1100. 2- bedroom, 1-1/2-bath townhouse. Very nice, stove and refrigerator. Near tennis courts. No pets. 4538 Norwood Street. Call manager Danny at 858-729-4125.

TALMADGE/ KENSINGTON. \$99 moves you in. Call for details. Free application fee. 2 bedroom at \$1125. Up to one month free! Adjacent amenities include cardio and weight facilities, computer lab, outdoor barbecue, billiards area, pool and spa. Fitness center. Business center. 4454 44th Street. 619-282-1191.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE. \$895. Large upper 1 bedroom. Bet the first to enjoy this new renovation. With maple laminate floors, IKEA kitchen/bath. Dishwasher, microwave, air. Courtyard, laundry, parking with garage option. Must see. 858-688-3046, 619-583-3270.

858-688-3046, 619-583-3270. **TIERRASANTA.** \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. New carpet. New paint. Washer/dryer hookups. Extra large kitchen. Large patio. Small yard. 2 parking spots. Pool. Tennis courds. No pets. 11035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. pets. 11035 Clairemo Agent, 619-692-4121.

**TIJUANA.** Nice 2- bedroom US- style apartment, secure parking. Marble countertops. Close to border. \$325/ month, \$200/deposit. 619-408-9740. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1075

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1075. Available for your consideration is this beautifully remodeled 1- bedroom apartment. Italian ceramic tile floors with granite accents. New kitchen cabinets with tiled countertops. New appliances including dishwasher and micro-hood. Crown moldings throughout. All new baseboards, new 2- panel decorative interior doors. Fully remodeled battroom with tiled 2- panel decorative interior doors. Fully remodeled bathroom with tiled shower enclosure, all new bathroom fixtures and vanity top. New light fixtures and ceiling fans. New faux wood blinds. Mirrored closet doors. Unit is painted in designer colors. Unit is painted in designer colors. Plush carpeting in the living room and bedroom. Building is gated with an intercom and has on-site laundry. \$600 security deposit. Will consider small dog under 15lbs. Seeking qualified applicant with excellent credit and references. 1. year lease required. Available now. 4514 Cleveland Avenue. Please call between 9am and 7pm. Contact Scott, 619-846-6615, scott@ hendershawandassociates. com.



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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Downstairs with fireplace, central air conditioning/heat, garden window, all appliances, full size washer and dryer. 2-car garage with remote and walk in from unit to garage. Walk to Antique Row district, close to shops. \$1725. Ready 1st of March. 4666 Utah Street #1. 619-683-9274.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 parking spot. On-site laundry. No pets. Nonsmoking. 4464 Louisiana Street. Call agent, 619-692-4121

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 parking spot, on-site laundry. No pets. Nonsmoking. 4464 Louisiana Street. Call agent, 619-692-

UTC. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Beautifully furnished 3- story townhome in UTC with all amenities! Call now! Agent, 619-471-1739.

UTC/LA JOLLA. \$1665. Dual master suites. Private 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo. On canyon rim, upgraded appliances, air conditioning, unit washer/ dryer. Sauna, spa. 858-829-2185.

dryer. Sauna, spa. 858-829-2185. UTC. 55+ spacious luxury living. Pool, spa. golf course. 1 bedrooms, \$1149. 2 bedrooms, \$1349. \$99 deposit OAC. Town Park Villas, 4633 Governor Drive. 858-453-0441. VISTA. Special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, remodeled, \$1095. Air conditioning, new carpet/ new paint, large patio, storage. Gated hillside community. 760-672-6405. www. melroyproperties.com.

#### **REAL ESTATE** CONDOS

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La JOLLA/UTC. Sunny, lovely 2-bedroom, 2- bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down, APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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4371. PADRES. 40th anniversary year! Individual/mini-season. Sit right behind home plate! Section 103, row 22. Days: Sunday, Wednesday, select Friday/ Saturday. \$45/ticket. 619-892-6773. SOUTHWEST AIRLINES. \$350. 2 round-trip rapid reward tickets. No blackout dates, but you must make sure there are rapid reward seats available. 619-992-7102

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SOFTBALL TEAM needs a pitcher, 2nd baseman, and left fielder. 619-295-0385. SURFBOARDS. 9'6" longboard, 7'6" round- pin nector, Call 619-296-4065. TENNIS LEAGUE. Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Join the year-round fun at the #1 league in San Diego. League is starting now. 858-794-1800. www.tennisleague.com.

**TOBOGGAN,** wood, 6' length x 18" width. For fun in the snow. Fair condition. \$55.

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seater, and Yamaha Waverunner III, 1996. Original owner. Tags paid through 2009. Will only consider selling entire package. \$2800. 858-688-3007.

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### BACK WHEN in the Reader

#### **Thirty Years Ago**

It was Saturday, and we had stopped in at the New Seed, the Pacific Beach natural foods emporium, to check up on the junk-food trade-in.... Cake mixes and frostings seemed the most popular choice of the junk-food traders, but we counted four packages of D-Zerta Lo-Cal Gelatin, one crumpled envelope of Sloppy Joe mix, boxes of Jelly Spoon Candy, chocolate Whip 'N Chill, Twin Low Calory Granulated Sugar.

- CITY LIGHTS: "TURN IN YOUR TWINKIES," March 1, 1979

#### **Twenty-Five Years Ago**

Dear Matthew Alice: I've been puzzled as to how the telephone company's time recording delivers the exact time whenever you dial it. And how come the recorded voice is always the same one?

D.E. Briggs, San Diego

Eighteen million Americans hear Jane Barbe speak each day — a number that must make Ted Leitner or

Howard Cosell stammer with envy. - STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP, Matthew Alice, March 1, 1984

#### **Twenty Years Ago**

The ugliest unit eyescape in Horton Plaza is the view straight on with your back to this kid store called Gymboree on the topmost level of the joint. Prob'ly the stupidest view of that stupid stoopid sharp-angled THING most people prob'ly think of when they think of the Plaza — that black/white/brown wedge of metaphorical CHEESE with the farcical ARCHES which make merry architecture REFERENCE but little (if any) nongratuitous architectural SENSE.

**"WHERE THE HIDEOUS MEETS THE INSIDIOUS.**" Richard Meltzer. March 2, 1989

#### **Fifteen Years Ago**

"I was really torn apart over JFK's assassination," says Ken Benedict, 41year-old drummer for Daytripper, a nascent, North County-based Beatles tribute act formed at the inspiration of 40-year-old Ed Semple. "I was only 11 at the time," Benedict continues, "but I knew he was a good man and...well, he was the president. What the hell do I know? I was 11. But I think the Beatles were there at the right time. Somebody needed to bring the nation out of this funk." - LOCALS: "WELL GROOMED BUT HIP."

John Brizzolara, February 24, 1994

#### **Ten Years Ago**

José Castrillón Henao was said to have cut a dashing figure on the streets of downtown San Diego. Partial to expensive Armani suits and accompanied by a flashy girlfriend, the Colombian native made the rounds of shops at the Palladion and galleries in Seaport Village, snapping up diamonds, artwork, and customdesigned furniture.

He frequented one of the best units at One Harbor Drive, the twin towers across the street from the convention center. His people told the staff at the condo complex that

INDIAN ARROWHEADS/artifacts. Must

they were in the tuna business and were using the computers inside their 26th-floor condominium to track fish movements via satellite.

But federal prosecutors say he was captain of a billion-dollar cocaine-smuggling empire for the Cali cartel.

Matt Potter, February 25, 1999

#### **Five Years Ago**

We talked, then, about Ginsberg's work, "Allen," said Mr. Kashner, "is a terrible, terrible judge of his own poetry, in a way."

"And there's so much of it." "That's part of the problem. So much of it that he let us finish writing it for him."

"Jack [Kerouac] certainly wanted to be Neal [Cassady] or like Neal." "I think he did. And, of course, Allen always was - I mean, when-

ever he wrote about Cassady, he would write about musculature; he was very taken with him physically.

"Allen had these fabulous crushes

= Ray Frey =

Auto Center, Inc.



San Diego Reader, March 2, 1989

on the straight world and men in the straight world. It was very, very important to Allen that Neal's teacher in San Ouentin had been a lover of the early homosexual activist Edward Carpenter [1844-1929], and Carpenter had been a lover of Whitman. So in this way they could trace their lineage." - READING: "SAM KASHNER: WHEN I WAS

COOL," Judith Moore, February 26, 2004

For more stories by these authors, go to sdreader.com.

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### SHEEP AND GOATS PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

**Denomination:** Assemblies of God

Address: Horton Grand Hotel, corner of 4th and Island, downtown, 858-560-1870 Founded locally: January 2009 Senior pastor: Bob Buschman Congregation size: about 50 Staff size: 1 Sunday school enrollment: n/a Annual budget: financed by First Assembly

Church Weekly giving: no collection taken

Singles program: no

Dress: casual to formal, but more casual Diversity: mostly Caucasian and African American

Sunday worship: services are Thursdays at 7 p.m. Length of reviewed service: 50 minutes Website: sdfa.org

"Our roots are downtown," said Bob Buschman, pastor of First Assembly, now located on a nineacre campus in Mission Valley. "In 1921, they brought an evangelist named Aimee Semple McPherson into downtown, and she preached in a boxing arena on First Avenue. She'd climb through the ropes and preach from inside the ring. Then they outgrew that and had to move to Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park." That led to the building of a proper church on

the corner of Second and Grape, and then another at Sixth and Fir. It wasn't until the early '70s that the church yielded to the congregation's need for parking and headed out to like we should go down here

and make contact with people."

town God Group," said

Buschman. "We appreciate

you coming out on this Thurs-

"Welcome to the Down-

Mission Valley. day night to worship the Lord with us." The group met in Buschman took over as one half of a Horton Grand pastor two years ago. And it was in 2008, as he was leavballroom — a black fabric ing Seaport Village with his backdrop spanned the gap family, that he first took notice between crimson carpet and of downtown's condo explobrass chandeliers overhead. sion. "I said to my wife, 'Who Banquet tables lined the sides is going to reach these peoof the room, and the cups for ple?' Our agenda was to bring coffee and water reflected the these people to Christ. We felt space's original intent. The like God was calling us back crowd was interestingly motlev — a fair number of freshto our roots. We came down here in October and Novemfaced Caucasian youngsters ber and rented a small room mixed with an older crowd in the Horton Grand as a base that ranged over multiple catof operations. On Thursday egories of age, race, and dress. nights, we had teams of peo-A blocky gentleman slipped ple praying in that room while in next to me sporting a Tshirt from Nothing Sacred Tatother people were out on the street, passing out info cards too on Market Street. A devil's and saying, 'Hey, we're thinktail curled along his tricep from ing about starting a service below his sleeve; an elaborately here.' We asked what people adorned cross took up most thought, and the response was of his calf. As the service began, he removed his ball cap. verv receptive. In January, we sent out a mailer to 5000 con-

Music was handled by First Assembly's Master's Comdos, and two weeks ago, we did a second mailing. We felt mission Worship Team, headed

shocks, battery, hoses, radiator. Fully loaded. 375 horse power. 619-282-6115. FORD GALAXIE. 1966. 2 door hardtop. Super good shape. Asking \$10,000/best. Private buyer only. Bought 1970 Hyattsville, MD. 619-223-9289. KAISER DARRIN. 1954. \$100,000. Currently being restored, should be currently being restored, should be finished soon. Freshly painted, new chrome, pine tint green. For pictures, www.myspace.com/avantibob. 760-782-0202.

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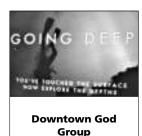
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up by a husband-wife pair on guitar, keyboard, and vocals. Their set was more inspirational performance than songleading — her voice twining about his in harmony on "We Are Hungry," then pleading for God's overpowering action on "Consuming Fire."

"As we worship You, God," she prayed, "would You just have Your way with us in this place, Father. Stir up a passion for You that goes beyond our emotions, beyond our circumstances or feelings. Stir it up in us as we surrender to You." Heavy reverb made the space feel bigger than it actually was as she intoned, "Stir it up, stir it up in our hearts, Lord" and promised, "I'm giving You my heart, and all that is within."

Buschman's sermon treated God's goodness and the problem of suffering. He began with a memory of squashed snails on a wet sidewalk and concluded. "because God is good, God would never intentionally grind you into the sidewalk of life ... and God will never accidentally step on you, because God doesn't make



Downtown \*\* Sermon content \*\* delivery  $\star \star 1/_2$ Liturgy  $\star^{1}/_{2}$ Music congregational \*\* band \*\* Snacks \*\*1/2 Architecture  $\pm^{1}/_{2}$ Friendliness  $\star \star 1/_{2}$ 

Poor to satisfactory (none) Good Very good \*\* \*\*\* Excellent Extraordinary \*\*\*\*

mistakes."

The rest of the sermon marched on systematically claims made about God's goodness (defined as "His moral attribute by which He chooses to bless people") backed up by verses from Scripture. The secret to unleashing God's goodness in your life, said Buschman, was threefold. "First,

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you simply have to ask for it." Second, fear God. Third, seek him. Then, reject the devil's attempts to assassinate His character and accept suffering for our own good. "God uses pain and suffering to create character and growth." Buschman closed with an assurance that "God feels your pain" and prayed for a shower of His goodness upon the congregation.

"I think we need to give God a clap offering," he concluded, and applause followed. Then the service ended — but the evening did not. Much of the congregation remained to sip, snack, and socialize. "We really just want to be an outreach," said Buschman.

What happens when we die?

"Well, it depends on whether or not we know Christ," said Buschman. "If we know Christ, we go to heaven. If we don't, the alternative is not very good."

— Matthew Lickona

Videos of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiegoreader.com.

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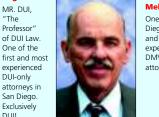
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