OUR FAVORITE DRINKS AND WHERE WE DRINK THEM

Who will replace Alan Bersin on the airport board? – See Under the Radar
April 23, 2009

NEWS & FEATURES

Our Favorite Drinks and Where We Drink Them
You don’t know how to make a Tora! Tora! Tora!? ........................................ 24

City Lights
Another Chinese import: citrus-killing bacteria; and Under the Radar .......................... 6
Stringers ............................................................................................................ 7

Letters ............................................................................................................ 15

Straight From the Hip
She’s the gorilla of my dreams ....................................................................... 16

Sporting Box
Draft-pick monkeyshines ........................................................................... 18

T.G.I.F.
YouTube more alluring than boob tube ....................................................... 20

Best Buys
Engraved on your heart ............................................................................... 21

Diary of a Diva
Fun for a five-year-old .............................................................................. 22

Off the Cuff
Marty Levin fell off the no-smoking wagon ................................................. 125

Puzzle ............................................................................................................. 126

Typo Patrol Results ..................................................................................... 134

Reader Pop Quiz ............................................................................................. 140

News of the Weird ......................................................................................... 143

Back When
Barabbas Road reaches out to intellectual skeptics ....................................... 147

Sheep and Goats
...and Under the Radar................................................................................ 147

CALENDAR

Your Week and Welcome to It ....................................................................... 57

Roam-O-Rama
The south end of Secret Canyon Trail, near Jamul ...................................... 60

What’s That You’re Reading?
Exit Here, by Jason Myers .......................................................................... 62

Classical Music Guide ...................................................................................... 68

Art Museum and Gallery Guide ..................................................................... 68

Pop Music
Blurt .................................................................................................................. 69
Club Crawler ................................................................................................... 72

Crasher
A chat with Vinnie Appice and a $16 shave .................................................. 91

Restaurant Reviews and Guide
Naomi swoons and awards five stars! .......................................................... 93

Bits and pieces of the old Old World ......................................................... 96

Worthwhile to shell out for pea soup ....................................................... 100

Theater Guide .................................................................................................. 104

Movie Review and Guide
State of Play provides adequate diversion ................................................. 107

ADVERTISING

Classified Ads
Antiques & Collectibles ................................................. 144
Appliances ..................................................................................................... 144
Automotive ................................................................................................... 146
Bicycles ......................................................................................................... 144
Business Opportunities ................................................................. 122
Career Training ............................................................................................ 117
Classes/Lessons ........................................................................................... 123
Computers ................................................................................................... 144
Counseling/Support ..................................................................................... 125
Electronics .................................................................................................... 144
Employment Services .................................................................................. 117
Furniture ....................................................................................................... 144
Garage Sales ................................................................................................ 145
Help Wanted .................................................................................................. 115
Massage ...................................................................................................... 123
Miscellaneous For Sale ............................................................................... 145
Motorcycles ................................................................................................ 146
Music ........................................................................................................... 127
Natural Health & Fitness ............................................................................ 124
Natural Health Directory ............................................................................ 132
Notices .......................................................................................................... 125
Parent Resources ........................................................................................ 124
Personals ..................................................................................................... 127
Pet Central ................................................................................................... 138
Photo ............................................................................................................. 144
Real Estate ................................................................................................... 144
Rentals ......................................................................................................... 129
Roommates .................................................................................................. 129
Services Directory ....................................................................................... 130
Sports ............................................................................................................ 144
Stage Notes .................................................................................................. 125
Tickets .......................................................................................................... 144
Travel & Getaways ..................................................................................... 127
Wanted/Trade ............................................................................................. 144
Wedding/Party Guide ............................................................................... 125

Display Ads
Automotive ................................................................................................... 139
Career Training ............................................................................................ 138
Getaways ..................................................................................................... 57
Great Escapes ............................................................................................... 58
Health and Beauty ........................................................................................ 40
Help Wanted .................................................................................................. 115
Instruction ................................................................................................... 124
Music ........................................................................................................... 127
Rentals ......................................................................................................... 136
Research Studies .......................................................................................... 31
Services .......................................................................................................... 125
Singles Events .............................................................................................. 66
Wedding Guide ............................................................................................. 65
### Affordable PPO Health Plans

For Individuals and Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age*</th>
<th>Male Rates</th>
<th>Female Rates</th>
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*Call for rates based on your age.

**Co-pay Office Visit**
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $60
- $70

**Co-pay Preventative Care**
- $25
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $60

**Co-pay Lab Exam**
- $25
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $60

**Co-pay Well Woman Exam**
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $60
- $70

**Co-pay Urgent Care**
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $60
- $70

**Co-pay Hospital**
- $250
- $300
- $350
- $400
- $450

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- $250
- $300
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A Green Threat to Our Groves

By Alastair Bland

Should it appear in California, there might be no stopping it: citrus greening, or huanglongbing. The fearsome citrus-killing bacterium, first seen in China in the early 1900s, has spread steadily across the continents. It recently hit Brazil several years ago, and is now wreaking devastation on the orchards of Florida, where some magnates worry that the $9 billion industry could become commercially defunct within hopefully deflect — a similar invasion.

The local alarm comes with good reason. Huanglongbing travels via an insect vector — the otherwise relatively harmless Asian citrus psyllid, or Diaphorina citri — and last June, this little insect appeared in Tijuana. Three months later...

Neal Obermeyer

continued on page 8
STRINGERS

Games Gangs Play
By Dayn Richardson, 4/17/09
Clairemont — A search by gang investigators of the San Diego Police Department began on Tuesday for a male teenager who shot and wounded a 20-year-old man at a Clairemont recreation center.

The victim was standing with friends near the basketball courts at the North Clairemont Community Park on Bannock Avenue around 9:10 p.m. Monday night when they were approached by another group of males, said San Diego police Sgt. Bob Dare. At least one of the men in the group issued a challenge and the victim started to walk away, but one of the men pulled out a weapon and shot the victim in the back, Dare said.

The gang members then got into a small white car when someone in the park threw a soda can at the vehicle. The gunman then fired several more shots, none of which hit anyone. The suspected shooter was described as a male Latino 16 to 20 years old with a shaved head and tattoos. He was wearing a Padres shirt and blue jeans.

The victim was brought to a hospital and is expected to have a full recovery.

Comments

1. Gang-bangers are nothing but domestic terrorists, and ought to be treated as such. In fact, we need to start using the death penalty in a area where gang activity is high. So why the title games gangs play? Oh wait I know why because they said the shooter was a latino male with a shaved head and tattoos. I guess every latino with a shaved head and tattoos is a gang member. You people are a bunch of stupid azz racist dorks!!!!!

2. “The suspected shooter was described as a male Latino 16 to 20 years old with a shaved head and tattoos. He was wearing a Padres shirt and blue jeans.” Yeah, that narrows it down...he should be in custody in no time.

3. In the article they didn’t say anything about the shooter being a gang member or that this shooting happening in an area where gang activity is high. So why the title games gangs play? Oh wait I know why because they said the shooter was a latino male with a shaved head and tattoos. Even if he isn’t a gang member he should be treated as if he were. I do not like white gangs either. The Bandits got off easy in this country.

4. It stands good to reason that a 16-20 year old Latino male with tattoos and a shaved head who is in a group of people who shoot at an innocent and/or unarmed person then drive off is a gang member. Even if he isn’t a gang member he should be treated as if he were. I do not like white gangs either. The Bandits got off easy in my opinion.

Julio’s Gone, Not Forgotten
By Linda Cox, 4/17/09
City Heights — All that remains of Julio’s Mexican Restaurant is the tall sign at the corner of University Avenue and 45th Street.

Julio Arreola and his brother Olimpio ran the restaurant for 35 years before they lost their lease and closed the business in July of 2006. In the weeks before closing, Julio told customers that they had originally owned the property but had sold it years ago and leased it back. He said the new owners had resold it and that a pawnshop would replace the restaurant.

The pawnshop used the restaurant building and operated for about a year before having a clearance sale in 2008. Even while the pawnshop operated, the sign remained.

The building stood empty for several months and was gradually dismantled. The walls were knocked down during the first two weeks of April 2009.

A demolition worker at the site said he had no idea what would be built there next.


Amtrak Management Train Wreck
By William Harper, 4/15/09
Solana Beach — The day before Easter, Saturday, April 11, the Solana Beach train station was crowded with people awaiting the northbound Amtrak Pacific Surfliner No. 769. A lot of baseball fans, most of them wearing Bosox T-shirts, were headed for Anaheim to see the Angels vs. Red Sox game. Many other train-ticket holders were seemingly there to entrain for Orange and Los Angeles County holiday gatherings.

The train appeared down the line at 10:02, two minutes ahead of schedule. It stopped...he should be in custody in no time.

As some passengers pressed for standing room for the short distance to Orange County destinations, the conductor said, “If a hundred people get killed, I will go to jail.” He said “they” didn’t give him enough coaches.

Before he reboarded the train, the conductor said there would be another train heading north in 45 minutes. Dozens of grumbling cus...
**Green threat**
continued from page 8

A psyllid was found in San Diego, in an insect trap in a lemon tree near the Sweetwater Reservoir, south of Lemon Grove. Since then, hundreds have been detected near the reservoir and to the east, in Jamul, Ocotillo, El Cajon, Tecate, and Dulzura as well as Imperial County and south of the border, though the insects have all tested negative for the bacterium and the disease has not yet been seen in trees.

“That doesn’t mean it’s not already here,” says Bob Blakely, director of industry relations with California Citrus Mutual, a trade organization.

Such uncertainty derives from the quiet nature of the disease, Blakely explains; once huanglongbing infects a tree, it lurs for a latent period of several years — often five or six — before symptoms appear. “Once you see the symptoms, the disease has usually spread all through the orchard.”

There is no cure for citrus greening, making the presence of the huanglongbing bacterium in combination with a psyllid infestation a recipe for disaster. “So we really have no choice now but to act under the assumption that the disease is already here,” says Earl Rutz, who grows 20 acres of Valencia oranges in the Pauma Valley. “Basically, we have to control the psyllid.”

Huanglongbing spreads when an infected psyllid gnaws into the leaves or bark of a tree to feed. The insect also lays its eggs on the tree, and while the progeny of an infected psyllid will not carry the huanglongbing bacterium, the nymphs are likely to be hatched into a tree upon which the parent insect has fed; thus, the next generation picks up the bacterium. As they mature and move outward, the insects can spread the disease literally as fast as the wind blows.

The first symptom to appear is an irregular yellow blotchiness that spreads over the fruit. The asymptomatic period may last for months. As the disease advances to other limbs, the trunk of the tree and the branches begin to take an irregular yellow blotchy green, and while the progeny of an infected tree is uprooted and burned it along with its neighbors. Vast groves in Florida have come to such ruin. According to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Asian citrus psyllid appeared in Florida in 1998, presumably introduced from Brazil, where the insect was already well established. Symptoms of citrus greening were first seen in Florida in 2004 and a year later in Florida, which produces 70 percent of the United States’ citrus crop. Most of the fruit is juiced. Since 2005, huanglongbing has destroyed roughly 16 percent of the state’s trees, reducing acreage from 750,000 acres to 650,000 today. Some reports have suggested that as many as 100,000 more acres could be infected.

The unraveling disaster in Florida has cast a dark shadow over California’s citrus industry, where some 400 growers produce a quarter of the United States’ citrus crop and most of the nation’s fresh fruit. Ted Batkin, president of the Citrus Research Board, based in Tulare County, says that his organization has had to put several projects on the back burner, including development of improved irrigation and harvest techniques, fertilizing methods, and consumer-research studies, in order to focus entirely on fighting the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing.

Earl Rutz, who sits on the Citrus Research Board as chair of the disease committee, calls the situation in California an “emergency” and says that the state faces two particular challenges. First, the latent period of the huanglongbing bacterium after infection makes locating the disease in its early stages impossible, though the bulk of the Citrus Research Board’s current work is aimed at early detection. One potential solution would be a sensory apparatus fixed to a robot that travels through an orchard, “sniffling” each tree for organic compounds released by the bacterium.

The second challenge is presented by the thousands of backyard citrus trees in San Diego alone that could harbor the Asian citrus psyllid. To educate residents about the importance of identifying and eliminating the insect, the Citrus Research Board has hired Nuffer Smith Tucker, a San Diego public relations firm, to conduct outreach, and a website — californiacitrusthreat.org — has been launched to portray continued on page 12

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By Dorian Hargrove, 4/17/09

Prefer to Defer
By Dorian Hargrove, 4/17/09

Downtown San Diego —

According to the city’s five-year financial outlook and 2010 budget, the backlog of repairs to city streets, sidewalks, and storm drains, and upkeep for libraries and fire department and park facilities falls somewhere between $800 million and $900 million.

Last month the mayor announced the financing of $102 million in bonds for capital improvements. In addition, $11.8 million was set aside from land-sale proceeds for deferred maintenance projects in the 2010 budget.

While the mayor and his financial team are chipping away at the backlog, some council members and representatives from the San Diego Taxpayers Association say the figures the mayor’s office is using are outdated.

At the April ’15 Budget Committee meeting, Lani Lutar, president of the San Diego Taxpayers Association, was the first to mention deferred maintenance projects during a ten-minute presentation on ways the city can return to financial solvency.

“This $900 million — those figures are three years old. Based on that, you can assume that the backlog could be closer to $1 billion, and that’s a pretty conservative figure,” said Lutar.

In response, the city’s chief financial officer, Mary Lewis, said the city has received current assessments for the cost of street, sidewalk, and storm-drain repairs but awaits submittal of the facilities assessment. “Also, the $900 million — while it’s been our working assumption — does not take into account some of the work that has happened over the past three years.”

The Urge Remains
By Ken Harrison, 4/17/09

Encinitas — For over a year, rumors have flown around Encinitas that an In-N-Out Burger would move onto a site formerly occupied by Burger King and a 76 gas station on Santa Fe Drive. The end of the town’s Double-Double dream occurred last week.

A sign has been posted on the fenced-in site notifying the community that the Harwood Group will be building a two-story medical center.

The site is across the street from Scripps Memorial Hospital. In-N-Out officials were aware of the property but would not confirm any past interest in the old building or how the rumor may have started.

“We want to be in Encinitas, but finding the right property is pretty challenging,” said In-N-Out vice president of development Carl Van Fleet. “We need a minimum of 45,000 square feet, and we select our locations very carefully.”

Doug Harwood, the project’s developer, said he’d love to co-partner with In-N-Out. “The cardiologists on the second floor would love it, but it would be hard to rent to dieticians.”

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Go to www.museumofmakingmusic.org for tickets and detailed info.
Then we all said "Salud".
- the end -
Green threat

images of the insect and infected trees to the public.

Since September, a quarantine in San Diego and Imperial counties has restricted transportation of leaves, branches, and other tree parts known to host the insect, but the concern among officials and industry reps is that people may unknowingly transport the psyllids on fruits harvested from trees in their yards. Officials with several government bodies are working to involve backyard citrus-tree owners in eradicating the pest. Steve Lyle, spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, says that approximately 327,000 flyers have been dispersed strategically through parts of Imperial and San Diego counties. State employees are also conducting door-to-door extermination work. Nearly 4000 back-yard trees have been sprayed to date.

Most of the psyllids found so far have been caught in traps or vacuumed off citrus leaves near Highway 94 and Interstate 8, and inspectors are currently looking at trees one by one between San Diego and Calexico, applying insecticides to all citrus trees within 400 meters of detection sites. As of March 31, nearly 1300 insects had been discovered at 173 sites in San Diego and Imperial counties. In some cases, single trees contained hundreds of adult insects, constituting what Rutz terms “a mature infestation.”

“That means you’ve got a full life cycle and that they’re breeding,” he says.

Meanwhile, a similar eradication effort is underway in northern Baja California and Sonora, where the U.S. Department of Agriculture is assisting Mexican authorities as they place traps and spray suspect trees. A total of 280 psyllids have been found just south of the international border since last June. The United States has supplied $1.2 million to the Mexican extermination project, and on April 29 and 30 officials from Mexico’s citrus industry will meet in San Diego with United States industry stakeholders to discuss further cooperative strategies that might stop the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid. Officials have pointed out that only a collaborative effort can prevent a disaster.

According to Lyle, commercial citrus operations are expected to address their own infestation problems, but the two most effective pesticides — Merit and Tempo — pose a dilemma for farmers like Al Stehly. Stehly manages 200 acres of certified organic oranges, lemons, and grapefruit near Valley Center, and a single application of either pesticide to his trees will result in withdrawal of certified organic status by the United States Department of Agriculture.

“Maybe what this means is that we’ll no longer have organic citrus in California,” says Stehly, who plans to wait until absolutely necessary to treat his orchards. Currently, Stehly practices “integrated pest management,” a system designed to eliminate most harmful insects, but not all.

“The idea is to knock them down and allow the beneficial insects to prey on the remainder, but citrus greening is a new one for agriculture,” he explains. “It only requires a single insect to transmit the disease, so you can’t leave 5 percent of the psyllids for other insects to eat. Just one psyllid can kill your entire orchard if it’s got the bacteria.”

Developing disease-resistant citrus varieties would be ideal, says Stehly, but not if it took genetic modification to get there.

“Again, that would mean organic farmers couldn’t use it.”

The Citrus Research Board’s Batkin says that isolating a variety of citrus naturally tolerant of the huanglongbing bacteria is a very likely possibility — but not an answer.

“The goal is not to find a tolerant variety, but to find a solution that we can apply to all the trees to save all the varieties.”

Finding a disease-resistant lime, for example, would not save the orange industry, Batkin points out.

Batkin, too, is an organic farmer, and he concedes that the Citrus Research Board and other investigators have made little to no progress in developing organic sprays effective against the Asian citrus psyllid.

Stehly says that in the worst-case scenario, he and other farmers — organic or not — might have to invest in new crops.

“I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t already looking at alternatives to citrus. Wine grapes are a possibility out here. And grapes. That would be a good crop.”

In spite of the quarantine lifted against San Diego and Imperial counties last summer, 17 Asian citrus psyllids were discovered in early March near Niland, in northern Imperial County. The quarantine zone was subsequently edged northward to include part of Riverside County, but this abrupt jump reveals just how easily a moderate breeze could disperse the psyllid. Exactly how the insect first arrived in Tijuana and San Diego no one knows, but the likelihood is very real that the disease is already here. That would give the industry several years before the first branches turn yellow and the first fruits go blotchy green.
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Ollie

The right place with the right drink.
Call in and tell us the best/worst place to get a drink in San Diego.

NEXT WEEK: Barnaby Monk, writer of “Club Crawler,” and Ed Bedford, writer of “Tin Fork” (the Reader’s cheap eats reviews).

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Pass The Kudos, Please

He has done it again!! That Ollie guy, your writer, has sucked me in again!! I read his story a few weeks back and read this story about the Extreme-X dude (“San Diego’s Superhero,” Cover Story, April 16). Ollie has a special way of coming off to readers like myself. I enjoy reading his work. I saw him on KUSI news too. He is truly an asset to your team, and I wanted to mention that to you guys. Nothing more, nothing less. He has a special way with words, clearly. Keep up the good stories, Ollie! Please pass on the kudos to him!!

Aaron Mathison
Chula Vista

Reader Captured

Re Matthew Lickona’s story “Church on Sunday?” (Cover Story, April 9).

It would be an understatement to say I was his captive audience from beginning to end. Mr. Lickona’s article sparkled with vitality, style, and information. I could smell the incense and hear the rustle of heavy silk. I marveled over the Chaldean Mass and its “element of strangeness.” Thus, when the story finished on page 48, I was still busy watching Father Jon Braun, “chalice in one hand and spoon in the other.” I did not want the story to end. I did not want to leave this fascinating voyage of discovery.

It’s comforting to know that your paper continues to serve the public — especially during these hard times — with excellent reading from your treasure trove of writers. Thank you.

C. McLaren
Coronado

Saturday Sunday Sabbath

Re Mr. Matthew Lickona’s article: “Church on Sunday?” (Cover Story, April 9).

Early Christians worshiped on Saturday, or the Sabbath. Christ, while observing the Sabbath, set Himself in word and act against this absurd rigorism that made man a slave of the day. He reproofed the scribes and Pharisees for putting an intolerable burden on men’s shoulders (Matthew 23:4) and proclaimed the principle that “the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). He cured on the Sabbath and defended His disciples for plucking ears of corn on that day. In His arguments with the Pharisees on this account, He showed that the Sabbath is not broken in cases of necessity or by acts of charity (Matthew 12:3 sqq.; Mark 2:25 sqq.; Luke 6:3 sqq.; 14:5). St. Paul enumerates the Sabbath among the seven holy days (Colossians 2:16; Galatians 4:9–10; Romans 14:5). The gentle converts held their religious meetings on Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Paul preached on the Sabbath (Acts 13:14).

So what happened? Why did Christians stop going to church on Saturday and start going on Sunday?

The Roman Emperor Constantantine, after winning a battle, became a Christian. In 321 AD, he issued an edict forbidding work on Sunday. Christians in general had hitherto held Saturday as sacred. In 324 AD, the emperor formally established Christianity as the official religion of the empire.

The Catholic Council of Laodicea, 363 AD, Canon 29:

“Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord’s Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be Jews, let them be anathema (an abomination or curse) from Christ.”

And that’s how Christians started worshiping on Sunday instead of Saturday.

Name Withheld by Request via email

Truth Serum

While I know it will be a terrible strain for everyone, could we possibly inject some truth into the “90 percent of Mexico’s guns come from the U.S.” issue (“Mommy, Why Are They Shooting at Us Again?” Cover Story, April 2). The truth is a little closer to 17 percent: foxnews.com/politics/elections/2009/04/02/north-percent-guns-mexico-fraction-number-claimed/.

And while I know it will be even more of a strain, could we at least use some common sense here? The Mexican drug cartels are run by people with connections to international crime syndicates, with literally millions of dollars at their disposal. If they can get raw heroin and cocaine, why would they not be able to get any weapons they want? Steven Moschak
via email

A Name Means Nothing

This is Chaos Rabbit with my little input and intakes on some of the comments left on your letters page.

This is in response to all these people who are frothing at the mouth over the response to the article called “My Gender Is Bunny” (Cover Story, March 26). First off, as far as the article itself goes, the entire article could be summed up in three letters: what the f**k is this about? This article is all over the place. We’re talking about guys being changed into chicks, online dragons, virtual reality, “he” being called “she.” It’s all like one busy ride. But I waded through the article, said, okay, that was about as interesting as having a spike jammed up my nose, but I got through it.

Now, I’m sitting here reading all the people whining in, “This isn’t right. He wants to be called a she. Why can’t you refer to him as a she?” Folks, look at my name. My name is Chaos Rabbit. But guess what, I’m not really a rabbit. You know, you can call something something, but the bottom line is, if you’re born with a certain kind of chromosome, whether it be X or Y, you are what you are.

If it’s an innie, you’re a girl; if it’s an outie, you’re a guy. And frankly, it doesn’t matter if you go in and have surgery to change yourself into a male, a female, or a table lamp in outward appearance. You are what you are. The rest of it is just b******t. You’re trying to cover up and become something you’re not.

As far as these people who are saying, “Well, you should respect this person. If they want to be called a she, you should call them a she.” Hey, I want to be called the emperor of Wyoming. That doesn’t make me the emperor of Wyoming, and the name Chaos Rabbit doesn’t really make me a rabbit.

One of the big problems we have in our society lately is everybody is all whiny, touchy-feely about trying to embrace all the different active lifestyles. “You should embrace their lifestyle. You should respect their choices.” Sometimes their choices are stupid, idiotic, and moronic.

And “lifestyle” is an idiotic word; to quote George Carlin, “Hey, Genghis Khan, in an active sense, had a nice lifestyle. Jeffrey Dahmer had an alternative lifestyle.” If you’re a guy, you’re a guy. If you’re a girl, you’re a girl. If you want to play dress up and have the money to make yourself into something you’re not, fine. But let’s call a rose a rose, let’s call a guy a guy, and let’s call a girl a girl.

As far as this development

continued on page 55

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San Diego Reader April 23, 2009
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

They say that people are attracted to one another because of pheromones that we can smell. What would happen if you took pheromones from a woman that I’m attracted to and applied them to a chimp or a gorilla or a bear?

Would I be attracted to the animal too?
— Love R.
Bay, San Diego

Again we run into our old friends “they.” Always full o’ facts, they are. Like, maybe you could fall for a grizzly if it just smelled right. That the only thing standing between you and a meaningful relationship with a polar bear — nuzzling each other, writing love notes to Al Gore over lattes at Starbucks — is that funky wet polar bear stink. Not sure whether you were looking forward to having an ursine gal pal or not, but considering all the poop we know about pheromones, I hope it’s “not.”

Pheromones are chemical signals that trigger a natural physiological or behavioral response in an animal of the same species. The lower the critter is on the evolutionary scale, the more its behavior is affected. It’s not a substitute for a cuddle with a koala, but if you dabbed a little female moth pheromone behind your ears, pretty fast you’d be covered with flapping amorous male moths. Busy science guys have found pheromone responses in rats, mice, hamsters, amoeba, elephants, aphids, lobsters, fruit flies, termites, bees, pigs, sea urchins — a whole batch of lesser beings. But in people, not so much.

Despite the fact that you can find vats of pheromone-enhanced perfumes advertised on the internet, the science guys can only guess what part of the human body exudes these chemicals and whether our noses might respond differently to them than to ordinary smells. No one has isolated a human pheromone. But if the science guys have to guess, they usually guess that pheromones could be part of amnion odor. One of the most startling studies used pit smell to show that women who live together for extended periods tend to develop synchronous menstruation. Babies can recognize their mothers’ smells. And pheromones might play a role in the fact that men and women tend to mate with spouses with compatible immune systems. But I guess none of these is quite what you’re looking for, Love R.

Us human beans are strongly visual and auditory in our approach to the world around us. Our lives are not as strongly controlled by chemical signals as aphids’ or hamsters’ days are. (The Reader, after all, is stuffed with ads to make you a 36DD. Not one ad promising to fluff up your pheromones.)

On the other hand, science guys who work in the smell arena predict that once they’ve done the proper research, we’ll be surprised at what areas are affected by inter-being chemical connection. I’m not sure we’ll ever be able to overcome that big bear stink, though, and bring your dream to life.

Heymatt:
After losing three of six TV stations from the analo-
to-digital change, even after purchasing a new DTV to avoid having to purchase a conver-
ter box for my old TV (I also have the proper UHF-VHF antenna — indoor rabbit ears), I’d like to know how this change to digital was influ-
enced or financially supported by the TV cable and satellite providers, possibly with the long-
term anticipation of ending free TV perma-
nently. If you answer this in the Reader, I’ll be surprised.
— Jim Reuber, via email

Well, surprise, Jim! Do you think the Reader is part of some dark media plot led by the cable and satellite companies? Well, last I knew, we weren’t. Nobody around here has the energy to get involved in dark plots. In the case of the attack of the digitals, Jim, you have the wrong bad guy. The evildoer in question is the gov-
’mint, of course. The FCC wanted its airwaves back. (Well, our airwaves, actually.) Too many new things such as garage doors and microwave transmitters and radio-controlled toys bat-
tling for bandwidth. Emergency vehicles, satel-
ite things. An endless queue of transmit-
ters. The feds can now reorganize the broad-
cast spectrum and auction off the empty spaces. Nobody’s getting rich at the Dish Network.
And I’m a little surprised that you decided it would be cheaper to buy a new TV than to invest in a converter box. There were even coupons available to subsidize the cost of the boxes. Oh, well. Go get the FCC, Jim. We’ll be right behind you. Just as soon as we finish lunch and take a nap.

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.
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SportingBox
BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Follow the Monkey

Matthew Stafford

It is strange how a housekeeping ritual can grow to such a magical height that a continental gaggle of disparate people, all of whom have no role in the actual ritual, nonetheless make a career out of selling their verifiably incorrect ritual predictions to the same enthusiasts year after year after year.

In other words, the NFL draft is coming to your world on Saturday (rounds 1 and 2), and Sunday (rounds 3 through 7). In round 1, the incumbent Super Bowl champion picks last, the Super Bowl loser picks second to last. playoff teams are similarly placed. The remaining teams are set according to their regular season records. Thus, this year, Detroit, coming home with a formidable 0-16 pedigree, has the number-1 pick. The 8-8 San Diego Chargers have the number-16 pick.

Do you want to hear about exceptions and details? I thought not.

Anyway, the point of this is not the mechanics of the draft but the mighty industry of mock traders and sportswriters who report and glorify their own failure to a national audience of people who could care less about results. Granted, this is not a bad way to make a living.

There are 32 picks in the first round, and it’s near impossible not to get the first two picks right. "Our 2008 draft was notorious public knowledge (that is, the Oakland pick and the Dallas pick), then the draft experts got 9.9 percent of their first-round picks right. Then, you take away the first two picks, the experts selected 14.4 percent of their first-round picks.

But — just a minute — everybody knew the first two 2008 picks. In fact, the number-one pick signed with Miami before the draft started. So, if you take away the first two picks, the experts selected 14.4 percent of their first-round picks right.

Hang on. Everybody knew the Raiders would pick Darren McFadden because Al Davis, Raiders owner, saw his adoring letters to McFadden published in newspapers. There were similar revelations concerning Felix Jones and the Dallas Cowboys.

If you — and you should — subtract what were notorious public knowledge (that is, the numbers of the number-one and -two picks — the Oakland pick and the Dallas pick), then the draft experts got 8.9 percent of their first-round picks right, just beating out the monkey, who had an off year.

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It seems as if the same number of people now spend their Friday nights watching YouTube (and other nights, and sometimes 24/7) — the meth users, for example, as once watched DVDs and VCRs (VCRs going back a way). Stephen King (on YouTube, of course) agreed, "It’s like cocaine." I have even found myself watching. I want to say "out of necessity" because I have been on my back in recent weeks, but this isn’t necessarily the truth. It is a drug, yes. But, rest assured, this column will not be my personal wailing. Nor about drugs. The hospital administered only so many, and I’m out of em. I find that YouTube fills the bill.

What new can be said about YouTube? The internet video channel’s influence is hardly in question. One thing is certain: more people are watching it. There are an astounding number of new hits every time you look up your favorite site. It has long since become a phenomenon; it is rampant, beyond epidemic, and has leaped to something of an oligarchy, an imperium, an unwitting empire of cyber— or, if you like, etterspace.

From the official online spiel: "YouTube is a video sharing website where users can upload, view and share video clips. Three former PayPal employees created YouTube in February 2005. In November 2006, YouTube, LLC was bought by Google Inc. for US$1.65 billion and is now operated as a subsidiary of Google. The company is based in San Bruno, California, and uses Adobe Flash Video technology to display a wide variety of user-generated video content, including movie clips, TV clips, and music videos, as well as amateur content such as video blogging and short original videos...."

"Unregistered users can watch the videos, while registered users are permitted to upload an unlimited number of videos... Videos that are considered to contain potentially offensive content are available only to registered users over the age of 18. The uploading of videos containing defamation, pornography, copyright violations, and material encouraging criminal conduct is prohibited by YouTube’s terms of service.”

I know of few people unaware of YouTube, but I am still, er, dumbfounded at the wealth those people miss at this simple URL. Among the deprived, I know of five people who do not use computers at all. I represent the percentage that uses them badly and reluctantly. They increase your correspondence obligations to an unendurable degree, for one thing. At least YouTube offers diversionary bursts from the humdrum. For example, The Honeymooners. 1950s precursor to All in the Family. And I believe that show is there as well. Oh, yes, I see it is. And in spades.

Another entry from the official YouTube spiel: "If you're unfamiliar (you've never checked). Coen brothers movies — fairly long parts I and II (and I suppose III — I never checked). Crop brothers movies — fairly long segments.

Anyway, this may not be news, but it is entertainment. And it is what I find, this week, the deal with which most people are occupying their leisure time. I feel I should give it a nod.
"I have seen some hand-engraving jobs from the 1940s, and it is still readable and very good."

the steel, silver. We can’t deal with bronze, copper, and brass.

“I cannot do the inside of a ring,” said Salmon. “I use a laser. It doesn’t actually remove the metal. Our laser will etch onto it or cut all the way through it. If you wanted to have the inside of a ring done, that has to be done by hand.”

With the etching process, “It chemically bonds to it. It heats the metal. There are a couple of ways we can do it, depending on the type of material. One of the metals, the stainless steel, we can spray a coating on, and then when we hit it with the laser, the heat changes the molecular structure of the metal and then bonds the solution to it and turns it black. So, everywhere that we hit it, it turns it black. And then if we use an aluminum, it heats it so much that it changes the color of it, and that is there forever.”

For fonts, “If we don’t have it, and you have a font that you want, just make sure we know where to get it, or you bring it to us.”

Prices are given per job, and turnaround time is one to two weeks.

Salmon referred me to Matthew Cirello, owner of Ciryellow Creations, also located in North Park (619-201-4668, ciryellow.com). “I am a custom jeweler, and I can do custom engraving,” Cirello answered. “I do hand-engraving. I have about four different ways that I can engrave, and I can do an acid etch as well. Acid etch is where you take a sulfur nitrate — a Sharpie marker would even work — and that protects the metal and anything that is not covered in your design, it will eat it away. Kind of like sandblasting, but instead you are actually eating away the metal with an acid.”

Cirello will not work on titanium, and his price is by the hour.

How do I choose between hand- and machine-engraving? “If someone wants accuracy,” said Cirello, “I would say laser-engraving is the way to go. If they want something unique, one-of-a-kind, personal, then I would have it hand-done.”

For more stories by this author, go to s迭aders.com.
Receiving Bella

by Barbara

The real menace in dealing with a five-year-old is that in no time at all you begin to sound like a five-year-old.

—Joan Kerr

Bella approached the refrigerator with cautious curiosity. “Are you thirsty, honey?” I asked. The little blond head at my hip nodded. I opened the fridge, and Bella scanned the shelves for something familiar.

“Do you have any juice?” she asked.

“No,” I said, thinking, At least not any that hasn’t been fermented. On the top shelf were two cans of Guinness (leftover ingredients from David’s “Guinness Punch,” a Jamaican drink he’d made for St. Patrick’s Day — Guinness, sweetened condensed milk, and cinnamon), a bottle of rosé frizzante, and… I perked up when I noticed the red-and-white carton of milk. I looked to my charge. “Here’s the fridge. “I cringed at my own ineloquence, but Bella didn’t seem to notice. When I finished blabbering on about the spectrum from warm to cold, she selected room temperature, probably because she liked the way the words sounded.

I chose a DVD from a box set of Looney Tunes and popped it into the player. “You sit right here, Bella. I’m just going to check on something real quick.” While Bella giggled at Daffy Duck’s beak being blown off by Elmer Fudd’s shotgun, I fetched my laptop from the other room.

On the few occasions I’d watched my niece in a ready answer, let it fall slack for a moment. “It’s, like, well, you know how it feels in the room right now? That’s room temperature. You can have water that feels like the room or cold water from the fridge.” I cringed at my ineloquence, but Bella didn’t seem to notice.

Now, after ten minutes of showing her the terrace, allowing her to run up and down the stairs, and pointing out the hundred or so things she could not touch, I needed those responses. Reading the first reply, my brows furrowed: “Candy Land. Ponies. Sticker books.” Not here. The second one seemed more plausible: “Dress up.” But Bella had not been interested in my feathers. One tip — printing coloring pages from the web — sounded perfect until I remembered I didn’t have any crayons.

I was just about to break out my makeup collection when Bella, already tired of Bugs Bunny’s shenanigans, skipped over to the counter and picked up my iPhone. “Can I take pictures, Aunt Bobbi?”

“Sure, honey. You know how? Oh, wait, never mind, that’s right, Uncle David showed you.” I turned on the phone, pressed the camera icon, and handed it over. “Just give it right back to me if it rings, okay? Mommy might try to call.” I could have kicked myself for that last sentence.

Bella’s entire demeanor changed. Her shoulders slumped forward, and her little blond brows came together. Finally, she looked up at me. “Olivia had to go to the hospital. What’s wrong with her?”

“Olivia’s fine, sweetie,” I said. “It’s just that, well…” I wasn’t about to explain “febrile seizure” to a five-year-old when I barely understood it myself. Comprehension may not have been attainable, but comfort was. “Some babies, when they get fevers, react differently than other babies. The same thing happened to Aunt Jenny when she was your sister’s age, and Aunt Jenny is just fine now. Olivia will be too.”

Bella nodded and set off on a photo-taking expedition. As the artist captured every nook of my condo, I considered how horrific it must have been for Jane when her feverish two-year-old had a seizure in her arms. I imagined the distress on my sister’s face when Bella refused to get in the ambulance, the agony over having to make a snap decision between forcing Bella to come along or leaving her with one of the handful of neighbors who, upon hearing the sirens, had rushed over to see what was going on.

My father was 31 when his baby girl (my sister Jenny) had a seizure in his arms. At the time, we lived on a tiny island 1200 miles out in the Aleutians, off the coast of Alaska. My mom, who was 28, had to choose with whom to leave three daughters while she and my dad accompanied their two-year-old to the mainland. Jenny had slipped into a
hardwood, things hang-

child — sharp edges and
to hold the attention of a
Nothing, I would think,
looked around the room.
sat back in her chair and

unched sausage on a

and I placed the food on

slices of the skinny

treat!” I laid out four

had Hungarian sausage?”

a plastic bag. I picked up

ments, and something in

yogurt, jars of condi-

hummus,

fridge, and she stood

Again, I opened the

phone. “Are you hungry,

side and handed me the

had the car.

neighbor and bring her

collect Bella from the

had just enough time to

her way to a meeting and

hospital. Mom was on

wife and daughter at the

which I’d called Simon,

Jane had called Mom,

From the ambulance,

of the brain, as the result

(encephalitis, or swelling

sister’s ailment had been

less critical than my

my niece’s condition was

youngest.

order to save their

their children behind in

who had to leave most of

of their children behind in

in order to save their

youngest.

I was relieved that

my niece’s condition was

less critical than my

sister’s ailment had been

(encephalitis, or swelling

of the brain, as the result

of a mosquito bite).

From the ambulance,

Jane had called Mom,

who called me, after

which I’d called Simon,

who left work to join his

and I placed the food on

sausage. Bella took a seat,

crackers and cut four

"Well, you're in for a

Bella shook her head.

"Had you ever had

Hungarian sausage?"

Bella shook her head.

"Well, you're in for a

treat!" I laid out four

crackers and cut four

slices of the skinny

sausage. Bella took a seat,

and I placed the food on

a napkin before her. “And

as dessert, you can have

this very special dark

chocolate that you get to

unwrap yourself."

Bella daintily laid a

slice of sausage on a

cracker, took a bite, then

sat back in her chair and

looked around the room.

Nothing. I would think,

to hold the attention of a

child — sharp edges and

hardwood, things hang-

ing on walls that you’re

not allowed to touch.

Finally, Bella’s eyes came
to rest on my face. "I like

coming here," she said.

“That makes me

happy, Bella Boo." I real-

ized, once the words

were out of my mouth,

what a gross understate-

ment it was. Truth was, I

couldn’t remember a
time I’d felt so relieved. ”

For more stories and video by this
author, go to sdxreader.com.
There are times, sometimes in the midst of otherwise polite conversation, when it comes out that I make my living writing for the Reader. The follow-up to this revelation is almost never “Oh, that’s right, I read your profile of former New Yorker writer William Murray back in ’99! Great piece!” Rather, it is almost always “Oh, do you know Ollie?” (Or Duncan. Or Naomi. Or Matthew Alice. Or Barbarella. Or, or, or.) This has happened often enough that I have developed, without meaning to, a standard reply to the question: “Oh, no. All of us writers work out of our homes. They like to keep us separated — if we were all together, we’d just sit around and drink.”

I have no idea if that last part is true. In fact, I suspect it isn’t. But it does play off one universal truth — writers would most often rather do anything besides write — and one accepted stereotype: the leather-livered reporter, who, when he isn’t chasing a story, haunts the city’s watering holes, taking its boozy pulse, sniffing out the next trail even as he numbs his overly keen senses with cheap whiskey. “I see too much in my line of work, bartender. I see too much. So now, I’m gonna get blind.” Very romantic and, if the collection of cocktail stories contained herein is any indication, almost entirely fictitious. Happily, these concoctions offer something more
interesting—a generous pour of carefully rendered detail, enlivened by a judicious measure of story: what we drink, where we drink it, and why.

A few of us did get together and drink at least once—a party at my place sometime last year. I made sangria. People brought beer and spirits—though I don’t recall any whiskey, cheap or otherwise. At the gathering, I had a chance to meet Dorian Hargrove, one of our newer writers. Feeling expansive, I lent him my copy of former New Yorker writer Joseph Mitchell’s *Up in the Old Hotel*, the book that, for me, served as a model of long-form profile writing—the kind you might find in the *Reader*.

The first piece in that book is a profile of a place, not a person: McSorley’s Old Ale House in New York City. A journalist writing journalism about drinking—surely we have entered the seventh heaven, the fever dream of aspiration, the ultimate heady mix of business and pleasure. Except, when you read the thing—and you should—it becomes clear that Mitchell probably wasn’t drinking during his many visits to McSorley’s. The observations are too exact, the details too precise, the stories too packed with research and background. Nor does it seem likely that he was drinking when he wrote the profile—the rhythm is too even, the mix of anecdote and interview too proportional.

McSorley’s serves ale and ale alone. For everything else, read on.

—Matthew Lickona

**Old-Fashioneds at the Turf Supper Club**

- Bourbon
- Dash of bitters
- Muddled cherry and orange
- Serve on the rocks

Booze holds a storied place in the serious business of turning things unserious. As with everything, there’s a time and a place; specific situations complement the mood, desire, and taste of every individual.

Recently, I told a woman that our theme drink for the weekend would be the Old-Fashioned. I read her the recipe over the telephone:

Place a sugar cube in a lowball glass and dissolve the sugar with a wee dose of water. Think of a lost love and a wavy sepia wheat field. Add two dashes of Angostura bitters. Notice the crisp feeling of your shirt. Add one cube of ice and a lemon peel. Understand that your problems will remain after the drink, but embrace this; it’s the human condition.
Add whiskey; in our case, bourbon.
Stir with a spoon you received as a gift and serve.
If you've ever had a mouthful of an Old-Fashioned made in this style, you've probably spit it right back out. Sugar, bitters, a lemon peel, and bourbon whiskey is about as close to a punch in the mouth as you can get outside a boxing gym. Which is one key reason you'll never get a drink made from this recipe in any bar, anywhere. The Old-Fashioned evolved several decades ago, or maybe a hundred years ago, to include a maraschino cherry and club soda. There's even a San Diego version that you'll find at bars here, in which the lemon peel is abandoned in favor of an orange slice.
The girl and I made both variants of the drink. During games of backgammon, between our respective turns with the dice, and breaking up play only to chip more ice or slice and peel fruit, eventually, as the liquor buoyed our spirits and we laughed more at things that wouldn't otherwise seem as funny, we splashed in more and more club soda, less and less bitters, and topped off our glasses with an arrangement of citrus and cherries.
Purists may decry the addition of soda, but I see no problem in the evolution of drink mixes. What matters — the main ingredients — are your time, place, mood, and company. Really, drinking an Old-Fashioned in this updated and fresh way (don't forget the oranges, backgammon, and girl) is delightful.
The making of an Old-Fashioned lends itself to sprinkling sugar about the countertop in a festive manner, the lively squeezing of oranges onto the floor, dashing bitters onto the stove or fridge, and erupting club soda bottles over the whole affair. Looking at the soggy, silty, sticky mess in my kitchen, I made the executive decision, "We're not making this shithole any worse; we're going out to drink."
Why, at the Turf Club, of course.
The Turf Club is actually named the Turf Supper Club, but everyone drops the "Supper" in favor of the shorter version of the name.
Ah, the Turf Club: where the drinks could fuel transcontinental flight, cartoon horses decorate everything, and everyone is overly tattooed and all incredibly nice and accommodating. The Turf Club looks as if Dwight Eisenhower is running for his 14th term as president, and the bar is known for its Old-Fashioned.
We arrive just after nine at night, and there are two burgundy Naugahyde stools left open at the bar; mostly people are standing up and crammed in tight, clutching Martini glasses and draped with vintage purses. Acupulco-patterned dresses and bowling shirts swish and slide against one another as San Diego's waist-deep-in-hip leisure aristocracy jostle to sizzle their own steaks at the diminutive and crowded indoor grill.
"What can I get you?" the tender asks.
"Two Old-Fashioneds."
With a nod, he's off to pluck orange slices from a tub and find the little bottle of bitters. At seven bucks apiece, it's a bargain to spare me from cleaning any more sugary gunk off my kitchen counter, walls, and cabinets.
Stacks of cash clutter the bar between pools of splashed liquor. Women apply makeup with the aid of pocket mirrors. Men drop hunks of their paychecks in exchange for icy glasses of liquor. The jukebox rattles. People shout and clamor.
The girl says, "This is perfect."
The right place with the right drink, gold shimmers in the hearts of the people, me, and her.
Oh yes, takin’ it easy is serious business.
— Ollie

Tears of the Prophet at Parallel 33
- 2 oz orange vodka
- 3 oz pomegranate juice
- Fresh mint leaves to garnish
Pour vodka and pomegranate juice into a cocktail shaker and add ice. Shake vigorously and pour into a chilled Martini glass. Garnish with fresh mint leaves.
I am not someone who wishes I were still 21. Or even 29. I could have skipped the decade after 19 and happily ended up at 30. Sure, I had fewer wrin-
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SAN DIEGO • RIVERSIDE • LONG BEACH
San Diego Reader
April 23, 2009

Kles in my 20s and could sleep in on weekends, but I had almost no money and even less self-confidence. I worked at a series of unstable ad agencies, and I was suffering from unsuitable boyfriends and the breakups that followed.

Luckily, I had friends willing to put up with my stream of complaints, and for a while, my friend Mick had a weekly ritual of Friday happy hour at Parallel 33 in Mission Hills. This was back in 2001, when Washington Street was still charming, before the Gathering burned in the fire and Phil’s BBQ moved to the Sports Arena area. It was wintertime and always dark when we met, or at least that’s how I remember it, although that might be due as much to those dark times as to the time of year.

Mick, his friend Ralph, and I were an anomaly in the upscale restaurant. Most people came in to eat, but we couldn’t afford the entrées. Instead, we stayed in the bar and ordered pita and hummus, or sometimes ahi poke. But, really, we were there for the drinks.

Ralph knew the bartender, a fellow runner named Scott who had traveled around the world and could juggle three cocktail shakers at once.

“Hey,” Scott said to me one night as I climbed onto the bar stool between Mick and Ralph.

“Tears of the Prophet?”

“Of course,” I said and watched as Scott filled the shaker with ice, Absolut Mandarin, and pomegranate juice. He shook it with his right hand, while with his left he poured three Martinis, which a waitress whisked away.

Scott placed a mint leaf in my glass and pushed it toward me. Ralph, Mick, and I raised our drinks.

To the bartender,” Mick said, and Scott bowed his head and smiled. As always, the first sip was heavenly. It tasted like going back in time, maybe to New York in the ’40s, when glamour was easier to find, or at least not hidden by a Starbucks or a strip of condos, like the ones springing up down the block.

Mick said something funny and I laughed. There was a mirror over the bar, and my own happy face surprised me. I stared for a second at my reflection and

Pamela Hunt-Cloyd: There was a mirror over the bar, and my own happy face surprised me.

...then at an older couple in their 50s who were entering the restaurant. The woman had an expensive haircut, and a gorgeous cashmere wrap draped her shoulders. She must have felt me looking because she turned for a second and caught my eye. I looked down, suddenly self-conscious of my cheap shoes and wrinkled Old Navy suit.

A longing wound through...
me then, tangled with shame. I wanted to be that woman. I wanted her seat by the window, her husband, her life. For years I had prided myself on my independence, but really all I wanted was to be with someone who liked me back, someone who would stay with me, who would call when he said he would and tell me I looked beautiful in the candlelight. How had my dreams become so small?

Scott turned to me again and refilled my glass with his shaker. “On the house,” he said. “The benefits of front-row seats.” He went back to the conversation with Mick about his latest six-month trip to Central America. As he filled two glasses with gin, he talked about the surf off the coast of Belize.

“How do you do that?” I asked him. “How do you just pick up and travel for half the year?”

Scott shrugged. “I bartend for a while, save up money, and go. Don’t you have a passport?” I nodded. “Then what’s stopping you?”

I caught my reflection again in the mirror, as well as the reflection of the couple seated behind us. My own reasons were stopping me: my childish desire to be safe, to be taken care of. Instead of a life of adventure, I had chosen a cheap suit and a lousy job, thinking all the while that someone—some man—would ride in to save me. Instead of tasting real freedom, I settled for exotic drinks and someone else’s stories. And yet, I was also aware that I was only 28. I could still travel to Central America. I could join the Peace Corps or go to grad school. I could get another job. Two years later, when I turned 30, I did just that. Because I am not the type to jet off to another continent, I took the most banal option. I got a new job and asked for more money than I thought I deserved. I raised my standards and no longer dated losers. I stopped longing for someone else’s life. Slowly, I became happy inside my own.

Eventually, I got married—to a man named Scott who has traveled the world and owns three cocktail shakers. My husband has never had a ponytail or surfed in the Caribbean, but he makes a mean Martini. And sometimes, as he pours me a Cosmopolitan, I think of the other Scott—that bartender who made me a drink that tasted like.
freedom and who told me how to get it.
— Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

Parallel 33 recently closed.

Irish Coffees at the Ould Sod
- 7 oz. coffee in glass coffee cup
  - Generous shot Jameson whiskey
  - ¼ inch whipped cream on top

The Ould Sod on Adams Avenue in Normal Heights is my favorite San Diego bar. Formerly the Elbo Club, it has been operated by Tom Quinn, Ron Stout, and Mick Ward since 1989. Several years ago, Stout fell ill and is now a silent partner. Quinn and Finglas.

The Guinness at the Ould Sod has a reputation for being the best in town. Those in the know say it’s due to the bar’s short line between keg and tap.

But, you see, I go to the Sod to drink in hot-blooded Irish camaraderie. Many Irish folk I’ve met still carry, consciously or not, a furious resentment over Britain’s long subjugation of the Emerald Isle, the famine of the 1840s and ’50s, and the war of independence in 1919–1921. It’s as though they were there.

This chip-on-shoulder (who can blame them?) blends seamlessly into strong opinions on our own politics, both local and national, and rubs off on customers. Which is why I think of the Ould Sod as a political bar. Dittoheads and wingnuts gravitate toward the right end of the bar while “loony lefties” (I credit Ward with the phrase) sit at the opposite end, nearest the door.

Sports conversations in the center often suck the energy out of each side and prevent donnybrooks. The crowd talks about Obama the socialist — and sports — Mike Aguirre’s bad manners (still) — and sports — Iraq — and sports — and an occasional book of science fiction reading material.

The scene manifests between four in the afternoon and seven in the evening, especially on Fridays, when a gadfly steeped in political websites often visits. He torments the regulars with arcane details that flummox long-held views.

But the political hour is not the only Ould Sod. There is the

Joe Deegan: It tasted so good I ordered two more rounds.

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A research study – ICARA – is now underway to explore a possible new investigational treatment for Alzheimer’s disease.

You may be eligible to participate in the ICARA study if you:

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Ask your doctor if the ICARA study is right for you.

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Is DIABETES causing you PAIN in both legs or both feet… for at least the past 6 months?

If so, please contact us about our medical research study of an investigational medication for pain in both legs or both feet caused by diabetes.

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Are you using one of the following bronchodilators:

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If you are:

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• Are in good general health
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• Office visits • Study medication

Compensation for time and travel may be available.

To learn more about this high blood pressure research study, please call:
Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150

DEPRESSION IN SENIORS

Are you or someone you know:

• 65 years of age or older
• Suffering from symptoms of depression?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 4 weeks?
• Have had a previous episode prior to age 60?

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

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

For more information call: 1-888-486-9150
Have you been diagnosed for less than 5 years with type 2 Diabetes?

If so, Profil Institute for Clinical Research 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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If television-football Sod all day Saturdays and Sundays in the fall. The Sod with the most hours per week is surely the young crowd’s turn, from early evening to closing time. Then you might see, or partake in, the chugging of Jager Bombs (shots of Jagermeister in a glass of beer) and Irish Car Bombs (a shot of Bailey’s Irish Cream and Jameson in a glass three-quarters full of Guinness). Music plays, including karaoke on Thursday and Saturday nights.

I rarely show up for these extravaganza. It’s that civic yet fiery camaraderie I crave. So the Ould Sod was where I went on Election Night last November.

On this night, I wanted to watch the returns pop onto those electronic boards the television networks like so much.

A long night is what I expected, and it felt as though beer would tire me quickly. Irish Coffee came to mind. The Sod filled early with customers young and old as I let the hot coffee and smooth Jameson rise into the bones of my face. It tasted so good I ordered two more rounds. And then the evening raced to its ending. The election was called for Barack Obama by eight o’clock. Loud cheering and clapping went up all around, and suddenly John McCain was giving his concession speech. Obama’s speech was over by 9:15.

That night my bed was hard. The Jameson still imbued me with a warm glow. But that damned coffee. It kept me awake until three.

Irish Coffee on Election Night was a serendipitous discovery, but for sleep’s sake I should have stuck with beer. Jameson by itself? That’s a different story. An occasional shot now helps me enjoy mellower political discourse.

— Joe Deegan

Raspberry Mojitos at JRDN

- 1½ oz. Montecristo Premium Blend
- Club soda
- 8–10 mint leaves
- 2 lime wedges or ¼ oz. fresh lime juice
- ½ oz. simple syrup
- 5 fresh raspberries

In a tall glass, muddle 3 raspberries, torn mint leaves, and lime wedges or juice. Add simple syrup (sugar and water). Top with ice. Add rum. Fill with club soda. Garnish with 2 raspberries and a sprig of mint. “Never use aged rum,” says JRDN bartender Juan Sanchez. “Caramel notes from the barrel-aging ruin the Mojito’s color and interfere with its citrus and fruit profiles.”

There was this guy. We hadn’t said more than a few words to each other. I wasn’t even sure he was single. Sharon, my flirtiest girlfriend, said go for it. So I went over and introduced myself. We talked for a bit, and then she asked me out. I accepted. It was the best decision I’ve ever made.

Hand Eczema?

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

We need participants:
- 18-75 years of age
- with hand eczema lasting at least six months

Qualified participants will receive:
- study-related evaluations by a board-certified dermatologist
- study medication at no cost
- compensation for time and travel

No insurance required.
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THERAPEUTICS
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“Ask him over for a drink.”

“But it’s gotta be your own special drink,” Sharon said. “He’s a chef. They probably go for that kind of thing.”

Yes, indeed he was a chef. How the white apron sat Frenchly on his hips! How imperiously he commanded waitstaff and line cooks! The darling shoebox he carried into work, filled with herbs and vegetables from his very own garden.

It would have to be a pretty special drink. I turned to Bill, another good friend, and his book, Shaken and Stirred, a chronicle of drinking adventures and unusual cocktails.

I scanned recipes and ingredient lists, steering clear of tricky glassware, complicated maneuvers, and anything made with blue booze.

Mojito.

“You can drink a mojito without really thinking about it,” Bill writes. “Then the music starts — the sad, swaying strum that seems to be coming out of a decaying Cuban guitar — but it’s coming out of you.”

I had limes. Mint. Both grew in my backyard. (A cocktail made from my own crops!) Squeeze and muddle, splash and stir. Rum (yum), sparkling water, simple syrup, ice. Who could say no?

“Would you like to come over for a Mojito?” I asked the chef.

“Okay,” he said.

And he never left.

Three years after we sat in my backyard drinking Mojitos, the chef and I were married.

These days we are a cocktail-out kind of couple. After we’ve cooked in the afternoon in preparation for a quiet dinner at home, we often cruise over to JRDN.

JRDN is the restaurant/bar of Tower 23, a discreet, hyper-sleek hotel on the Pacific Beach boardwalk. I’ve heard it sits where Skip and Donna Frye’s surf shop used to be.

With all apologies to the Fryes and a nod to Graham Downes Architecture, I have to say few places in town make this much of our natural resources. JRDN is floor to ceiling, north to south, 190 degrees of ocean view. There is seating outside, but sitting inside feels outside too. Great glass panels slide wide open to ocean air and breeze.

By night JRDN’s clever “wave wall” ripples and shimmers like abalone shell. Programmed lights project onto the sculptured surface of the wall and create the illusion of liquid movement. (Think Japanese watercolor meets anime.) It’s a cocktail for the eyes.

All this chic elevates our preprandial conversation and makes us feel more beautiful. Sometimes I pretend we’re not in San Diego at all but in St. Tropez or Biarritz, until I spot Peter the Limo Man or Old-School Mike, surfer friends from La Jolla Shores, sitting across the bar.

The only Mojitos I’ve had in a bar that come close to the sunlight and music of my homemade ones are the Raspberry Mojitos at JRDN. They are the prettiest Mojitos in town, stained a drifty scarlet-pink and served in iced, slim highball glasses.

“Never seen a drink like it,” says bartender Juan Sanchez. “The first one goes out, and then everybody starts saying, ‘I’ll take one of those.’ ”

The tennis grannies drink them, as do the working moms, Buenos Aires heiresses, and scruffy surfer girls. Tables of grown men suck straws, unabashedly quaffing their third or fourth pink Mojitos, flipping through them like one-liners on a singles’ cruise.

I smile and squeeze the chef’s hand. “Beware,” I want to whisper to the Mojito drinkers of JRDN. “Beware. This is a cock-
Salty Dogs at Nunu’s

- 2 oz. vodka or gin
- 4 oz. grapefruit juice
- Garnish with lime or lemon wedge
- Serve in a glass with a salted rim

Jimmy’s days behind the bar at Nunu’s are over, but you’ll likely find him a-stool beside the kitchen door on the smoking patio. The man’s not just the “operations engineer” at Nunu’s but a fixture for some 20-odd years. He denies the following “Jimmy story” with every bristle on his chinny-chin-chin. According to the fisher folk who ballast the south end of Nunu’s shipshape bar, however, these are the facts.

One way-back-when afternoon after a stretch at sea, Tony’s tuna crew called for the old salts’ concoction, as it were, of Salty Dogs. "Salty Dogs all around, Jim!" rang through the Hillcrest hideaway. Stymied, Jimmy leaned over the bar with raised brows. … "Greyhounds with salt ‘round the rim, Jim," explained one of the briny Italians. A Greyhound’s a simple mix of vodka and grapefruit juice. Put salt on the rim, you’ve got yourself a Salty Dog. Anyways, Jimmy poured the Greyhounds, proffered four card-stock coasters, and tallied a tab for the four well drinks. “Hey, Jimmy! Where’s the salt? We tol’ ya, Greyhound with salt on the rim.”

The barman tore up the tab and rapped the bar with his knuckles a couple of times — on the house. About ten minutes later, crewman numero due bellied up to the bar and ordered another round of Dogs. Jimmy iced up four rocks glasses, tipped the Russian generic over each glass in turn, splashed the bitter fruit juice over the row, and slid the drinks out. "Order up." When the crewman returned to collect the drinks, he said, “Jimmy, c’mo-o-o-on, you gotta salt these drinks.” Another tab was torn, and Jimmy rapped the bar once and waved...
Do you have heartburn related to Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)?

Do you take medication twice a day for it?

If you're having trouble controlling your diabetes, consider participating in HARMONY, a research study evaluating an investigational diabetes medication that's taken only once a week.

It's estimated that 50% of diabetics in the U.S. struggle to successfully control their blood sugar. The inconvenience of multiple daily treatments can often add to this struggle. Now, the HARMONY program is evaluating the effectiveness of an investigational, long-acting type 2 diabetes medication, which may require less frequent dosings.

To be eligible for this study, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- Diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, AND
- Having trouble controlling your blood sugar levels.

Qualified participants will receive study treatment as well as study-related medical evaluations and tests at no cost.

To learn more about the HARMONY program, please contact:

San Diego Sports Med & Family Health
(619) 229-3909
www.HarmonyClinicalTrials.com

If you qualify, you will receive study care and study medication at no cost. (Financial compensation for time and travel may be provided.)

Sadness? Low Energy? Trouble Sleeping? Can’t Concentrate? These are symptoms of DEPRESSION!

If you, or someone you know is:

- 65 years or older
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode
- Have had at least one previous depressive episode before the age of 60 years
- In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our 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. You may receive study medication or an FDA-approved medication for Depression. 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

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 (18 years and older)
- Insomnia
- Schizophrenia
- Smoking Cessation

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

Affiliated Research Institute
This went on, as Tony’s story goes, until Jimmy salted four rocks glasses — so he wouldn’t forget — and lined them up on the bar. When the crew called for another round — “Same again, Jim!” — he iced up the salted glasses, mixed Greyhounds into them, and rang up a tab on the antique register. “Order up.”

When Tony came to collect the cocktails, he couldn’t help himself. “Jimmy, we said ‘same again.’ What’s with the salt? We don’t want salt now.” The butcaptain and barman stared each other down until the tab was fittingly torn in two.

Tony and Jimmy, though they’d deny it, are the best of friends today. I relish their company as I sip the bitter chemistry of Salty Dogs on the bar’s patio and listen to the inevitable embellishment of this among many fisherman’s tales. Tony belly laughing, Jimmy rolling his eyes behind a blue curl of filterless cigarette smoke.

“Hey, Jim,” I start some booze-brave days, “why didn’t you just salt four glasses and pour the drinks into them instead of giving ’em away?”

“I would have if the story were true, Bob-bay,” Jimmy says in a blue-blood singsong gleaned from too many William Powell movies, “but Tony has me confused with somebody stu-paid.”

— Barnaby Monk

**French and Italians at the Hotel Del Coronado**

-French vermouth
-Italian vermouth
-Gin
-Twist of lemon

Mix French (dry white) vermouth and Italian (sweet red) vermouth into a cocktail glass, favoring the French. Add a shot of gin. Garnish with a twist of lemon.

José Palmia’s the only guy I’ve found in Diego’s fair city who’s ever heard of my favorite drink. So where he serves it, I drink it.

Fortunately, that’s at the Hotel Del Coronado, on the terrace, at cocktail hour, watching the sun collapse into the ocean. Unfortunately you pay through the nose for it (around $14); on the other hand, your nose is the first to appreciate the aromatic wines, gin, and lemon in this little piece of Mediterranean magic.

Before you put your lips to it, you feast your eyes on the amber-ruby nectar. It’s not hard and brittle like a gin and tonic or even James Bond’s Martini — gin with a whiff of French vermouth. My French and Italian’s the opposite, warm wines with a little gin to give it a bit of snap.

I’ve never been a hard-liquor man. Beers, wines have been it till our neighbor Linda awakened a memory that rushed back into my mind, all the way from childhood.

A group of us were at the Del one Sunday night, sitting round a fire ring. Linda was drinking a level — Absolut — Vodka with soda water and a splash of cranberry. I’d come late and was unwrapping and auctioning over what to have. “You can ask for just anything here,” said Linda. “Just go for what you love.” That’s when it came to me. How about the cocktail I grew up with! French and Italian.

Let me explain about French and Italian. It’s what my English daddy drank. Every cocktail hour at our place in New Zealand, overlooking Whanganui a Tara (Wellington harbor), he’d go to the wine cupboard and pour us all a French and Italian, and we’d sit, sip, talk, joke, and hack out B-grade philosophy till dark. That’s where Dad told me about how vermouths — “aromatized wines” — were steeped in everything from fruit peels to roots, herbs, spices, even medicinal digestive aids like quinine. The French created the name “vermouth” after the German word wermut, which means wormwood, which is the wood used for the casks these wines were stored in and derived a bitter twang from. Italians were the first to produce vermouth in big

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**INVESTIGATIONAL PAIN-RELIEF PATCH STUDY**

Have you recently injured your wrist and are experiencing wrist pain? You could help researchers evaluate an investigational pain patch that’s placed directly on your wrist.

Local doctors are currently conducting a medical research study evaluating an investigational, medicated patch for its ability to relieve pain when placed directly on the site of your pain. To pre-qualify for this study, you must:

- be 18 to 70 years of age
- have injured your wrist within the last 60 hours, AND
- be experiencing pain from the sprained, strained, or bruised wrist.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and study patches at no cost. Remuneration for time and travel will also be provided.

**Still having trouble with ADHD symptoms?**

Does your child take a long-acting stimulant for ADHD, but still have trouble with symptoms? If your answer is YES, your child may be eligible to participate in a research study to test the safety and efficacy of an investigational, non-stimulant ADHD study drug compared to placebo.

What is your answer to these questions?

- Does your child have a diagnosis of ADHD?
- Is your child 6-17 years old?
- And would you consider adding a non-stimulant ADHD study drug to their current ADHD treatment?

If you answered YES to all these questions, your child may be eligible to participate. Study drug and office visits will be provided at no cost to participants. The cost of your child’s current ADHD medicine will be your responsibility. Compensation will be available for time and travel.

To learn more, please contact:

UCSD Medical Center, Hillcrest
Department of Psychiatry
Call: (866) 550-UCSD
Email: ADHDstudy@ucsd.edu

**RESEARCH STUDIES**
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.

For more information, call: 619-409-1243

We Want You!

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

Depression Medication Not Working?

Have you been taking your antidepressant medication but still experience low mood? Are you feeling hopeless and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty? If so, and you are between the ages of 18 and 65, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for depression.

Qualified participants will receive:
1. Compensation for time and travel
2. No-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care
3. No-cost medical evaluations by board-certified physicians

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Central Location Near Airport Medical Center & Weight Control Medical Clinic, 1516 W. Redwood St., Ste. 105, San Diego 92101

We have new and innovative medications and regimens to help you lose weight without depleting your body of the nutrients it needs and help you feel satisfied. Bioidentical hormones & HGH, lifestyle and nutrition training and Vitamin B-12 injections are important contributors to your well-being and helpful in increasing your energy, heightening your metabolism and feeding your nervous system. Let Dr. Sterner develop an individualized program just for you.

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Medical marijuana evaluations

• Free verification card provided with every recommendation.
• Appointments available 7 days
• In-office verification service
Legitimate and affordable. Dr. Sterner has 10 years’ experience working with medical marijuana patient needs.

Schedule an appointment today: 888-211-1684
24-Hour Recorded Information Call: 619-442-4215

We have new and innovative medications and regimens to help you lose weight without depleting your body of the nutrients it needs and help you feel satisfied. Bioidentical hormones & HGH, lifestyle and nutrition training and Vitamin B-12 injections are important contributors to your well-being and helpful in increasing your energy, heightening your metabolism and feeding your nervous system. Let Dr. Sterner develop an individualized program just for you.

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Schedule an appointment today: 888-211-1684
24-Hour Recorded Information Call: 619-442-4215
**Type 2 Diabetes**

**Taking Lantus®** (insulin glargine)?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study and will receive treatment with an investigational medication to evaluate blood sugar control.

**Participants must be:**
- Taking Lantus® (insulin glargine) with or without Actos® (pioglitazone) and/or Glucophage® (metformin)
- Not on other diabetes medications or other insulin

**Qualified participants will receive:**
- Study-related medical exams and lab work
- Glucose monitor and supplies
- Compensation for travel

For more information, please call:

**Diabetes and Endocrine Associates**
619-466-4899

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**New Research Study**

**Cialis**

(Erectile Dysfunction medication)

to be evaluated for Prostate Enlargement

You may qualify if you are:
- 45 years or older
- Already on medications to help with Prostate Enlargement (BPH)
- With or without erection problems

Study medications, study-related physical exams, and blood tests are provided. Compensation for time and travel will be provided.

**Please call San Diego Clinical Trials at:**
(619) 287-6000

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**Body Dysmorphic Disorder**

Are you preoccupied with a defect in your physical appearance, spending hours a day worrying about it or looking in the mirror?
- Do you groom excessively or try to camouflage your flaw?
- Do you avoid having people see it?

Dr. Sanjaya Saxena from the UCSD OCD Program is looking for people who are excessively concerned about a physical flaw to take part in a study that is providing:
- 12 weeks medication
- Brain imaging scans
- Diagnostic evaluation
- Neuropsychological evaluation

Study participants must:
- Be age 18-65
- Not be on any medications that affect brain functioning
- Not have any active medical conditions
- Weigh less than 280 lbs.
- Not have a history of chronic alcohol or substance use
- There is NO monetary compensation for participation.

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: (858) 534-8056

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**Avoiding Relationships?**

Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?
Starting conversations? Speaking to authority figures?
Always worried about what other people think of you?

Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

**Receive Free Treatment**

with computerized therapy as part of a research program.

**No medications!**

Call: 619-229-3740 or e-mail: SDSU.CUTA@gmail.com
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

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6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego
drink what you can steal. Flavor was not the point. In college (at least for the three semesters I attended) the rule was: drink what you can afford. Again, taste was a nonissue. After moving into my first apartment, I allowed playing the part of a grown-up that I made up a new rule based on my desire to be taken seriously: drink what you think sophisticated adults drink.

At the time, this meant flashy-sounding cocktail classics made with vodka (what I considered to be a very adult ingredient, with the added benefit of having virtually no flavor of its own), like Vodka Collins, White Russians, and Cosmopolitans.

For years, I drank only at parties, bars, or clubs and always for the same reason — to aid social interaction. But the way I viewed the role of libations changed A.D. (after David). My first months of dating the gastronome were rife with new discoveries, including that of one beverage I had never tasted — port wine. Intent on pleasing his new ladylove with sweet liquid as a wine best saved for dessert, that is, until I discovered the Porto Blanco.

David laid out a platter containing a glass of fine port, a wedge of blue-veined, aged Stilton, and a few squares of dark chocolate.

With enough insistence, David persuaded me to overcome my reluctance to apply deliberately a known evil — stinky blue cheese — to my finicky tongue. At first, the pungency of the Stilton was overwhelming. But once I sipped the port and closed my eyes, something magical happened — in my mouth, the cheese was transformed into a creamy concoction of salty hazelnut, caramel, and chocolate. Suddenly, an alcoholic beverage was not only a vehicle to a better buzz but also a delicacy in which I could luxuriate.

Because it’s no longer just about the buzz, my greatest drink-pleasures derive from wine paired well with food.

I fancy many types of wine. Because it’s no longer just about the buzz, my greatest drink-pleasures derive from wine paired well with food.

I fancy many types of wine. Since my first kiss of port, I have always viewed the viscous and sweet liquid as a wine best saved for dessert. That is, until I discovered the Porto Blanco.

McCain had Joe the Plumber. Palin had Joe Six-Pack. I’ve got Joe the Sommelier. It was my not-so-average Joe who demonstrated that the nectar I had relegated to the land of finishes could be just as delightful on the flip side of the meal.

When it comes to enjoying drinks as a complement to food, the problem with most cocktails is that they are too filling and too flavorful, bombarding my palate with their sweets and sours. Few are ideal aperitifs, which are meant to stimulate the appetite, not squash it. Joe’s sweet and spicy Chupacabra — a hearty concoction of Stoli Vanil, Kahlúa, horchata, ancho chile, and simple syrup — is too much for me to handle before chef Hanis’s generous portions at Kensington Grill.

David and I have been dining at the Grill since we started dating six years ago. It wasn’t until Joe added the Porto Blanco, a classic beverage of choice in Portugal, to the cocktail list that I realized how consummate the aperitif is to a good meal. In this

**PCSD-Feighner Research**
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**Investigational Pain Relief Patch Study**

**Sprained your ANKLE recently?**

Have you recently sprained your ankle? You could help researchers evaluate an investigational pain patch that’s placed directly on your ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a medical research study evaluating an investigational, medicated patch for its ability to relieve pain when placed directly on the site of your pain.

To qualify for this study, you must be:

- 17 to 75 years of age AND
- Experiencing pain from a recent ankle sprain that occurred in the last 60 hours.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and study patches at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel will also be provided.

**Support 2**

To learn more, please contact:
619-229-3099
San Diego Sports Medicine & Family Health

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**Is your teen clinically depressed or just going through a stage?**

**Sadness or anger? Problems in school? Crankiness? Loss of interest in friends or activities?**

**Our paid research study**

for qualified kids ages 12-17 includes no-cost lab tests, physical exams and medication. Regular supervision by a physician specializing in teen depression.

**PCSD-Feighner Research**
Conveniently located in Mission Valley
Call toll-free for information: 1-877-367-4636

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**Has Erectile Dysfunction Turned Your SEX Life OFF?**

If you’re struggling with Erectile Dysfunction (ED), you can help researchers evaluate an investigational medication just for ED.

ED can be difficult to talk about, as it affects not only your sex life but also your confidence. Now, local doctors are conducting the REVIVE research study to evaluate an investigational medication for treating ED.

To be eligible for the REVIVE research study, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have had mild to severe ED for at least 6 months, AND
- Be in a monogamous, heterosexual relationship for at least 3 months
- Men with type 1 or type 2 diabetes could be eligible and are encouraged to inquire about this research study.

You will not be allowed to participate in this study if your partner is pregnant, breast feeding, or wishes to become pregnant.

Qualified participants will receive study medication as well as study-related medical evaluations at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may also be provided.

To learn more, please contact:
www.MARGinc.com
(858)277-7177

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**To learn more, please contact: www.MARGinc.com (858)277-7177**

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**Clinical Research Institute, LLC**

San Diego Reader April 23, 2009 39
Heavenly drinks not seeking treatment

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

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

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

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:

- Meeting new people?
- Talking in front of a group?
- Going to parties?
- Interacting with those you are attracted to?
- Dealing with authority figures?
- Eating or writing in front of others?

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

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

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

Spanish Red Wine at Bronx Pizza
Do you guys serve beer?
Only to ourselves.
— From the Bronx Pizza FAQ on the back of the to-go menu

It’s a good, pithy answer, entirely in keeping with the feel of the place. A good answer — but not the whole answer.

If Bronx Pizza has a mascot, it is the statue of a pizza chef occupying one corner of the back patio. Potheaded, smiling, and proud, dusted with gray city grime instead of white unbleached flour, he stands, apron around his waist and kerchief around his neck, offering up his handwork.

This is it, he assures you. This is the real deal.

So what to make of the mneuqs in up on the balcony, the ones seated at the table with the red-and-white checked tablecloth? Between her bobbed hair and scarf and his preppy hair and Navy jacket, they look as though they just got off the yacht. Who are these people?

‘They’re not me and mine, that’s certain. We’ve been going to Bronx since it opened — our family expanding right along with the restaurant’s seating capacity — and we’ve got it down to a routine: call in the order as we leave the house, drop off the wife and kids in front, circle the block looking for a parking space, head inside, get sodas poured and kids seated, pick up pies, cut slices into bits for the little ones. Yes, it’s a routine, but one forever teetering on the edge of chaos. We don’t look at all like the couple on the balcony. Except for the wine.

Bronx Pizza doesn’t serve wine to customers, same way they don’t serve beer. But there’s a bottle of red at the table between those mannequins, and you can bet that there’s a bottle of red — most likely Spanish and definitely cheap — between my wife and me. Years ago, an earlier version of that Bronx FAQ allowed how it was legal to bring a bottle onto the premises. That was all the encouragement I needed, I sometimes wonder if the side-long glances I get from my fellow diners are because they’re afraid my horde of children will overrun the place or because they’re amazed to see someone pull a bottle of wine out of his pants pocket.

If it’s the latter, a word of explanation: for me, as for many, wine completes a meal. Wine’s basic combination of tangy acidity and fruity sweetness, together with the structure and texture provided by alcohol, make it a fine companion to whatever’s on the plate. If it’s worth it (and it is) to drive from La Mesa to Hillcrest for pizza, it’s worth it (and it is) to shepherd my kids onto the balcony. If it’s the former, I sometimes wonder if the side-long gaze is from the couple overrun the place or because it’s a routine, but one forever teetering on the edge of chaos. We don’t look at all like the couple on the balcony. Except for the wine.

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RESEARCH STUDIES

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It depends on what’s on the shelf — most likely grenache, maybe tempranillo, maybe the time for cheap Spanish red — with his wife and firstborn. It’s discussing brand management — when I want anachronism, Below-the-knee, butt-hugging pencil skirt topped with a short, boxy, double-breasted jacket with poker-chip-sized buttons. Some- thing Bobbie Barrett would wear on TV’s Mad Men. You know Don Draper and Roger Sterling would haunt this place for a late lunch running right into dinner. Imagine them at the top of the stairs.

Which is where I found both the decor — the houndstooth and Laurel last summer, she had ‘60s suits. Ground New York…and early-London, Paris hip-chic, under- my perch, I imagine Swinging from the balcony, however, my wife and I don’t bother with stemware; Bronx’s clear plastic water cups work just fine. This isn’t a matter of reverse snobbery. I believe in stemware — a good wine glass will help you appreciate all the ele- ments in your ’61 Cheval Blanc.

Rather, it’s a matter of pro- portion. Pizza night with the kids is not the time to swirl, sniff, and portion. Pizza night with the kids is not the time to swirl, sniff, and because it tastes good with what you’re eating and because it glad-dens the heart of man while he’s getting refills on root beer, cor- railing the three-year-old, and discussing brand management with his wife and firstborn. It’s the time for cheap Spanish red — maybe tempranillo, maybe mourvedre, most likely grenache. It depends on what’s on the shelf at the store. There’s always some- thing. It started back in 1998 with Protocolo for $4.50 a bottle at the Wine Bank. There have been so many since then: Borsao, Tres Ojos, Casa Castillo, Vina Alarba (so very much Vina Alarba)… just now, it’s Crucillon from San Diego Wine Co. Thanks to the weak dollar, it’s up to $6.99, but it’s still a bargain. — Matthew Lickona

Dragon’s Blood Sangria at Laurel
- 12 oz. red wine
- 3 oz. brandy
- 2 oz. triple sec
- 2 oz. pineapple juice
- 1 oz. simple syrup
- ½ oz. anisette
- Top with 2 oz. Sprite and garnish with fresh fruit

Yields one carafe.

For all the wannabe swank spots in San Diego — midcen- tury rehabs downtown, original upholstery along El Cajon Boule- vard — when I want anachronism, I push my tush onto a sleek, white leather bar stool at Laurel. From my perch, I imagine Swinging London, Paris hip-chic, under- ground New York... and early-'60s suits.

When I met Angela at Fifth and Laurel last summer, she had to drag me out of my daze over the decor — the houndstooth dining chairs, the arabesque black- and-white florals, but especially; those chartreuse banquettes! That silken fabric! “Can’t you just see it?” I shriek. “A fabulous suit!” Below-the-knee, butt-hugging pencil skirt topped with a short, boxy, double-breasted jacket with poker-chip-sized buttons. Some- thing Bobbie Barrett would wear on TV’s Mad Men. You know Don Draper and Roger Sterling would haunt this place for a late lunch running right into dinner. Imagine them at the top of the stairs.

Which is where I found myself surveying the bar below. Get ready to make an entrance, everyone; ladies with legs, this is your moment. Descending four sweeping steps, then a sharp left down a few more (grab that
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Capping off this picture might call for a Martini — or in Laurel’s case, pre-theater Sangria. But traces of the “new” Laurel linger like Chanel No. 5, and her heritage shows (Miro motifs, Gallic touches on the menu), most audibly on the website: one click conjures up mid-’50s Paris with piano vamp and sassy French vocalist. Smart with a frivolous streak, worldly-wise but playful, she’s long known how to dress, how to dine, and how to drink.

Margaritas at Canes
- 1 oz. tequila
- Sweetened lime juice
- Margarita mix
- Splash of orange juice

Some people sound so damn cool ordering their drink. “Martini. Shaken, not so...”
stirred.”

Or they know which vintage of wine is best and what wine you can and can’t have with what food. Okay, the wine drinkers might sound more pretentious than cool, but most people think it’s cool if you know your alcohol. (They appreciate it, also, if you can handle your alcohol.) I often say I have the palate of a 12-year-old. So when I turned 21 and my friends were enjoying the “free” drinks at the casino, I tried a few. I figured I liked soda—why not order a Jack & Coke. It was awful. How about a 7&7? My mom gave me 7UP when I was sick. Drinking three 7&7s almost made me sick. How many ways could they screw up the taste of delicious sodas?

But on my quest for an alcoholic beverage that tasted good, I found two I love. Because I have that sweet tooth, the Whiskey Sour is the perfect drink. It tastes great. Most drinks that taste good come with an umbrella, a three-foot straw with curves and loops, and four slices of fruit on the rim. Or they sound weird to order. “I’d like a Fuzzy Navel, please.”

You can say “Whiskey Sour” and sound like a real man. Not just because “whiskey” is in the name, but because it’s a drink that has history. In a book from the mid-1800s, How to Mix Drinks, the Whiskey Sour is there. It contains a few ounces of blended whiskey, some lemon juice, a half teaspoon of powdered sugar, and only one piece of fruit—a cherry on top.

The other drink I love is the Margarita. Margaritas taste the same most places. I prefer the ones made with triple sec. I like to drink Margaritas at Cane’s, right on the boardwalk in Mission Beach. It’s hard to beat sitting on the rooftop, people-watching, and checking out waves. And all for just over $10 a pitcher.

I like them blended, because, again, to my 12-year-old’s palate, they’re like a lemon-lime Slurpee. Except you’re a bit buzzed after a pitcher.

My favorite Margarita story involves Rupert Holmes and his song “Escape (The Piña Colada Song).” He initially had it written as “If you like Casablanca/And getting caught in the rain…” His manager was tired of his mentioning films in songs, and it was
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decided he’d change “Casablanca” to the name of a drink. It was going to be “If you like Margaritas…”

As Holmes sat in the studio thumbing through a book on drinks, he came across the Pota Colada. It had one more syllable than Margarita and worked better, but Holmes had no clue how one tasted. Poor Margarita. Thank how much more famous it would’ve become.

And no, you don’t sound cool ordering a Margarita. And you don’t look cool in Old Town drinking one the size of a birdbath.

But, hey, I had a lawyer friend who always ordered a Monkey Fart. It was a blend of chocolate, cinnamon, bananas, and who knows what kinds of alcohol. Another friend loves a drink called Liquid Cocaine, but most bartenders have to ask him how it’s made.

You never have that problem with the Margarita. Heck, people make them in blenders at their backyard barbecues.

But they don’t taste as good as they do at Canes, when you’re sitting a few yards from the ocean, hearing the screams from the roller coaster, smelling the smoke from a bonfire…

And waiting for the Breeders to hit the stage. —Josh Board

Soju at Shozen & Manpo

Whenever I go to Shozen & Manpo, I drink soju, and whenever I drink soju, my wife and kids tell me it does strange things to me. I’m not sure if they’re right, but even if they are, it won’t deter me from indulging, even overindulging, in this clear, clean elixir that some Koreans call “health alcohol.”

Whether you spell it “soju” (the Korean version) or “shochu” (the Japanese variant), it’s a spirit that usually weighs in at 20 to 25 percent alcohol per volume. Some marketers describe it as Korean or Japanese “vodka,” but to my well-practiced palate, such prosaic comparisons hardly do it justice. It goes down smooth and easy — exceptionally so; that’s part of the appeal, and perhaps part of the problem.

There aren’t any alcoholic beverages I won’t try. But for versatality and food-friendliness, ease of quaffing, and all-around drinkability, as well as reason-
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Marketplace in Kearny Mesa, which sells dozens of brands, mostly Japanese, from about $8 to $25 for a 750-milliliter bottle. Over time, I’ve tried many of them, discovering a wide array of flavors that reflect the various fermentable starches. Some styles, those derived from barley, wheat, potatoes, and rice, offer a “neutral” or vodka-like experience (albeit with much less bite); others, notably sweet potato-based versions, have a distinctive flavor unlike any other spirit I’ve tasted — but I love them all.

At many restaurants, soju—usually a cheap, neutral brand—is offered up in a “Martini,” in much the same way a joint without a full liquor license will create mixed drinks with sake. But no dedicated soju drinker takes his or her distillate that way; it’s straight or not at all, which brings me back to Shozen & Manpo, whose effervescent proprietor and sugary-sweet (but genuine) waitresses come to mind every time I twist open a bottle. As soon as I sit down at Shozen, the ritual begins; there’s no need to ask me what I’ll be drinking tonight. Sure, I may interpose a big bottle or two of Korean OB beer or perhaps a Kirin Ichiban, but within a moment or two, the waitress arrives with an ice-cold bottle of Jinro Chamisul and two tiny, clear glasses. One glass is nominally for my wife, but we all know that the most she’ll drink is one thimbleful; the rest is mine, and if we’re flush with cash and no one protests too loudly, a second bottle may even-ually arrive. Apparently, soju—wildly popular in Korea, where the per capita consumption amounts to a shot a day—has quite a reputation, one characterized by businessmen, still clad in gray wool suits, passed out on the floor amid empty 1.75-liter plastic bottles. Now that’s living, man.

—Moss Gropen

**Pearl Harbors at Carlee’s Bar and Grill.**

**Borrego Springs**

- 2 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. melon liqueur
- Pineapple juice
- Maraschino cherry and pineapple for garnish

The Pearl Harbor is a “trop-ical” drink that I have found, most urban bartenders do not know how to mix. I stumbled onto it by accident myself.

Summertime, I enjoy cold, fruity cocktails because it’s hot outside; it’s especially hot in Borrego Springs, where it averages 115 degrees during the day and 90 degrees at night. The popular watering hole is Carlee’s Bar and Grill, center of town near Christmas Circle.

Summer 2002: wildfires west of Borrego made it dangerous to get out via Ranchita or Julian, so instead of evacuation, everyone stayed put. I had been drinking Midori Sours. At Carlee’s, packed with firefighters taking a dinner break, I wanted a Midori Sour with an extra kick, so I asked the bartender to add a shot of vodka.

“That’s almost a Pearl Harbor,” he said.

“Drive that car by me again?”

“Never heard of it?”

“Can’t say that I have.”

“Do you want me to make you a Pearl Harbor?”

“Why not.”

I watched the bartender make the drink.

My friend Larry stepped up to the bar counter to get another Cadillac Margarita, his favorite that summer. Gazing at the drink being made, he said, “Something that fruity needs an umbrella.”

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—Patty S., El Cajon

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Yes!” I said. “An umbrella! That’s the ticket!”
“One umbrella coming up,” said the bartender.
“What the hell is that?” Larry asked.
“A Pearl Harbor,” both the bartender and I said at the same time.
“How is it?” the bartender asked.
“Perfect,” I said, and it was, for that moment, though maybe it had too much pineapple. I still preferred a Midori Sour with a shot or two of vodka, but such a drink had no name. So I gave it a name: a U.S.S. Arizona.

Creating drinks on the fly was a game Jordan, the singer in my old rock band, and I used to engage in. This was when we were in our 20s and full of protein and adventure. O haphazard youth; we’d create drinks and ask the bartender for that drink and then give the bartender grief for not knowing it. “What? Every bartender knows what a Black Iguana is!”

Black Iguana: one shot of Cuervo Gold, one shot of Cuervo White, and one shot of Don Julio, mixed with Coke. An expensive drink; every shot was a $5 charge.

With the Pearl Harbor, I would create variations at various bars, from the U.S.S. Arizona, the Tora! Tora! Tora! (rum replaces vodka), the December Seventh (gin replaces vodka), and the Day of Infamy (apple

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juice replaces pineapple).

For each of these drinks, I required an umbrella. I was convinced that without an umbrella, the drink lost its kick and umph and texture on the tongue. One night I was at Nunu’s, and they had run out of umbrellas.

“No, this can’t be happening to me,” I said with doom and gloom, as if Armageddon were knocking on the door.

The waitress groaned. “How the hell does an umbrella make a difference?”

I hesitated to open my mouth. How could I give her an answer that would make sense and not cause her to grab that fork on her tray and stab me in the tongue? I knew she was having a bad night, just as I had to face the prospect of having a Day of Infamy (which she said she’d never heard of) without my umbrella.

“It just does,” I said.

“Well, we’re out,” she said.

“How about an American flag? We have those left over from last week”—left over from the Fourth of July.

“I’ll give it a shot,” I said.

She brought back my Day of Infamy with a flag in it. My heart sank as if I’d gone on a Match.com date and my date did not look like the person in the profile photo.

“Well?” she said.

“Perfect, I lied.

“Good for you, jerk,” she said, and walked away.

“She used to work at Pac Shores, someone told me. ‘That’s where she picked up the attitude.’

Pac Shores! That Ocean Beach bar opened on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. The problem here is I didn’t order the right drink.

“I found them!” the waitress yelled, running up to my table. She had a handful of little umbrellas. “Now you’ll be happy,”

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she said.

“Get me a T ora!T ora!T ora! next,” I said.

“A what?”

“You never heard of…?”

Maybe playing this game with her wasn’t a good idea. “A Pearl Harbor, mayhap?”

She brightened. “Oh yeah, it’s almost the same as your Day of Infamy. I can get you that.”

I have been unable to find a bar in San Diego that can make the perfect Pearl Harbor, however, except Carlee’s Bar and Grill. Every time I head out to Borrego Springs, this is what I order, and they always have plenty of umbrellas. They know how to make a damn good drink out there in the desert of the real.

— Michael Hemmingson

**Long Island Iced Teas at the Brigantine**

- 1 part vodka
- 1 part tequila
- 1 part rum
- 1 part gin
- 1 part triple sec
- ½ parts sweet-and-sour mix
- 1 splash Coke

It’s about efficiency. When I need to catch a buzz, I need to do it quickly. Because I’ve got no damn time these days.

When my wife Mary and I were 23- and 24-year-old newlyweds, we lived in a big apartment on Front Street just north...
of Laurel. The kitchen and living room were left over intact from the huge house that had been sectioned into apartments. Both were enormous. Friends and family from out of town flocked to stay with us. We’d take them to Zagarella in Little Italy for some chianti and penne strascicate, then for a leisurely drink at the top of the Hyatt or Mister A’s. On Fridays and Saturdays, we might pile into a booth at the Red Fox Room on El Cajon Boulevard. Except for my wife, who on her heaviest day might drink half a Margarita, we’d sip Greyhounds, vodka-cran, White Russians, and Margaritas and all get a little tipsy…nice and slowly. Sometimes we’d stay in, play Trivial Pursuit or the Name Game, drink red wine brought by my friend and budding Reader wine critic Matthew Lickona. We’d sip our Rhônes, tempranillos, and monastrells and talk philosophy, politics, love, and literature long into the night and get a wee bit drunk…nice and slowly.

Now, as I like to say in a sotto voce cowboy voice like that guy in The Big Lebowski, “Them days is over.” I’m going to turn 38 in July. Mary and I have eight kids now. (Yes, I know what’s causing it. Yes, I have a hobby. No, I’m not a rabbit. Any other rude questions?) With each new child, the time I have to spend drinking has plummeted to the point that now each day presents no time for booze. I can carve out time now and then, but it’s a process that feels as arduous as Michelangelo’s carving Moses out of a block of marble: coordinating schedules with drinking buddies who are also dads, deciding on a place, checking times with my wife, lining up babysitting (if my wife is coming), managing my guilt (if she’s not).

On Monday nights, I play soccer — told you I had a hobby — at La Mesa Indoor Soccer Facility near Grossmont High School. One of my drinking buddies, John, plays on the same team, and the aforementioned Lickona lives close by. Efficiency number one.
Immediate tooth replacement!

Free consultation for implants
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Ernie Grimm: How can so much liquor taste so smooth?

The arena sits on the north side of I-8. Directly across the freeway sits the Brigantine. Efficiency number two. At the Brigantine, Monday features all-night happy hour. Efficiency number three. The fish tacos ($2.75) are plump and satisfying. The bacon cheddar skins, for five bucks, are not sublime — a half-inch layer of melted cheese and lots of crumbled bacon cover the four potato halves — but they satisfy. Unlike the skins, the Brig’s nautical decor stays well this side of cheesy. A small gas fire flickers in a fire-pit table in the bar area. Window tables offer a view over I-8 and the Grossmont area.

The long wooden bar features heavy, square-top, backless bar stools. Black-clad waitresses and bartenders are attentive but unobtrusive.

Efficiency number four is that mysterious and powerful concoction: the Long Island Iced Tea. It’s best not to try to figure out how so much hard liquor could taste so smooth. The classic Long Island — named for its place of origin — always includes gin, vodka, light rum, tequila, triple sec, and just a splash of Coke. The final ingredient varies from place to place, sometimes sweet-and-sour mix, sometimes simple syrup, sometimes sour mix. Brigantine bartenders use sweet-and-sour. Unfortunately, Long Island Iced Tea isn’t one of the Brig’s happy hour, dollar-off drinks. But I don’t do this often, so I’m happy to pay the full $6.50.

A round of Long Islands is all it takes to break that stoic “Can’t complain! I’m doing all right/ same old same old” crust that builds up around us suburban dads. Soon we’re laugh-
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— Lonnie M.

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LETTERS
continued from page 15

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Originals 10, Covers 0
Regarding the lead story by Jay Allen Sanford on March 19, “Borrowed Music, Borrowed Look, Borrowed Fame.” I find it mind-blowing how some of these tribute cover bands can make a living touring the States and other countries with few endorsements or tour support. I noticed while reading this
story that financial backing was not mentioned. Touring would be next to impossible without support. I have seen my share of cover bands, hard rock and metal, and I admit some do a great job, but no matter how well you play, you can’t be the original. Remember that the music you are performing is not what you created. Paying tribute to someone special who is no longer alive is admirable and acceptable. It’s very traditional in classical music, keeping the spirit alive and well.

What we are faced with now is an epidemic of cover bands imitating the music of artists who are still active, living, touring, releasing albums and CDs, and signed to major record labels. If music history has taught us anything, there is one thing certain: great music created by the original artist, composer, musician will last forever, music that perseveres through the ages, and when this is all said and done, the original will remain victorious.

Tony D. Metal
Spring Valley
### Thursday | 23

**SCIENCE ON THE ROCKS**

The only thing better than playing Guitar Hero is playing Guitar Hero on a 76-foot IMAX dome screen with a 16,000-watt sound system.

Fleet Science Center invites you to “Rock the Solar System” during this after-hours, adults-only event. See **SPECIAL**, page 66.

### Saturday | 25

**THE 25TH ANNUAL CHILDREN’S BOOK PARTY**

Reading is not only fun, it’s free! Bring your child by the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on Saturday morning and receive a book, refreshments, and an LT (LaDainian Tomlinson) Chargers T-shirt.

See **FOR KIDS**, page 60.

**MAKE ROOM FOR ART!**

After exposing your kids to the world of words, trot down the hill to Little Italy, where the whole family can experience art in all its forms, produced by over 400 artists. See **SPECIAL**, page 66.

### Monday | 27

**CRIPS AND BLOODS: MADE IN AMERICA**

Director Stacy Peralta asks, “If affluent, middle-class white American teenagers were forming gangs, arming themselves with automatic weapons, and killing one another, how would our country respond?” Peralta examines this and other questions in his documentary.

See **FILM**, page 59.

**DR. SEUSS TOURING SCULPTURE GARDEN**

Dr. Seuss’s characters are off the pages and larger than life at the Hotel Del. See **SPECIAL**, page 66.

### Tuesday | 28

**CHI KUNG TO COMBAT STRESS**

If you’re feeling any residual tension from tax season, this “Stomp Out Stress” workshop will help you focus on breath work and “visualization for emotional balance” to restore your physical and mental state.

See **LECTURES**, page 63.

### Wednesday | 29

**AN IMPRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR PRACTICAL LIVING**

In the words of author and National Public Radio commentator Andrei Codrescu, “It is not advisable, nor was it ever, to lead a Dada life.” Codrescu discusses and sings his new book *The Posthuman Dada Guide: Tzara and Lenin Play Chess*. See **IN PERSON**, page 62.

**YOUR WEEK ON TV:**

Tune in to NBC 7/39 News in the Morning to see footage of select events each Thursday at 6:15 a.m.
Retraction
This photo is the property of Big Bear Lakefront Lodge and was used inadvertently in another ad.

Anza Borrego Desert Tour
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Romantic Getaway Dancing And Music Saturday Night

Cajun and Zydeco Dancing Zydeco lesson and dance. Beginners’ dance lessons at 7 pm, open dancing in recorded tunes 8 pm 619-857-8409. Sundays, 7 pm 85. Tito Leo’s, 3302 Napa Street. san diego (see special)

Contra Dance Steve Barlow and others call while More the Merrier plays. Dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage at 8 pm. Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 pm. Potluck at 6:30 pm. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, April 25, 8 pm; free. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. NORTH PARK

English Country Dancing All callers share duties for English country dancing. 858-676-9731. Saturday, April 25, 6 pm; $6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (see)

Hip-Hop Don’t Stop! Latest dance steps taught by instructor! Dancer Prince on every Thursday. 858-635-1211. Thursday, 7 pm; $10. Dancing Unlimited, 4599 50th Street. NORTH PARK

Justa Swingin’ David and Tommy Francis desig for swing dance. East Coast/Jitterbug 1, plus Lindy 1 and Lindy 2 (7-8 pm). “Intro to swing” lessons for total beginners 8-8:45 pm. 858-395-6906. Wednesday, April 29, 7 pm; $5-$8. Firehouse Swing Dance, at San Diego Women’s Club: 2357 Third Avenue. (BANK’S MILL)

Latin and Ballroom Dance Party 19 plays Latin, ballroom, swing, and nightclub for dancing. For singles and couples of all ages. Salsa lesson: 8 pm. First time free. 619-275-3333. Saturday, April 25, 8 pm; free. Pattie Wells Dance center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (POWAY)

Romanian Dance Workshop Mihaia teaches the “great Romanian dance from the past.” Please bring a snack to share 619-281-5636. Saturday, April 25, 6 pm; $5-$7. Dancing Unlimited, 4599 30th Street. NORTH PARK

Spring Dance Concert Grossmont College Dance Department puts modern, ballet, jazz, tap, and hip-hop on display. 619-444-7766. Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm; Fri.
Day, April 24 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 25, 7:30 pm; $10-12. Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

Spring Studio Series Enjoy a variety of modern dance styles in solos, duets, and large group pieces, with dances from John Diaz, Minaqua McPherson, Anthony Rodriguez, Natalie Valerdi, Anjuliya Marya-Raney, Ketaurh Stickann, Blythe Barton, Erin Irlagic, and Sarah Larson, as well as new choreography by Jean Isaacs. Immediately following show, head down to Solare Restaurant and Lounge for drinks, tapas, “friendly conversation.” 619-225-1803. Sunday, April 26, 7 pm; $7-$15. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 108. ( POINT LOMA)

Tribal Belly Dance Tribal fusion belly dance by Sabrina Fox and Shalimar, live music by Middle-
YOUR WEEK ON TV:

Tune in to NBC 7/39
News in the Morning
to see footage of select events
each Thursday morning at 6:15 am.
The ambiguously constructed Secret Canyon Trail, circuitously nosing its way down the canyon walls of Pine Valley Creek for 14 miles, traverses nearly the entire length of the Pine Creek Wilderness in Cleveland National Forest. Vehicles are banned from the area, so the trail bears only the footprints of boots and running shoes, the impressions of horse-shoes, and the occasional discarded piece of litter of across-the-border origin. The migration of illegal aliens traveling northward through the wilderness area is not taking place at the level it used to be. Still, it is a good idea to travel in groups for safety here or anywhere else near the international border.

Begin your exploration at the Horsestall Trailhead at mile 1.64 on Lyons Valley Road. This is 1.5 miles south of Japatul Road and about ten miles southeast of Alpine. You’ll need a National Forest Adventure Pass ($5 daily, $30 yearly) to merely park at the trailhead. A wilderness permit is required for overnight backpacking into the wilderness area ahead. Call 619-445-6235 for more information.

From the trailhead parking lot walk north past a gate for about 300 yards, and then veer right through a pipe gate and follow what is known as the Espinosa Trail. A fast, 400-foot elevation loss takes you to oaks and Horsestall Canyon, where you bend right and fol-low the canyon’s trickling brook toward Pine Valley Creek. At 1.5 miles, you cross the creek (you’ll get your feet wet in this post-rainy season) and pick up the eastward-ascending Espinosa Trail on the far bank. Walk a short distance up that slope and then veer left on the Secret Canyon Trail, which may or may not be designated by a trail sign.

Now you traverse, with little elevation gain, the dry, east canyon wall of Pine Valley Creek, reaching after some 30 minutes the oak-draped (“secret”) brook called Secret Canyon. Lou Stein’s San Diego County Place Names notes that “This folk-type name designation in Des-canso district implies a site that is not readily accessible.” And so it was before the trail was pushed through here in 1992.

You might want to turn back where you first strike Secret Canyon’s creek, retracing your steps to the trailhead. Or, if the spirit moves you, you can spend another 40 minutes following the trail north toward the canyon’s uppermost reach.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and paths-ways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The Road and Jerry Schad assume no respon-sibility for any adverse experience.
Cookie Grimes Meet Montanna-based children’s author and illus-
trator (Jake the Cow Horse and A New Year’s Family). Grimes will
share videos giving closer look at characters and read excerpts from
her books 619-225-0465 Thursday, April 23, 4:30 p.m.; free. Barnes and
Noble — Bookstar Loma Theatre, 3510 Rosecrans Place. (point loma)
Ladybug Day Calling all young scientists — ladybugs need your help?
Quail Botanical Gardens and Cornell University are training
children and their families to track ladybug population nationwide for
“Lost Ladybug Project.” Enjoy crafts, songs, stories, puppet show.
Learn to catch, record, and release ladybugs as part of national cen-
sus. Search for rare, endangered la-
dybugs. San Diego County hood entomologist David Kellum on
to identify ladybugs, other insects. All ages welcome. Included
in regular admission fee; for some crafts. 619-436-5036 x206. Satur-
day, April 25, 10 a.m.; free. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gar-
dens Drive. (point mesa)
Stone Spaghetti and Story
Time Listen to reading of Stone
Soup, then reenact the story mak-
ing stone spaghetti “with a magic stone” for family program. Price
is per parent/child. Each addi-
tional child $10. 619-255-0203.
Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.; $30-
$38. Ages 5 and up. San Die-
go Natural History Museum, 1758 El
Prado. (balboa park)
The 25th Annual Children’s
Book Party Reading Literacy
Learning Inc. offers free books for
children, as well as entertainment,
refreshments. 619-266-4118. Sat-
urday, April 25, 8:30 a.m.; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211
Pan American Road. (balboa park)
Weird and Wonderful World
of Worms RinderNight program for
children three to six years old
(with an adult), promising animal
presentation, craft, story, snack.
This month, learn about all the
cool things worms do d 11 program
fee does not include admission to
zoo. Required reservations: 619-
557-3969. Sunday, April 26, 9 a.m.;
$11. Ages 3 and up. San Diego Zoo,
2920 Zoo Drive. (point loma)
IN PERSON
“An Impractical Handbook for
Practical Living” Poet, novellist,
essayist, NPR commentator Andrei
Codrescu discusses and signs his
new book The Posthuman Dada
Guide: Tzara and Lenin Play Chess
during event co-hosted by War-
wick’s Bookstore. 858-454-0347.
Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.;
$10. Warwick’s Bookstore, 6425
University Ave. (point mesa)
When Abraham Talked to the
Trees Librarian Vanassa Good-
man reads Elizabeth Van Steinwey
and Bill Farnsworth’s tale, a
reader’s theater presentation will
be performed, and participants
will create an Abe Lincoln craft
magnet. 619-236-5847 Tuesday,
April 28, 10:30 a.m.; free. San
Diego Public Library, 820 E Street.
(point mesa)
Carson & Barnes Circus Ani-
mals and performers galore! $50-
326-2233. Friday, April 24, 2:30
p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April
25, 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30
p.m.; Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m.,
4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; $8-$20.
Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy
Durante Boulevard. (point mesa)
Cookie Grimes Meet Montanna-
based children’s author and illus-
trator (Jake the Cow Horse and A
New Year’s Family). Grimes will
share videos giving closer look at
characters and read excerpts from
her books 619-225-0465 Thursday,
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Noble — Bookstar Loma Theatre,
3510 Rosecrans Place. (point loma)
Ladybug Day Calling all young
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Cornell University are training
children and their families to track
ladybug population nationwide for
“Lost Ladybug Project.” Enjoy
crafts, songs, stories, puppet show.
Learn to catch, record, and release
ladybugs as part of national cen-
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entomologist David Kellum on
hand to identify ladybugs, other
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This month, learn about all the
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fee does not include admission to
zoo. Required reservations: 619-
557-3969. Sunday, April 26, 9 a.m.;
$11. Ages 3 and up. San Diego Zoo,
2920 Zoo Drive. (point loma)
What are you reading?

“Exit Here by Jason Myers.”

Tell me about it.

“It’s kind of his life story. He was in Minnesota, and instead of following the dream that his dad has laid out for him — which was to go to USC and follow in his father’s footsteps — his dad was a businessman; he owned this town in Minnesota, and he wanted to leave the town to his son. But the son gets into drugs and messes up everything. It’s kind of a life-experience thing; he has to hit rock bottom before he can actually decide to move on. There are things that happened in the past that he has to go back and get over. Like, one summer vacation, he went to Hawaii. He had gone to a party and this girl had overdosed and he had intercourse with her and stuff. She ended up dying the next morning, and he left — he thought he was his fault. He didn’t know what really happened until later in life, when he went back and her family told him.”

Is it a novel?

“The back, the writer says it was based on his life, but the names of the people aren’t real.”

Who is your favorite character?

“The author, because of the transformation that he goes through, how he learns from experiences. Also, because of how strong a person he is, standing up to his dad.”

Can you compare it to other books you’ve read?

“No, I just found it randomly at Barnes & Noble.”

Who is your favorite author?

“I don’t really have one, but there was a series I read a year ago by Scott Westerfield — The Uglies, The Pretties, and The Specials. It’s science fiction set in the future, with a lot of biochemistry. When you’re little, you’re called a Little. From 6 to 12, you’re an Ugly, and you live in a city. When you turn 13, you get this procedure done to your body to make you pretty, and you become a Pretty. It made me think about how things are characterized — how things depend on social class or how much money you have or what you look like. Materialism.”

What book has been most life-changing for you?

“The main character in Exit Here is similar to somebody in my family that I’m really close to, so... And there was another book I read last year called Siddhartha, by Hermann Hesse. It was about the journey of a young man as he finds his spiritual beliefs — what he wants to believe in. I probably wouldn’t have picked it up if I just saw it, but somebody asked me to read it. I’m a spiritual person — I go to church and everything — and it made me open my eyes to other kinds of beliefs. It’s about Buddhism and stuff like that, stuff I’d never learned about and was never interested in learning about.”

Do you read any magazines or newspapers?

“No.

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

“Yes. We recommend books to each other that we think the other person would like.”

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

What’s That You’re Reading?

NAME: JESSICA SANDERS  |  AGE: 16  |  OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NEIGHBORHOOD: COLLEGE AREA  |  WHERE INTERVIEWED: SDSU CAMPUS

The Power of Two Brian and Gerri Monaghan share story of Brian’s cancer diagnosis and their subsequent journey. 858-454-0847. Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.; free. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Humpy Dumpty Was Pushed Debüt author Marc Blatte tells about him in the music biz. 858-268-4747. Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (HEIREY MESA)

The Sleep That Changed Everything by Jason Myers.”

BY SONIA ELIOT

Lee Ann Brown read from their books. Parking fee. 760-750-8077. Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m.; free. CSU San Marcos, 335 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCO)

Funny in Farsi Meet author Firoozeh Dumas, whose memoir about growing up Iranian-American in Southern California was selected for fifth Carlsbad Reads Together program. 760-602-2026. Thursday, April 23, 3 p.m.; Mon- day, April 27, 7 p.m.; free. Carlsbad City Library. (CARLSBAD)

Wrongful Death John Everson appears on behalf of his legal thriller about the battle over a body in my family that I’m really close to, so... And there was another book I read last year called Siddhartha, by Hermann Hesse. It was about the jour- ney of a young man as he finds his spiritual beliefs — what he wants to believe in. I probably wouldn’t have picked it up if I just saw it, but somebody asked me to read it. I’m a spiritual person — I go to church and everything — and it made me open my eyes to other kinds of beliefs. It’s about Buddhism and stuff like that, stuff I’d never learned about and was never interested in learning about.”

Do you read any magazines or newspapers?

“No.

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

“Yes. We recommend books to each other that we think the other person would like.”

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

What’s That You’re Reading?

NAME: JESSICA SANDERS  |  AGE: 16  |  OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NEIGHBORHOOD: COLLEGE AREA  |  WHERE INTERVIEWED: SDSU CAMPUS

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A Poetry Tribute to Youth Encanto Children’s Poetry Choir, high school students, and the Langston Hughes Poetry Circle. Performers include Melodiers (10:40), the Serranaders and Choraleers (10:29), San Diego City Dixieland Band (3 p.m.). Also see exhibit of work by Pamela Kozminski’s ceramics students, as well as oils, watercolors, and sculptures. 858-232-7548. Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m.; free. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (JAME NIV)
“Connecting Art and Science: Historical Influence of Culture on Anatomy” (Gain insight into historical saga of anatomical studies, view images reflecting evolution of scientific method during lecture by Kevin Petti from department of natural sciences at Miramar College. 619-255-0203. Monday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.; $5-$10. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Consecutive Counterterrorism: Theory and Evidence” UCSD’s Eli Berman 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, April 23, 7 p.m.; Free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Jewish Composers in Popular Song and on Broadway” Second installment of “Conversations from the Piano” with UCSD professor Steven Cassedy, who will expound on Richard Rodgers (of Rodgers and Hart/Rodgers and Hammerstein fame) for San Diego Jewish Music Festival. 858-362-1348. Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.; 814-518. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Job Hunting During Difficult Times” Professional career counselors Simona Cherlin and Janet McAfee discuss “planning your campaign, networking, and opening doors in the hidden job market.” 858-271-8918. Friday, April

Bobby D Presents/ Jorge Marron Productions

Live Boxing
“The Battle”
Thursday, April 30, 7:30:pm
Main Event:
Super Bantamweight Championship
Christopher “The Kid” Martin
Chula Vista, CA
vs
Jose “El Pinocho” Beltran
Los Mochis, Sinaloa
Exciting Female Bout:
Amaris “The Queen” Quintana
San Diego, CA
Gloria “The Warrior” Salas
Riverside, CA
Plus 3 more bouts
Four Points Sheraton Hotel
8110 Aero Drive, San Diego
Tickets available in the gift shop
All Ages
For more info, call:
619-420-8866 or 619-743-0698
www.SanDiegoFights.com
24, p.m. free. Encinitas Commu- 
nity and Senior Center, 1140 Oak 
Crest Park Drive. (36/36)

**San Diego State University (LA JOLLA)**

**April 25, 11 a.m.; $10. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (36/36)**

**The Constitutional Legacy of Abraham Lincoln** Professor William B. Travers will examine Lincoln’s role as a leader during the Civil War and his efforts to preserve the Union. Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free. La Jolla Historical Society, 7497 Pearl Street in Windansea. (36/36)

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**April 26. $120 for six classes. 760-757-32 for 4 weeks**

**Outdoors**

The Tall Locust Trees planted years ago along Julian’s narrow streets are once again brightening this backcountry (and former gold rush) town with blooms of white, pink, and lavender. Introduced into the West by 19th-century emigrants, locusts have become almost a trademark of California’s gold country, from the Mother Lode south to Julian.

The Black Oak, San Diego County’s most handsome native deciduous tree, is sending out new leaves this week, painting the mountain slopes with shades of red, brown, and bright green. The newly emergent leaves are reddish brown and bright green. The seasonal change appears to be occurring a bit early this year, which is possibly due to the recent warmth in the area.

**April 27, 5 p.m.; free. Robinson 
Center for the Arts, 15375 University Avenue. (36/36)**

**Valencia’s Secret** The world premiere of this new opera is a collaboration between San Diego Opera and the University of California, San Diego. The opera is based on the true story of a young girl who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. The opera runs from April 27 to 29 at the San Diego Civic Theatre. (36/36)

**April 27, 6:30 p.m.; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (36/36)**

**Celebrating Arbor Day** This program will feature a discussion of local plants and their care. Participants will also have the opportunity to plant trees in the area. (36/36)

**April 27, 6:30-9:00 pm**

**2082 Willow Glen Drive, El Cajon 619-275-3533**

**Kettle Boulevard. (36/36)**

**Art Quilt Exploration Class** Class with “no pattern, no equation, no embellishments.” Class with “no pattern, no equation, no embellishments.” (36/36)

**April 27, 6 p.m.; free. The Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (36/36)**

**Way of the Past** This program will explore the history of the Native American Tribes in the San Diego area. (36/36)

**April 27, 7:30 a.m.; $15-$43. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (36/36)**

**Drought-Tolerant Plants** This program will introduce participants to the types of plants that can thrive in a dry climate. Participants will also have the opportunity to purchase drought-tolerant plants. (36/36)

**April 27, 7:30 p.m.; $35-$43. Hacienda Library, 7904 Mission Valley Road. (36/36)**

**Green Solutions From Green Party** This program will focus on the impact of the Green Party on local and national politics. (36/36)

**April 27, 8 p.m.; $35. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (36/36)**

**Outdoors**

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A bloomin’ Walk in the Park! Explore local flora, fauna, ecology, history, and culture during trail guide-led walks. Starts from Visitor Center, 619-481-2381. Saturday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (CARLSBAD)

Celebrate Arbor Day — Plant a Tree! Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (LA JOLLA)

Birding Basics Class Learn five simple steps for identifying birds at a glance, how to use a field guide (bring yours if you have one). 619-668-3281. Saturday, April 25, 1 p.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (CARLSBAD)


Celebrate Arbor Day — Plant a Tree! Friends of Balboa Park lead tree planting along Balboa Drive (just north of Laurel Street entrance). A mixed oak grove of 20 Engelmann oaks, island oaks, and western redwoods are planned for site. Balboa Park, 323-2500. Love a Clean San Diego!— Plant Trees for Earth Day Join 100 Audubon Society birders for outing at Old Mission Dam to view spring migrants. 619-451-9370. Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (CARLSBAD)

Bridal Bazaar Sunday, April 26 11A.M. Fairgrounds, 31m.us-4pm. Over 20 exhibitors with everything you need to plan the wedding of your dreams! Spectacular fashion shows at 11:30 a.m. 1 pm & 2:15 pm. $2 OFF ADMISSION Bridal Bazaar Sunday, April 26 10 am-4 pm Del Mar Fairgrounds Over 200 exhibitors with everything you need to plan the wedding of your dreams! Spectacular fashion shows at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. & 2:15 p.m. www.williamwilson.com
**LOCAL EVENTS**

**Earth Voter Work Party**
San Diego County Public Law Library, 1105 First Street. (DOWN TOWN)

**California Dreaming**
Powyay Valley Garden Club's 3rd standard flower show with lower arrangements on display; plant sale, arts and crafts by Powyay Arts and Crafts Guild. 504-996-2497. Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.; free. Old Powyay Park, 14314 Midland Road. (SAN DIEGO)

**Conservation in Bloom**
Spring Garden Festival with lectures by experts, plant sale, tips on preserving habitats. Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Carmayacama College Drive. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

**Dr. Seuss Touring Sculpture Garden**
Inaugural show at Hotel del Coronado celebrates Theodore Seuss Geisel's collection of books and characters he created during his 34-year career. See bronze sculptures from the "Art of Dr. Seuss Collection," including six 3- to 8-foot sculptures of characters from The Lorax, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Yertle the Turtle, Green Eggs and Ham, and The Cat in the Hat. Saturday, April 25, through Wednesday, May 20. 619-435-6611. (CORONADO)

**Mujeres, Adelitas del Parque**
A theme for 19th annual Chicano Park Day celebrations, dedicated to "all the women who have put their hearts and souls into the green living, performances by Eric Runninthopp and the Interlilohi Dancers, more. 619-660-0614. Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Carmayacama College Drive. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

**Musician's Hall of Fame**
Installation experiences" at Aqua Blu (additional cost); free. Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Earth Bash**
Earth Fair Dancers, music by Rice & Beans, presentations on sustainability, social equity, economic prosperity, more. 619-388-4019. Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m.; free. San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

**Encinitas Garden Festival**
More than 20 Cardiff-by-the-Sea gardeners open their garden gates for walking tour. Marketplace filled with products and info to green your garden. (Marketplace free; charge for garden tour). 760-753-8615. Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.; $10-$25. Cardiff State Beach (Beachside); South Coast Highway 101, north of West Plaza Street. (CARDIFF)

**Encinitas Street Fair**
Festive shopping event. Ten on foot and commercial vendors, line ente- rtainment. 760-945-9288. Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.; Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

**Legal Resources and San Diego County Public Law Library**
**Legal Resources Knowledge Fair**
San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Home Decorating and Remodeling Show**
Annual event promises more than 400 exhibits of items to improve, remodel, renovate homes. Displays of home products, service. 800-999-5400. Friday, April 24, 10 a.m.; Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.; Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**House of Pacific Relations, 2125 7th Avenue. Thursday, April 23, 11 a.m.; free.**

**Japanese Food and Entertainment**
Japanese food and entertainment such as Japanese archery, boulder puppets, manga workshop, taiko drumming, Japanese swords, game booths for kids. more. 760-941-8880. Saturday, April 25, noon; Sunday, April 26, noon; free. Vista Buddhist Temple and Japanese Cultural Center, 150 Cedar Road. (VISTA))

**Hamanatsuri Festival**
Enjoy Japanese food and entertainment such as Japanese archery, boulder puppets, manga workshop, taiko drumming, Japanese swords, game booths for kids. more. 760-941-8880. Saturday, April 25, noon; Sunday, April 26, noon; free. Vista Buddhist Temple and Japanese Cultural Center, 150 Cedar Road. (VISTA)

**Holistic Health and Fitness Expo ‘09**
Event includes health lectures, environmental health and wellness professionals, fitness demonstrations (yoga, meditation, cardio kickbox), health and wellness vendors. 619-819-6499. Thursday, April 23, 11 a.m.; free. Balboa Park. (DOWNTOWN)

**San Diego History, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)**

**Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)**

**San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)**

**La Jolla 586-867-8705 NORTH COUNTY 760-536-8890**

**San Diego Reader, April 23, 2009**

**Legal Resources Knowledge Fairs**
San Diego County Court and San Diego County Public Law Library.
**CLASSICAL LISTINGS**

**HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTINGS** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego Ca 92136-0803. Or fax it to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

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**CLASSICAL**


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**ART**

**MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART**

**Mingki International Museum — North County** "Nomadic Legacy — Tent and Textiles of Central Asia and India" 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, dome-shaped, re- til- dent-walled, 22 feet in diameter — won first prize in a national contest celebrating 100th an- niversary of Kyrgyzstan’s existence. Also on view: rare Kyrgyz reed screens, Turkmen Ushki, and Kazakh costumes and textiles. Ex- hibits continue through Sunday, August 2. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (MWW D).
the inside track

band Psychedelic Horseshit, which manufactured “Wavves Suxx” T-shirts after sharing three shows with the San Diegans.

WE'RE BETTER THAN WAVVES (PSYCHEDELIC HORSESHIT)

“Wavves is getting $30,000 to [expletive] crank out this [expletive] generic [expletive],” said Horseshit front man Matt Whitehurst in a Washington Post interview that deemed it necessary to censor his band’s name. “I don't even think Psychedelic Horse[expletive] is that good of a band, but it's, like, [expletive] leagues and years beyond Wavves… Just a bunch of poseur [expletive] honestly.”

Whitehurst points out that the “Suxx” shirts are mocking Wavves’ stage name. “Wavves took, like, six pictures with [our drummer] Rich with the Wavves Suxx T-shirt on. So, you know, that little [expletive]’s probably into it or something. We should have named ourselves Wavves. We’d be rich now if we would’ve. We’d be better than Wavves.”

Williams politely declines to return fire. “Anytime I mention it, they get the [media] ink, and that’s the only reason they started insulting [other performers]… I might like a cut of those [Wavves Suxx] shirts, though.”

Wavves’ 2009 album Wavves (yup, three Vs), on Mississippi-based Fat Possum Records, earned an 8.1 rating at hipness arbiter Pitchfork.com. That could either mean he’s “made it” or that it’s all downhill from here. — Jay Allen Sanford

Train of Thought

Eric Woodard, aka Dizzy Order, has been zapping locally for 15 years. He used to freestyle at underground shows based in Encanto in the mid ’90s and frequented a short-lived rap collective in 2000 in a downtown venue called the Loft. He’s outlasted now-defunct open-mike scenes at Honey Bee Hive, Hot Monkey Love Cafe, and Club Montage.

Woodard, 33, says he is still devoted to hip-hop in spite of the poor payoff. “This [San Diego] scene is tough on cats. You have to be in overdrive all the time just to make things happen… It seems like Mitchy Slick is the only one from here making any money at it.”

Woodard’s new home is at the Marquee, 835 25th Street in Golden Hill. The building was built as a church in 1926. Most of it is now used to house and treat schizophrenic patients. Since January, 20 percent of the building has been shared by Ethos, a nondenominational church that welcomes pagans and Muslims.

“Eric is a Buddhist,” says Ethos founder Jason Page about Woodard. Ethos uses the Marquee for Sunday-night church services. Other nights are used for music shows, which are all-ages and open to the public. Rock and acoustic bands are showcased on Friday and Saturday. At Tuesday’s "Train of Thought," guests are asked for a $5 donation to see spiritually motivated musicians, freestyle poets, and rappers perform open-mike. Woodard helps produce Train of Thought, which pulled in an audience of 43 last week.

Train of Thought is not your average church-sponsored event. Two women in attendance were kissing, and performers threw out “fuck” and “nigger” to an audience that included children and conservatively dressed people.

“You can’t control what people say or feel and tell them it’s free expression at the same time,” says Woodard.

Hip-hop is just part of the Tuesday-night show. He says he also tried an all-hip-hop night called Boom Box Session on Thursdays. “I tried it three times, but no one would come. On the last night, I got this lady from L.A. called Medusa to come down and headline for $1000. I thought she was worth it. I got, like, 20 people who paid ten dollars each. I sent her another $450 later. She was cool with that. I think [a hip-hop night] will work eventually. I want to figure out what I did wrong and do it better next time.” — Ken Leighton

Hulu Knows Who I Am

When independent filmmaker Tray White contacted Matt Resovich last year through Myspace to do the score for Impaler (a documentary on self-proclaimed satanic vampire Jonathon “the Impaler” Sharkey, who ran for Minnesota’s governorship in 2006), Resovich didn’t pay it much mind.

“When I first saw Sharkey’s face on the friend request, I thought it was a joke,” writes Resovich in an email. “Then I realized it was a movie.”

After playing phone tag with White for a few weeks, Resovich nearly lost the movie deal to Alan Sparhawk, front man for indie band Low. “I was irresistibly cheap and easy, and I had one tune the director really liked.”

After agreeing to compose the documentary’s score, the multi-instrumentalist (who splits his time playing in the Black Heart Procession, the Album Leaf, and his own project, Roll Film) sat down and watched Impaler every day — from start to finish — for a week.

“The approach was the fun part. Kind of a reverse storyboard, really,” writes Resovich. “It wasn’t difficult at all. I was fortunate to have a finished film with a single time code from beginning to end to edit it.”

Since the 2007 release date, the film has been nominated for several independent film awards, and a few large movie outlets — Target, Amazon, Netflix, SnagFilms — have picked it up for distribution.

More good news came in mid March, when Resovich found out the documentary was added to online television and movie website Hulu.com’s list of television shows and movies.

“I am pretty excited to see Impaler doing so well on Hulu.com. It’s even more accessible than Amazon or Netflix. It is nice when the execs at Hulu.com are talking about [your work].”

As for scoring more movies, Resovich is on the

(continued on page 70)
lookout, but... "Honestly I don’t know where people go to schmooze for film gigs. Maybe if I start a ‘Cargo Cult’ or make a sacrifice to the MySpace gods, another job will come my way. Or, just maybe, someone will see Impaler and like my work. In the meantime, it’s kind of funny to book shows when your only official release is a movie soundtrack.” — Dorian Hargrove

Record-Release Roundup Irrado will play a free release party for their album I Am the Horn on Sunday, April 26, at the Casbah. “All attendees can expect a night full of magic, free food, good spirits, and constant vibrations of organized noise,” says singer-guitarist Daniel Dasher, the band’s sole remaining founder. “We’ve been working on the song ‘Grace’ by Jeff Buckley for some time, and we’d like to perform it that night. Something new we added is a woodwinds player who will blow your mind and a second guitarist who can sing like a gypsy.”

The album is produced by Mitch Wilson (No Knife) and will be available at CD Baby, iTunes, Amazon, and Jam Recordings.

Josh Damigo’s new CD debuts May 15 with a release party at Lestat’s. “This is a self-produced acoustic album,” he says, “so Lestat’s is the perfect place to present it, since I practically live off their latte after. Rob Deez is on the record, and he’ll be at the show, along with a special guest.” Damigo declines to specify who, though, he says, “It’s probably not Kid Rock.” (The Detroit rocker once showed up during a Damigo gig at Brick by Brick.)

The release party for the Shamey Jays’ debut CD Your Pretty Packages happens at Brick by Brick on May 23. “We’ve confirmed sets by Anna Troy Band, Endless, and a special guest appearance by Beat Farmer Joey Harris,” says front man Dave Howard, who wrote 10 of the album’s 12 tracks. “This time, we’re on a local label, Blindspot Recordings, whose artist roster is more like family. Our labelmates — Anna Troy, Dave Humphries, the Shambles, and Four Eyes — are all local kindred spirits.”

Kim DiVine’s new album Square One comes out April 26, with a release party set for Lestat’s on May 29. “Expect to see me playing in a full band, which doesn’t of happen a lot,” says DiVine, who moved from Massachusetts to San Diego in 2004. “I usually perform with my trio, but I want to bring out the full band and really replicate the sounds on the new album. I’m sure we’ll throw in a special cover song or two… I’m known to play some Patty Griffin, some Radiohead, even Death Cab for Cutie… but who knows.”

Resovich Scored The Impaler

Silverleaf celebrates its own new album at Lestat’s. Black Mamba’s release party for their new 12” happens April 30 in the Casbah’s Atari Lounge with Tape Deck Mountain, Drew Andrews, and Paddle Boat.

Psych punks Crocodiles, former members of Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower and the Prayers, release their much-anticipated debut album Summer of Hate on April 28, and the duo will play the Casbah May 11.

Hard rockers Cage, now with former Psychotic Waltz drummer Norm Leggio, release their album Science of Annihilation on May 22. Metal heads Sacrificial Slaughter have signed to Crash Records and announced a new album due to drop shortly; however, contacted by email, they declined to provide details. “Dude, we have performed and been covered all over the world. SD metal scene is pathetic and we don’t need it.” — Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Cynn, Dave Good, Larry Hammond, Ken Leighron, Burt Mendes, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stamps
FRIDAY MAY 1

ERICK MORILLO
CD RELEASE PARTY

FOR GUARANTEED ENTRY TICKETS GO TO WWW.4THEDJ.NET

FRIDAY APRIL 24
Scooter & Lavelle
OPENING SETS BY DJ Wired and Special Guests

SATURDAY APRIL 25
Discotech
We make music, period. Get it? Finesse

FRIDAY MAY 1
ERICK MORILLO
CD RELEASE PARTY
OPENING SETS BY: Yusef
Arashi vs. Mehrbco
Main Room: Electronica
Karma Lounge: Hip Hop
Gallery: R&B
Ultra Room: 50's

SATURDAY MAY 2
George Acosta
Gabe Lukosz

615 BROADWAY AVENUE
WWW.OBEC.TV / 619.231.0011
Vip bottle service: call aaron
019.365.0834 / vip@obec.tv
**Thursday 23**

Belly Up will be serving “electric” Hot Tuna tonight. Mmm. Jack Casady and Jorma Kaukonen formed Tuna in 1969, during their tenure with San Fran band Jefferson Airplane, as an outlet for their inner bluesmen. The acoustic duo became a trio, became an electric quartet, became a musical community of some 20 different blues-rock musicians over the years. They’ve released about 30 records, mostly live ones, and have outlasted Ms. Slick’s mothership. What’s that smell like fish, oh baby... House of Blues hosts prog-metal band Queensrýche tonight. The Bellevue, WA, quartet has just released its tenth full-length, a song-cycle story of last Ms. Slick’s mothership.

**Friday 24**

Didn’t know they made MCs in Mississippi, but TupsDJ Diplo tackles ‘em up at Canes Friday night. The “artist”/dash-producer released his sophomore disc Decent Work for Decent Pay last month to mixed reviews ha-ha.

The dance-club dude’s got pretty good taste, however, tossing Daft Punk, Hot Chip, Bloc Party, and Black Lips into his blender. Openers include, oh baby... House of Blues hosts prog-metal band Queensrýche tonight. The Bellevue, WA, quartet has just released its tenth full-length, a song-cycle story of last Ms. Slick’s mothership.

**Saturday 25**

The 36th annual Adams Ave. rootsicana thing kicks off Saturday. The event is always chock-a-block with good taste, however, tossing Daft Punk, Hot Chip, Bloc Party, and Black Lips into his blender. Openers include, oh baby... House of Blues hosts prog-metal band Queensrýche tonight. The Bellevue, WA, quartet has just released its tenth full-length, a song-cycle story of last Ms. Slick’s mothership.

**Sunday 26**

There’s a radio 94/9 freebie Sunday at Casbah, featuring irradiio, ...students, Demasiado, and Hialeah. There’ll be free food and these first faves stage it better than most. Check out last year’s crit hit Amen Corner for the Railroad’s latest line... Soda Bar sets up odd-pop freak-outs... B. Brooke, Joel West, and Joanne Mendenhall... While greasy punk Seattleites The Bug Nasties hit the windscrew at Ken Club.

**Tuesday 28**

This week’s set to see will set your inner hippe free, when Cinque guitarist Makoto Kawabata’s Acid Mothers Temple and the Melting Paraiso UFO (Underground Freak Out) launch from Cape Casbah Tuesday night. The Temple’s “extreme trip music” relaxes with drone, shakes with squall, and then sends you with screeching freak-outs for what one New Yorker writer described as a “shamanistic experience.” Amen, sister... Miss the door at that one, hit up Beauty Bar, where good ol’ boys Rio Peligroso will take you on a roots-rock tour through the past 30 years. It’s good gravy. Day of Anonime and Someday Assassin are also on that bill.

**Wednesday 29**

Bob Log III dips the microphone mask at Bar Pink Wednesday night. The Tucson troubadour’s hyper-Delta-blues-punk stick is something to see and sure to move your feet. Tour mate Willeen Maker, an Alabamian with blues in his guitar and rock-n-soul in his voice, sets the stage...
San Diego Reader April 23, 2009

**HENSLEY’S**
**flying elephant PUB & GRILL**

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APRIL 24TH
8-10 PM

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(760) 434-2660  www.hensleyspub.com

**Music & Event Calendar**

**Wednesday, 22nd:** Joe Wood
**Thursday, 23rd:** Skelpin
**Friday, 24th:** Rockers in the Round
**Saturday, 25th:** Sligorags

**Sunday, 26th:** Greg Ginn
**Monday, 27th:** The Tail Draggers
**Tuesday, 28th:** The Grey
**Wednesday, 29th:** Joe Wood
**Thursday, 30th:** Skelpin

**San Diego Reader April 23, 2009**

**CITY BOXING PRESENTS**

**Ring Girl Contest**
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Contest starts at 9pm
$500 GRAND PRIZE
2ND PLACE: $100
3RD & 4TH PLACES: $50

The winners will be paid to work for a City Boxing Event being held on April 30th, Downtown San Diego.

Contestants must be 21 or older and must email at least two pictures (five maximum) and contact information to contest@pbbandgrill.com

Happy Hour... 4pm-10pm
$3 Wells & Drafts
1/2 price Appetizers
2 Dj’s from 9pm - close!

**PACIFIC BEACH BAR & GRILL**
860 Garnet Ave, Pacific Beach. More info: (858)2PB.GRILL pbbandgrill.com

**WEDNESDAY IS SMOKIN’ HOT!**

**NOW...**
**FEATURING**
3 GREAT ROOMS OF ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO 6pm-9pm
LIVE BANDS INSIDE 9pm-Midnight
DJ TONY SPINNING FROM 10pm-2am

$2 BEERS ALL DAY LONG!
$2 OFF ALL DRINKS AFTER 8pm
$5 BURGER & BEER SPECIAL

APR 29: Jones Revival & Justine James
MAY 6: Bill & Dave Broda
4/23 EARL THOMAS & THE KINGS OF RHYTHM CD RELEASE PARTY

4/24 & 25 MICHAEL FRANKS

4/28 TIERNEY SUTTON

4/29 JAN MCLAGAN W/JERRY FUENTES

5/1 VIENNA TENG W/BEN SOLLEE & THE PAPER RAINCOAT

5/2 BILLY VERA & THE BEATERS W/KATIE MELUA

5/10 FRIDAYS SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS
ATOMIC GROOVE

5/11 ARTURSO SANDOVAL, LEON RUSSELL, POCKET, CARRIE RODRIGUEZ / ROMANTICA, YOSHIDA BROTHERS

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ALL SHOWS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

UPCOMING SHOWS
5/17 Fol E Man's Brazilian Night “Forno for All”
5/20 New York Dolls
5/21 Moda
5/22 The Virgin with Lisa Tollef and Amaya Mariona
5/23 Montgomery's 6th Unhappy Birthday Celebration – Sweet and Tender Goodbees
5/26 Live Direct Karaoke Night, Steel Rod
5/28 Laura Ruppe
5/29 Stripes and Lines
5/30 Common Sense

JUST ADDED!
5/16 The Aggrolites • 5/18 Mob Nasty CD Release Party
5/24 Tribute Night - Have a Cigar (Pink Floyd Trib), Dance the Torpedoes (Tom Petty Trib) and TBD (Doors Trib)
6/3 Laugh It Up at the Belly Up Comedy Show with Eric "Smooth-E" Schwartz, James P. Connolly, Chris Edwards
6/9 Yellowman
6/16 EOTO featuring Michael Travis & Jason Jann of String Cheese Incident, Delta Nove, Alfred Howard, J. Wail and OSaL8
6/26 John Mayall

FRIDAYS SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS

Atomic Groove

Never So Few

SALSA SUNDAY ORQUESTA PRIMO

6/3 • 8 PM

San Diego Reader • April 23, 2009
SUBLIME LBC  
FRIDAY  
MAY 1 • 7:00

featuring GEEZER  
(Weezer Tribute Band)

Local Tribute Night  
(Pre-Cinco de Mayo Party)  
SATURDAY  
MAY 2 • 7:00

Guns 'n Roses Tribute Band
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* Except for special engagements.

Media Sponsor: Reader
FRIDAY JULY 24

[Image of a advertisement for a sushi restaurant]

Milo Harney Sushi
sushi til midnight super lunch combos late night happy hour

Lunch: mon-fri 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: mon-sun 5:30pm to 12am

www.harneysushi.com

[Image of a calendar for music events]

Friday, July 24

4th & B: 45 B Street, Downtown, 619-254-9433.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Mystic Roots. With Rice Rocket. Reggae/rock. Ages 21 and up.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — David Wilcox. Contemporary folk.
Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-3000. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Earl Thomas & the Blues Ambassadors. Blues. $18.
Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — The Vokab Company and DJ Carlo. Electronic/hip-hop/rock. $15.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. — Michael Franks. Jazz. $38-$45.
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Tinney Sutton. Jazz. $24.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Ian McLagan. Rock. $35.
Balboa Theatre: 880 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. — Rain. A tribute to the Beatles. $12-$14.
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Mariza. Fado/world. $25-$57.
Bar Leucadian: 1342 North Coast Highway, 101 Leucadia, 760-753-2094.
Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Lee RISING. Rock.
Saturday — Small Town Heroes.
Bar Pink: 3828 30th Street, North Park, 619-644-7194.
Thursday, 10 p.m. — Eagle and Talon. With the Dabbers. Indie. Ages 21 and up.
Friday, 10 p.m. — Autonic. With Black Hondo. Rock. Ages 21 and up.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Willard Grant Conspiracy. With Winfred E. Eye and Barn Burning. Alternative/folk. Ages 21 and up.
Sunday, 10 p.m. — The Tighten Ups. Soul/rock. Ages 21 and up.
Wednesday, 10 p.m. — Bob Log III. With Willem Maker. Rock. $5. Ages 21 and up.
Bare Back Grill: 624 E Street, Downtown, 619-237-9999.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Snooze Button. With Folding Mr. Lincoln, Shant, Lindsay White, and the Eben Brooks Band. Acoustic/alternative/rock. Free.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The Eben Brooks Band. Acoustic/alternative/rock.
Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino: 1952 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, 619-443-2300.
Sunday, 6 p.m. — The Arrowhead Band. Covers/standards/rock.
Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
Tuesday, 9 p.m. — Saps Rally. With the Ringers and Desert Diamonds. Rock. $5.
Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The Old In Out. With El Mono Slim, Heavy Glow, and DJ G Rex. Punk/rock. $5. Ages 21 and up.
Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Hot Tuna. Blues.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Lis Zappellin. A tribute to Led Zeppelin. With the Grass Heat.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Skani. With the Uproar and Bredren. Sk4. $10-$12. Ages 21 and up.
Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Orquesta Primo. Salsa. $10.

MUSIC SCENE
THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

San Diego Reader, April 23, 2009
[Image of the San Diego Reader logo]
[Image of a music event poster]

[Image of a sushi advertisement]


we do catering and private parties!!!

[Image of a sushi advertisement]

[Image of a music event poster]

San Diego Reader, April 23, 2009
[Image of a music event poster]

[Image of a music event poster]
Monday, 8 p.m. — Railroad Earth. With Common Earl. Blues/roots/folk rock.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Republic of Letters. With Astra Kelly, Hotel St. George, Runway, and DJ Leif. Alternative/blues/rock. $10. Ages 21 and up.
Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Company of Thieves. With guest. Indie/pop/rock. $6. Ages 21 and up.


California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-839-4438. Thursday, 7 p.m. — First Marine Division Band. Annual concert series with variety of music. $2 student performance on April 22. Otherwise free. Free.

The Calypso Cafe: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Captain Kirk & the Beams Me Up Scotties. Friday, 8 p.m. — Uplift. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Triple Shot. Blues/rock.

Canoes: 5046 Mission Beach, 858-488-1786. Thursday, 9 p.m. — Oaklah the Moc. Reggae/dub/roots. Friday, 9 p.m. — Diph. Electronica. $20. Ages 21 and up.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Cash’d Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash. $15.

Monday, 8 p.m. — Iron Maiden. A tribute to Iron Maiden. With Benedictum and Forty One Sixty. Ages 21 and up.


Friday, 8 p.m. — Dave Gonzalez. With the Stone River Boys, Paging Statik, Willie Evans, and Grieves. Free. Ages 21 and up.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — The Shake Ups. With Bam! Barcelona and guests. Rock. $5. Ages 21 and up.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 1130 Buenos Aires, 8:30 p.m. — The Camel. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Uplift.


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Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Casino Tia. Acoustic/bluegrass/rockabilly. La Gran Tapas: 611 B Street, Downtown, 619-234-8272. Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Juan Moro. Latin/Texano/Mariachi.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — Steven Zuffi. Covers/standards. Free.

Hard Rock Cafe: 101 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-615-ROCK. Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Battle of the Bands. Featuring local acts and celebrity judges Little Steven Van Zandt and Darryl “DMC” McDaniels. Rock. Ages 21 and up.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 810 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Skelpin. Irish/rock.


Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill: 5508 Grossmont Center Drive #277, La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9 p.m. — Private Domain. Covers/standards. Free.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Stedin’ Tins.
Robert Fisher, the man behind the Willard Grant Conspiracy, has a deep voice and a talent for start but sophisticated lyrics. His music is usually categorized as Americana, but it can just as easily slip into baroque chamber pop or noisy rock when the mood strikes. Nearly every review of Fisher’s music begins by comparing the Willard Grant Conspiracy to Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. And that’s just about right: If you like Nick Cave, you’ll probably like the Willard Grant Conspiracy.

But the comparison breaks down when you try to imagine Cave singing one of Fisher’s songs. Take “Lost Hours,” in which Fisher sings of a long drive: “There comes a time when less is more. We passed that place miles ago.” Can you imagine Cave comfortably singing from the point of view of a lonely trucker? Yet you can easily imagine Fisher singing a Cave song. He has already peppered the past two Willard Grant Conspiracy albums with covers by Bob Dylan and Mark Eitzel. Fisher can take the work of these idiosyncratic songwriters, wed them to his own peculiar style, and combine them to make something unexpected.

“Lost Hours,” from last year’s Piggin’ Raa album, is set to a beautiful arrangement of horns, strings, and piano. “Let It Roll,” from 2007’s album of the same name, is set to a noisy rock ‘n’ roll tune. The next Willard Grant Conspiracy album is apparently going to be a mix of solo and small-band arrangements featuring Dream Syndicate singer Steve Wynn as a special guest. Whatever it is, it will sound like Fisher, and it will probably sound familiar and strange, frightening and beautiful.

WILLARD GRANT CONSPIRACY: Bar Pink, Saturday, April 25, 10 p.m. 619-504-7134.
THURSDAY 04.23 *SPECIAL EVENT*  
LAIDBACK LUKE  
OPENING SETS BY TURBOTEEN PAULNAJERA  
HOSTED BY: 4THEDY, AM ONLY

FRIDAY 04.24
ESSENTIAL FRIDAYS DJ SEIZE NONO  
Hosted by Foreplay, Endless Nightlife, Sigueue, Afterdark

SATURDAY 04.25 *SPECIAL EVENT*  
WILDFISH ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS:  
THE 2ND ANNUAL  
HALFWAY TO HALLOWEEN PARTY  
DJS FRANCES.KOPCHO.FISHONICS.JUSTINMARX.BCARR.TOMMCANO  
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**DYNAMITE WALLS**

Dynamite Walls first crossed my radar in 2007, after the band, while on tour, unknowingly spent a night in a rented home that had once been the site of a mass murder. That same year they were picked up by MTV2 as a “Band on the Rise.” They had just released their one (it remains their only, if exceptional) full-length CD, The Blinding Light Above.

“A band on the verge” is what I thought when I first wrote about Dynamite Walls in these pages in a music feature in that same year. Today, by all outward appearances, Dynamite Walls remains a band on the verge. Even after a development deal with Sony and a recent production assist on a new five-song demo by Paul Fox (of XTC and 10,000 Maniacs fame), the band is still label shopping.

Tom Pritchard fronts Dynamite Walls and writes most of their material. He says he grew up listening to surf rock and the blues, neither of which registers as an influence. More like Ray Charles on a short leash. Pritchard’s songs burn with the kind of brokenhearted heartbreak patented by Nashville a generation before he was born. He has mastered the art of stitching raw emotions to power chords, and why DW is not the next Maroon 5 is a mystery to me.

“It goes from a lot of talk to a lot of nothing in this business,” Pritchard says on the phone from his Encinitas home. He should know. The Sony deal fell through suddenly when the West Coast staff, he says, was fired. Dynamite Walls has since performed music industry showcases where they have generated buzz, interest, and promises. He describes dealing with labels as “putting everything on hold.” Pritchard adds, “At some point you have to breathe, or else you’re just sitting around. We’re busy, busier than people know.”

**DYNAMITE WALLS:** The Casbah, Saturday, April 25, 8:30 p.m. 621-232-4358. $8.
Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
April 30 — Rufus Wainwright.
May 1 — Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations.
May 2 — Dennis Quaid and the Sharks.
May 3 — Rhythm and Blues Matinee.
May 5 — Regina de Mayo.
May 6 — Michael Terrana.
May 9 — Bob Schneider.
May 10 — The Avett Brothers.
May 14 — Jonathan Coulton.
May 15 — Mopuai.
May 22 — Michael Tiernan.
May 23 — Morrissey’s 50th Unhappy Birthday Celebration.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps: 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, 858-534-FISH.
May 20 — Eve Selis.
June 17 — Shawn Mullins.
July 3 — Steve Poltz.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836.
April 30, May 1, May 2, May 3 — Seussical.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
April 30 — Dope.
May 1 — 9th Wonder and Buckshot.
May 9 — That 1 Guy.
May 12 — Acoustic Alliance.

Café Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979.
April 30 — Gene Perry y Afro Rumba.
May 3 — Tabasco y Ron.
May 5 — Cinco de Mayo Party.
May 6 — Son y Clave.
May 7 — Orquesta Salsa Caliente.
May 12 — Mambo Salvaje.
May 20 — Orquesta Hablando Salsa.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
April 30 — Dope Zero.
May 1 — Little John.
May 2 — Katchafire.
May 8 — Split Finger.
May 9 — Tainted Love.
May 13 — RDG.
May 14 — Still Time.
May 16 — The Growth & Eligh.
May 21 — Project Blowout.
May 22 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.

April 30 — Black Mamba.
May 1 — Mike Doughty.
May 3 — William Elliott Whitmore.
May 4 — Manic Hispanic.
May 5 — Team Abraham.
May 6 — Sleepytime Gorilla Museum.
May 7 — The Devil Makes Three.
May 8 — The Mother Hips.
May 12 — Spectrum.
May 14 — Cloud Cult.
May 15 — Isis.

Ché Café: 9300 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2311.
May 1 — Beware of Safety.

Cox Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947.
June 20 — Yanni.
July 18 — Il Divo.

May 16 — The Black Eyed Peas.
May 18 — Nine Inch Nails.
May 22 — No Doubt.

San Diego Reader, April 23, 2009
Del Mar Fairgrounds: 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-1161.
June 12 — Heroes of Woodstock.
June 13 — Melissa Etheridge.
June 14 — Los Tucanes de Tijuana.

Dizzy’s: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
May 2 — Dejha Marie.
May 3 — Jon Mitchell’s Tribute.

Dream Street Live: 2238 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311.
May 2 — 3rd Annual Heavy Metal Parking Lot.

Harrah’s Rincon: 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-751-1100.
May 22 — The Allman Brothers Band.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
April 30 — Modern Day Moonshine.
April 30 — Eek-A-Mouse.
May 1 — Kreator.
May 2 — Nicho Hinojosa.
May 3 — Holiday.
May 5 — Sammy Hagar.
May 6 — San Diego Rock!
May 7 — Steel Puma.
May 8 — The R-8 Side Players.
May 9 — Iration.
May 9 — OK Go.
May 10 — Dredg.
May 13 — Momia.
May 14 — Doxes.
May 15 — Ramón Ayala.
May 16 — Kevin Devine.
May 17 — Solitude.
May 18 — Tech N9ne.
May 20 — Fidus Grown.
May 21 — Ben Folds.
May 22 — Cowboy Mouth.
May 26 — The Crystal Method.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
May 3 — The Lemonheads.
May 4 — Jesse Malin.
May 5 — Joe Cocker.
May 6 — 76 Soul Jam.
May 8 — Reyehia Cole.
June 9 — Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: 5985 Santa Fe Street, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2739.
May 9 — 4th Annual Reach to Recovery Beer and Music Festival.

Last & S’est Coffee House: 1843 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
April 30 — Rob Dryer.
May 2 — Drew Andrews.
May 14 — Thom Lyons.
May 15 — Josh Dangio.

The Loft: 950 Gilman Drive, UCSD.
May 1 — Ben Lee.
May 6 — Bird by Snow.
May 7 — William Basinski.
May 9 — Alisa Dance.
May 10 — Jukebox the Ghost.
May 13 — Y. Syberg New Jazz Ensemble.
May 17 — Loney Dear.
May 26 — Jens Lekman.

Lycéum Theatre: 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-544-1000.
May 12 — The Offspring.

Pala Casino: 5300 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.
July 12 — Michael McDonald and Bob Seger.

Qualcomm Hall: 5775 Morehouse Drive, Mira Mesa, 858-259-5508.
May 2 — The Fab Four.

Rimac Arena: 950 Gilman Drive, La Jolla.
May 20 — Flight of the Conchords.


LIVE MUSIC • ROCK

Music at Mueller College: 4601 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-507-7223.
May 15 — Thom Lyons.

Neurosciences Institute: 10400 John Hopkins Drive, La Jolla.
May 13 — Jane Rumenn and Spirits of Havana.

Old Poway Park: 14134 Midland Road, Poway, 858-679-8587.
May 9 — Sam Hinton Folk Heritage Festival.

Old Time Music: 2852 University Avenue, North Park, 619-280-9035.
May 8 — Rick Buzinkin.

Open Air Theatre: 5500 Campanile Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947.
June 3 — The Offspring.

Pala Casino: 5300 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.
July 12 — Michael McDonald and Bob Seger.

Qualcomm Hall: 5775 Morehouse Drive, Mira Mesa, 858-259-5508.
May 2 — The Fab Four.

Rimac Arena: 950 Gilman Drive, La Jolla.
May 20 — Flight of the Conchords.


LIVE MUSIC • HIP-HOP

EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Urban Legend Get Down (THURS. APR. 23)
From EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS

Red Llama Dog

(thursdays)

From EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS

3rd Annual Heavy Metal Parking Lot (JUNE 2)

From EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS

From EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS

STEVE RANNAZZISI

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From Beverly Hills 90210 and 90210 Pussy

EARTHQUAKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 23

FREE CONCERT @ THE COMEDY STORE

4TH AND B

2228 Bacon Street Ocean Beach

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Admit up to 4 people FREE!
(60 value) — Thursday, April 23
Doors open at 7 pm • Show starts at 8 pm
4th and B Comedy Night

Admit up to 4 people FREE!
(60 value) — Thursday, May 7
Doors open at 7 pm • Show starts at 8 pm
4th and B Comedy Night
HAPPY HOUR

More information about these establishments can be found online at SDReader.com/drinks, including driving directions, coupons, food specials, and more.

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Call 619-231-3000 x700, night or day by 5pm Friday, the week prior to publication. You may also fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hours, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

ALLIED GARDENS
Pal Joey’s: Sunday, 7pm-close: $1 shots.

BANCO PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $3.50 wells, domestics, house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.

BANKER’S HILL
Azuki Sushi Lounge: Monday-Wednesday, 5-7pm: $3.50 small sake pitchers, house sake, house wine. Lounge.

CARLSBAD
The Alley: Monday-Sunday, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.

Boar Cross’n: Thursday, 8-9pm: $1 Bud & Bud Light. Friday-Saturday, 8-10pm: $1 Bud & Bud Light.
The Coyote Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 domestic, house wine, $3.50 margarita, Cape Cod. Saturday-Sunday, 9-6pm: $3 domestic, house wine. $3.50 margarita, Cape Cod.
The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: 1/2-price wine bottles. Monday-Thursday, 5-6pm: 1/2-price sangria. Friday-Saturday, 5-6pm: 1/2-price wine bottles. Friday-Saturday, 5-6pm: 1/2-price sangria.

The Bitter End: Monday-Sunday, 5-7pm: all drinks 1/2-price.

C-Level: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $3.50 Bud Lite, Karl Strauss, Stone IPA, $5 specialty drinks, wells, house wine.

Chesapeake Bar & Grill: Monday-Sunday, 5-7pm: all drinks 1/2-price.

C-level: Monday-Sunday, 5-7pm: All drinks 1/2-price.

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $3 drafts, wells, wine. $4 premium drafts, margaritas. Friday-Saturday, 3-7pm, 11pm-close: $3 drinks, wells, wine. $4 premium drafts, margaritas. 11pm-close: $4 Baquiri, Bacardi, Cerveza.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $3.50 wells.

The Fleetwood: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 calls. 5-7pm: 1/2-price wine bottles. Saturday-Sunday, 4-6pm: 1/2-price wine bottles.

Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 pints, house wine, wells (vodka, gin, rum).

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm, 10pm-12am: $2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, $3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria.

La Gran Tapa: Monday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $3 pints, house wine, wells (vodka, gin, rum).

Locks: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3.50 wells.

La Placita: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 pints, house wine, wells (vodka, gin, rum).

The Prado: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3.50 wells, pints, house wine, house margaritas.

Lounge only.

The Scratch NS: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3.50 wells, beer, wine, house margaritas.

The Sherman Hotel: Monday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $2 off any drink, 3-oz. margaritas.

DOWNTOWN

The Alley: Monday-Sunday, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.

Boar Cross’n: Thursday, 8-9pm: $1 Bud & Bud Light. Friday-Saturday, 8-10pm: $1 Bud & Bud Light.
The Coyote Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 domestic, house wine, $3.50 margarita, Cape Cod. Saturday-Sunday, 9-6pm: $3 domestic, house wine. $3.50 margarita, Cape Cod.

Greek Village: Monday-Thursday, 4-7:30pm: 1/2-off beer, wells, wine (glass). Sunday, 4-7:30pm: 1/2-off beer, wine by the glass, wells.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beer.

CARMEL VALLEY

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 pints. $4 wells, house margaritas.

Twenty/20 Bar & Grill in the Sheraton Hotel: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $2 off any drink, 3-oz. margaritas.

CHULA VISTA

El Dorado Seafood & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 margaritas.

Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 all drinks, wells.

COLLEGE AREA

Satin Lounge: Thursday, $1 drafts.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 Imperial vodka, $4 local beer, $6 wine.

Café Sevilla: Tuesday, 7pm-9pm: All drinks 1/2-price. Wednesday, 7pm: All drinks 1/2-price.

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

Trunk Fulla Funk
Thursday, April 23 • 8 pm • Funk

Detroit Underground
Friday, April 24 • 9 pm • Motown & Dance
Saturday, April 25 • 6 pm • Classic Rock

Thomas Conner & Cathryn Beeks
9 pm • Disco Dance

Makai

Jackiem Joyner
with DJ John Phillips
Monday, April 27 • 7 pm • Blues Guitar
Robin Henkel
Tuesday, April 28 • 7 pm • Scorchin’ Blues
Michele Lundeen
Wednesday, April 29 • 8 pm • Rhythm & Blues
Stelia’s Groove

Upcoming Shows
Saturday, May 2
NovaMenco
Sunday, May 3
UNam
Friday, May 29
Dennis Jones

humphreysbackstage.com • 2241 Shelter Island Dr. • 619-224-3577

Humphrey's NEW Happy Hour
5-7 pm EVERY DAY! 1/2 off food & drink specials. Live music 5-7 pm on select Fridays & Saturdays. No cover.
Hive Sushi Lounge: Monday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $2.49 large sake, $1.99 drafts (+ $0.99 for sake bomb). 
Jewel Box: Monday, 2 PM: $3.50 domestic drafts, $3.75 specialty cocktails.
Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 wings, $3.50 speciality cocktails.
Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge: Monday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, $4.00 specialty cocktails.
Patrick’s II: Monday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, $4.00 specialty cocktails.
RA Sushi: Monday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, $4.00 specialty cocktails.
Tivoli Bar: Monday-Sunday, 4-7:30pm: $3.50 off pitchers, $3.00 off all drinks.
Xavier’s Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-8pm: $3.50 speciality cocktails.

Wine Steals:

The Calypso Café: Monday-Sunday, 10am-6pm: $3.50 wings, $3.50 speciality cocktails.
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $3.50 wings, $3.50 speciality cocktails.

Beneath the wet-blanket production and shout-along choruses of I Was Young, It Was Dark lies a listenable disc. You have to weed through the modern-ravk, Jimmy Eat Cheez to get to the post-core center, but you’ll find a band in

$1.99 drafts (+ $0.99 for sake bomb).

Tobacco CDs

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85083, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

The song titles suggest alt-rock ironists à la Frank Black and the Ween boys, but the vocals are damp, which is probably okay, because what you can glean smacks of emo. I know...they’re young, it’s dark.

Modern Rifles

The Brew House at Eastlake presents

FREE SHOW!
Friday, April 24 • 9:30 pm
871 Showroom Place #102
Chula Vista

Come join us at the Pre (old school picnic) Jam!
www.myspace.com/damac

The Filling Station
PUB & GRILL

EVERY NIGHT

Karaoke Nights

David Kelly’s All Star Entertainment
Best Host 5 Years Running!
Over 35,000 songs
on an awesome sound system

MONDAYS
2 Kamikazes Rock band till 9 pm
TUESDAYS
Game Night
Nintendo, X-Box & board games
Game shot special! Rock band till 9 pm

WEDNESDAYS
Premium Beer ‘$3.50/ pint

THURSDAYS
Customer Appreciation
$1.75 Pints & $6 Pitchers after 7 pm • FREE Pool at 7 pm

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS
DJ Dance Party 9 pm-1 am
Dance to your favorites – Over 65,000 songs for your pleasure!
Saturday: $3 Bloody Marys

SUNDAYS
FREE Pool All Day
$3 Mimosas

Dancing • Pool • Karaoke • Food • Fun • DJ
Entertainment every night • Rock band every night until 9 pm
Free Nacho Bar Mon.-Thurs. 4-7 pm

NEW LOCATION!
COMPLETELY REMODELED!

The Brewhouse at Eastlake

351 West Main Street • El Cajon • 619-444-0949

Modern Rifles

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Clay’s La Jolla: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 sangria, $6 house wine.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beers.

La Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 wells, house drafts, $4 house wine, $5 premium.


- hometown CDs

BY BARNABY MONK

Album: I Was Young, It Was Dark (2009)

Artist: Modern Rifles

Label: Self-released

Where available/price: ModernRifles.net, $10; CDBaby, $10; Amazon, $11.99


Band: Dan Deaton (vocals/guitar), Daryl Thompson (bass), Brian Garber (drums/vocals), Jon Fong (guitar/vocals)

Website: ModernRifles.net

Beneath the wet-blanket production and shout-along choruses of I Was Young, It Was Dark lies a listenable disc. You have to weed through the modern-ravk, Jimmy Eat Cheez to get to the post-core center, but you’ll find a band in

Pampas Argentine Grill: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7:30pm: $3 beers, $4 margaritas/wine specials.

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: Monday-Thursday, 5-7:30pm: $3 off house sake/draft beer.

The Kensington Club: Monday-Sunday, 10am-7pm: $3.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

LA JOLLA
Beaumont’s: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3-5 cocktails, wine, beer.

Clay’s La Jolla: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 sangria, $6 house wine.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beers.

La Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 wells, house drafts, $4 house wine, $5 premium.


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SUNDAY, MAY 3 • 8 PM • $10

WEST COAST HALL OF FAME

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/23 HOLLYWOOD’S BEST STAND-UP COMEDIANS - FREE SHOW
4/24 ELECTRIC BLACK OUT
4/30 CITY BOXING EVENT
5/1 LBC SUBLIME
5/2 LOCAL TRIBUTE NIGHT (Pre-Cinco de Mayo Party)
OU812 (Sammy Hagar/Van Halen Tribute Band)
Dazed and Confused (Led Zeppelin Tribute)
Dust N’ Bones (Guns N’ Roses Tribute)
5/8 KIX (’80s Heavy Metal Band)
5/16 GREAT WHITE
5/16 HUX (’80s Heavy Metal Band)

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd, 2009
4TH AND B
345 B STREET, DOWNTOWN
4thandbevents.com

Auditions for Go-Go/Promotions Girl, call 619-366-8080.
La Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Sunday: 4-7pm; $4 wells, $2.50 domestic, $2.75 imports.

Hooley's Irish Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday-Thursday-Friday, 2-10pm: $1.50 off drafts, $3 off bottled wine. Saturday-Sunday, 2-10pm: $1.50 off drafts, $3 off bottled wine.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 off all cocktails, wine, drafts.

LEUCADIA
Bar Leucadian: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 domestics. $3 Corona, Pacifico, Imperials.

LA MESA
Brick by Brick: Monday-Sunday, 2-5pm: $2.50 house wine. 1/2-off beer.

Tio Leo's: Monday-Thursday: 3-7pm: $3 pints, $4 wells, margaritas. Thompson’s: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 margarita (keep shaker).

LITTLE ITALY
Anthology: Monday-Sunday, 5-30pm: $6 wells, wine specials. $8 margaritas. $9 martinis.

MIDWAY DISTRICT
Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Monday-Sunday, 3-7pm, 9 pm-close: $1 mixed drinks. $2 off tall beers, $3 off pitchers.

MISSION HILLS
The Filling Station: Monday, $2 kamikazes. Wednesday, premium beer $3.50/pint. Thursday, 7-9pm: $1.75 pints, $6 pitchers. Saturday, 8-10pm. Mary’s Sunday, $3 mimosas.

Mira Mesa: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic pints, $7 pitchers. $3.50 import pints. $10 pitchers. $2.50 wells.

MISSION VALLEY
In Cahoots: Wednesday, $2 drinks. Friday-Saturday, $2.50 Coors/Coors Light. Sunday, any drink $2.50.

La Jolla Rancherita: 4-7pm: $2.75 wells. $2.50 domestics.

Hamilton’s Tavern and Café: Monday-Wednesday: 4-7pm: $2.50 wells. Domestic drafts, $3.25 imported.

La Jolla Rancherita: Tuesday-Saturday: $2.50 kamikazes. $8 Bud/Bud Light pitchers.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Monday-Sunday, 7-9pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: $10 wine tasting.

The Australian Pub: Monday-Wednesday, 7:30pm: $3 Long Islands. Thursday, 7-9pm: $3 Long Islands, $3 Capt. Morgan, Friday, 7-9pm: $7 Long Islands, Coopers Ale. Saturday, $2.50 Karl Strauss. Sunday, $3 Bloody Mary.

Mira Mesa: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.99 domestic drafts, wells. Flight specials.

Mira Mesa: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 wells, domestic pints, $7 pitchers.

Starlite: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 drinks, wells, 1/2-off beer, Sunday-Monday, $3, $5 off all wine bottles.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $3 calls.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $3 calls.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $2.50 pints.

Saturday-Sunday: 5:30-7pm: $2.50 wells.

Saturday-Sunday: 5:30-7pm: $2.50 wells.

Saturday: 7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells.

OCEAN BEACH
Blue Parrot: Monday, $2 off glass of wine, $3 margaritas. Tuesday, 2-6pm: $2 off glass of wine, $3 margaritas. Wednesday, Friday, 2-6pm: $2 off glass of wine, $3 margaritas. Thursday, 2-6pm: $3 margaritas. Saturday, 2-6pm: $3 mixed drinks.

Saturday-Sunday: 5:30-7pm: $2.50 wells.

Winston: Monday-Saturday, 8-8:30pm. $5 wells. $1 off all beer/wine.

OCEANSIDE
Harney Sushi: Thursday, 8pm-11pm: $5 special cocktails.

Trenton Street Bar & Grill: Friday-Monday, 4-7pm: $4 wells, house wine. $1 off all beer.

OLD TOWN
Harney Sushi: Wednesday, $5 off specialty cocktails.

PACIFIC BEACH
710 Beach Club: Monday-Friday, 1-7pm: $7.10 beer & shot. Saturday-Sunday, 1-7pm: $7.10 shots.

Croazee Burger: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-2pm: $2.99 drafts, $5 pitchers. $9.99 Pinot Grigio, Riesling, Nero d’Avola, Tempranillo. Friday-Saturday, 3-6pm, 9-11pm: $2.99 drafts, $5 pitchers. $9.99 Pinot Grigio, Riesling, Nero d’Avola, Tempranillo.

Ripley’s Music Lounge: Monday-Sunday, 1-7pm: $3 off domestic pints, $7 pitchers. $5.50 imports.

Lai Thai Restaurant: Monday-Friday-Saturday, 2-7pm: $4 drafts, $3 bottles.

Avenue Bar & Grill: Monday-Sunday, 7-9pm: $10 wine tasting. Monday, $2.50 pints. Thursday, 7-9pm: $1.75 pints, $4 margarita.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $2.50 Bloody Marys. $3.50 beer.

Sunday: $2.50 pints.

Sunday: $2.50 pints.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $2.50 pints.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $2.50 pints.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $2.50 pints.

Sunday: $2.50 pints.

Sunday, Saturday: $2.50 pints.

Friday, Saturday-Sunday: 4-7pm: $3 off all cocktails, wine, drafts.

Friday-Saturday: $2.50 Coors/Coors Light. Sunday, any drink $2.50.

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about a month ago, I went to the opening of a music store in El Cajon called Guitar and Bass Land. A guy was talking about how he plays bass in a Dio tribute band. I wondered if there was a following for such a band. I think he said they were called Neon Knights.

The reason Dio fans were there — aside from the classic-car show going on in the parking lot and food being grilled — was because former Dio and Black Sabbath drummer Vinnie Appice was scheduled to come by.

When he showed up and was signing autographs, I asked him if his parents hated having two drummers in the family (his older brother is Carmine from Vanilla Fudge). He said, “They didn’t mind. He’s ten years older, so once he was out touring, that’s when I started playing at home.”

Once I was out touring, that’s when I started playing at home.”

He laughed and said, “No, I signed someone’s forehead once.”

I asked if the guy was going to have it tattooed, and he responded, “Geez, I sure hope not.”

I headed to the next party in North Park at around 6:00 p.m. It was put on by an artist named Larry. My friend told me his stuff was “out there.”

There was nobody in the open garage, but I saw some boxes with abstract pieces of art in them. I saw a sign that read, “A Tim McGraw Art Show.” I asked a person walking up, “Is that the country singer?” I was told it’s a local artist.

As I glanced at photos in a box, my friend Ken showed up. He told me we were supposed to walk down Alabama Street and look for clues. We were to go into the Live Wire for the final clue. I had no clue what the clues even had to do with anything.

We saw a box tied to a stop sign, and we couldn’t figure out the clue. An artist ran up the street, telling us we were supposed to take the black light out of the box to see the writing on the sidewalk. I said, “I’m glad you came over. The people in that apartment up there were looking at me like I was about to break into their car.”

I called the phone number on the sidewalk and was told to take a photo of myself and send it back to them. This was part of the project. But I’m one of the few people that has no camera on my phone. I told Ken, “This thing is getting too complicated for me.”

He told me they do some weird art pieces, one of which was a table at Balboa Park with a sign that read “Free Advice.” Ken laughed, saying, “One guy sat down and started talking about how he was dating three women, and he really wanted advice.”

We went into the Live Wire and saw a Barbie doll on the bar, which was a clue. I pretended to go up and buy it a drink. I asked her, “Do you come here often?” A woman nearby laughed. Ken said there was supposed to be a video playing. I glanced up and saw Blazing Saddles on the TV. He said, “I think it’s that monitor over there.” Again, more obscure stuff that I couldn’t figure out.

I downed a few shots of whiskey and headed to my next party in La Mesa. It was for a barseshop opening — a bunch of young guys in business. They’re big in the rockabilly scene, and many of them are in car clubs around town. That explained the long line of lowriders and hot rods I saw when I drove up.

The place is called Dapper Jay’s Barber Shop and Hot Shaves and has the red, white, and blue pole out front and lots of vintage stuff inside. Vargas Girls prints were on a few walls. The place was packed.

I grabbed a red wine and mingled.

I saw a photographer named Marla who was from L.A. A few people were talking about her being involved in some big projects. When I talked to her, she told me about something called the “Characters Project” in New York that she and 11 other photographers participated in. It was an antiracism campaign.

She said, “It’s a great way to express yourself in this big melting pot and not get shot for it.”

She was taking photos of a few of the guys with lowriders.

I asked one guy how much he put into his car. He laughed and said, “Man, you don’t even want to know. I put in $10,000 the first year and a half of having it.”

As we were talking, I saw an older woman congratulating her son on opening the business. She seemed proud as she smiled and looked around.
After hanging out for an hour, I decided to head out. The guys were going to stay another hour before taking the party over to the Riviera Club.

The next day I got a call from one of the owners, who said I dropped some car-insurance information on the floor of their shop.

As I was driving over to pick it up, I thought about the Kirk Douglas autobiography I'd read years ago. He said when he was a child and his family was poor, his dad would still spend money to get a shave at the barbershop. As a rich actor, he finally had his first shave and loved it. However, he did find it a waste of money and said he'd never do it again.

Dapper Jay's charges $16 for a haircut and the same for a shave. I figured I'd splurge and have my first shave.

During the shave, they use three hot towels. While my face was covered, a homeless guy came in and was raving about how much he loved the shop. I didn't get a look at him, but I'm guessing he could've used a shave.

Every time one of the old rockabilly songs came on, I ended up talking music with the guy shaving me. I heard a lot of Johnny Cash. When I heard an obscure Eddie Cochran song, I asked who chooses the music. He told me all the barbers pick discs, but I'm guessing everything in their collection fits the theme of the shop.

When my shave was done, he told me it was on the house.

I asked if I could also get a free lollipop. He said, "No, but you can have some aftershave," and then he splashed it on my face.

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

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.
“There may be trouble ahead/ But while there’s moonlight and music/ And love and romance/ Let’s face the music and dance.”

Irving Berlin wrote that at the height of the Depression, and Fred and Ginger sang and danced to it, evoking fantasies of impossibly luxurious escape for the struggling public. Now, once again, it’s hard times in the country: A meat wholesaler selling a fabled breed of heritage pork recently informed the New York Times, “We tell the chefs, you got to keep some magic on the menu, some fun, because the people are coming in to escape whatever the hell they’re facing out there.”

El Bizcocho may be a pricey escape, but it’s worth more than it costs if you love great food and want to forget your woes for a few hours. Given what goes into the cooking (labor, ingredients, care, creativity) versus other restaurants that charge more for so much less), the prices aren’t ridiculous, and what its chefs are doing is the most enchanting “magic on the menu” anywhere in San Diego, now and probably ever. Although employed and scarcely starving, I do weigh other values against cost: For the price of a three-hour escape to culinary heaven ($150 per person, including wines, tip, and tax), I could’ve bought myself round-trip airfare to Fresno, two nights in Mrs. Patel’s South Escondido motel, a Botox injection, or one more violent video game to help my stepgrandson evade the hell of high school homework. Hey, let’s face the music and dance.

The pianist at El Biz plays classic show tunes in the background. The room is beautiful, the chairs comfortable, the tables set with tunes in the background. The room is beautifully decorated, with music and dance. You don’t have to understand the technicalities to appreciate the taste sensations it creates. “Molecular is the science behind the art, knowing how basic things work,” chef Steven Rojas told me when I called him after the meal. All food, all gastronomy, is basically chemistry (among other sciences). Molecular gastronomy addresses this issue head on, employing modern laboratory techniques and edible, nature-based chemical compounds — such as sodium alginate (made from seaweed), monosaccharide sugars, and calcium lactate (from milk) — to reshape ingredients into forms undreamed of by Mother Nature. Liquid nitrogen can flash-freeze foods, such as ice creams made tableside. Cryovac (the most common modern technique for aging beef in shrink-wrap) can be applied to fruit, breaking down cell walls to create intense concentrations of flavor. And sous vide, the widely used technique of foodstuffs at strictly controlled temperatures, is another technique in the culinary repertoire. Like all science, “molecular” can be used for good, for not-so-good, or for show-off silly.

What made our meal so thrilling was not the “ooh, aah” special effects, which might become exhausting if overdone course after course, but the way effects here are applied sparingly, smartly.

Chef de cuisine Steven Rojas and executive chef Judd Canepari aren’t playing mad scientists. Delicate experiments are employed in garnishes to

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**El Bizcocho**

★★★★★ (Extraordinary)

Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oak Drive (off Franciso Drive, 959-675-8550, ranchobernardoinn.com).

**HOURS:** Tuesday–Thursday 6:00–9:00 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays until 10:00 p.m.; Sunday brunch 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**PRICES:** Appetizers, $16–$25; entrées, $42–$55; desserts, $10. Four-course prix fixe, $75, paired wines, $50. Seven-course tasting menu, $105, paired wines, $55. Twelve courses, $75/8145.

(Prices and menus may change.)

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Inventive cooking that includes French, Asian, and “farm to table” California flavors (but not as fusion); plus intensely flavored “molecular gastronomy” garnishes. Huge wine list includes rarities; most bottles high-priced but with some bargains; paired wines for prix fixes are the best deal.

**PICK HITS:** Almost anything, including fluke with ginger-sarsaparilla tea (amuse, now expanded into a first course); scallop carpaccio; hamachi sashimi; chestnut agnolotti; “golden” slow-duck egg; lentil, asiet of lamb; pomegranate cheesecake.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Menus currently in flux (website versions outdated at this writing). Reservations required. No denim, sneakers, wife-beaters; men must wear dress shirt, dress pants, dress shoes, jackets and ties recommended. New restaurant entrance about 30 feet left of hotel porte cochere, with shallow steps up to front door, then a few down to the dining room. (Wheelchair users, specify when reserving.) Dining room. (Wheelchair users, specify when reserving.) Entree table can be placed in stairless area. Entire table must order same-sized prix-fixe dinner.

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.

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**BRIAN’S 24**

24/7 Restaurant & Grill

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**The best hotcakes you have ever tasted or they’re free!**

We are so confident that you will agree that our hotcakes are the best you’ll ever taste that we are willing to put your taste buds to the test. Our pancakes are made from the finest flour and sweetest buttermilk on the planet. And the same goes for our Old-Fashioned Malted Waffles.

Try them once. You’ll be hooked for life. We also offer these delicious waffles with our special fried chicken.

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**DINING REVIEW**

**NAOMI WISE**

We are so confident that you will agree that our hotcakes are the best you’ll ever taste that we are willing to put your taste buds to the test. Our pancakes are made from the finest flour and sweetest buttermilk on the planet. And the same goes for our Old-Fashioned Malted Waffles.

Try them once. You’ll be hooked for life. We also offer these delicious waffles with our special fried chicken.

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**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:**

Inventive cooking that includes French, Asian, and “farm to table” California flavors (but not as fusion); plus intensely flavored “molecular gastronomy” garnishes. Huge wine list includes rarities; most bottles high-priced but with some bargains; paired wines for prix fixes are the best deal.

**PICK HITS:** Almost anything, including fluke with ginger-sarsaparilla tea (amuse, now expanded into a first course); scallop carpaccio; hamachi sashimi; chestnut agnolotti; “golden” slow-duck egg; lentil, asiet of lamb; pomegranate cheesecake.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Menus currently in flux (website versions outdated at this writing). Reservations required. No denim, sneakers, wife-beaters; men must wear dress shirt, dress pants, dress shoes, jackets and ties recommended. New restaurant entrance about 30 feet left of hotel porte cochere, with shallow steps up to front door, then a few down to the dining room. (Wheelchair users, specify when reserving.) Entree table can be placed in stairless area. Entire table must order same-sized prix-fixe dinner.

Ratings reflect the reviewer’s reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

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molecular gastronomy,” writes Rojas on his blog, is “understanding and questioning how things work and why they do the things they do. As Chefs, we all must strive for perfection in all things food, we must embrace new ingredients and new techniques, and we must also respect the time-honored traditions while searching for new and interesting flavors, textures, and combinations to please the public. Because what good is a new technique or ingredient if nobody enjoys it?”

Rojas, born in Argentina, grew up in Culver City, his heart divided between soccer and cooking. After a serious sports injury, cooking won. Graduating from Le Cordon Bleu in L.A., he worked in Chicago at El Biz's ex-chef, Patrick Ponset. There he learned Spanish/Basque haute cuisine enlivened with molecular gastronomy.

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Rojas, born in Argentina, grew up in Culver City, his heart divided between soccer and cooking. After a serious sports injury, cooking won. Graduating from Le Cordon Bleu in L.A., he worked in Chicago at TRU restaurant and the more avant-garde Espumas, where “foams” were already in use. He returned to California and the renowned Patina, where he was mentored by executive chefs Walter Manske and Eric Greenspan, who had both done stints at Spain’s avant-garde El Bulli. They advised him to further develop his skills in Europe’s top restaurants, so he sold his ’65 Dart for passage to Spain and a stage at two-star Akelarre in San Sebastian, followed by a stint at Spain’s three-star Martin Berasategui Restaurant (which also trained El Biz’s ex-chef, Patrick Ponset). There he learned Spanish/Basque haute cuisine enlivened with molecular gastronomy.

After a return to Patina, and once he felt ready to run his own kitchen, he hired on as executive chef at luxurious Sadle Peak Lodge in Calabasas, California, where within two years he’d received a Michelin star, the youngest chef in L.A. to acquire one (let alone at age 29), he moved to El Biz—coho as chef de cuisine. “They wanted a chef de cuisine who was savvy in the new techniques, and that was perfect for me,” he says. “The food that I do is really a balance between farm-to-table, classic, and avant-garde. That’s what really defines me.”

At my visit, all the menus at El Biz were prix fixe — but that has since changed. Face it, San Diego’s chef de cuisine.”They had ramekins of fluke in yuzu glaze set over a yellow blob of some mild, strange Asian fruit. (The water identified it, but neither Steve nor I had heard of it, and its name didn’t stick.) A small but potent dose of dry Thai chili pepper left a long, slow afterburn. Alongside each ramekin was a soup spoon cradled what looked like a tan egg yolk — chef Rojas calls it a “raizuli” — gingered sarsaparilla tea held inside a thin, transparent gelen shell, bursting into a splash of vibrant cool liquid once it hit the mouth. (Gelati? One of those molecular magics.)

My first appetizer was dayboat scallop carpaccio, translucent slices of raw, sweet shellfish with little heaps of acidulated shaved fennel (offering the strongly pickled flavor of kim chee, minus the chilies), plus soothing, anise-y fennel purée. Meyer lemon koshu (a house-made takeoff on a Japanese condiment of preserved yuzu and its peel, making it a preserved Meyer lemon with fried garlic, smoked char rope, and scallion marmalade) was part of the array, along with purple-red dots of somen是怎么 (our Japanese plum purée) and gleaming slivers of Peronid jelly to provide another variation of anise flavor. I realized why I couldn’t bring myself to give Sushi Ota five stars — it’s not just the harsh ambiance but that Ota-San is creatively coating a bit by now. This scallop dish, in contrast, is sashimi that’s alive, that’s art. A lot goes into it, but it doesn’t taste like a lot; it tastes as if it works together only to turn scallops into superstars.

Saint Steve started with exquisite hamachi sashimi. “You can tell by the bloodline in the fish,” Rojas says. “When it’s pink, the fish is fresh. When it starts turning brown, it’s getting old and we throw it out.” The meaty fresh jackfish came with a yuzu-koshu-soy glaze, accompanied by dots of yuzu gel, fresh, tangy goosberries, and — a modest triumph of modern kitchen science — Cryovac-compressed honeydew, a narrow rectangle that tasted twice as much like honeydew as the natural melon.

Then: local baby abalone la plancha was grilled light brown and tender enough to cut with a fork. A transparent slick of “smoked lardo,” succulent cured pig back-fat, almost imperceptibly coated the flesh. Alongside were a tart green grape compote, squash blossoms, fried lengths of crose (aka “Chinese artichokes,” an Asian tuber from Japan, similar to sunchokes and pronounced “crone”), and violet mushroom sabayon. “These are a lot of unrelated items on the dish, and it could be completely incoherent,” said Steve, “but somehow they all add up to a unity.” Clearly, the chef doesn’t have mere technical chops, he also has a palate.

Chestnut agnolotti (agnolotti, to be technical) offered a burst of intensity: a single large, silky pasta pocket filled with chestnut purée, Burgundy truffles, and ricotta salata. It came with a pillow of earthy black trumpet mushrooms and a sweet, silky debutante of a “butterscotch foam” topped aslant on top, offering a giggly echo of the nutty-sweet chestnut purée — an edible joke that sobered up in the mouth.

If you saw the movie Ratatouille, you’ll remember how critic Anton Ego went mad for the peasyant title dish. My ratatouille here was a duck egg, larger and deeper-flavored than a chicken egg, with a customary consistency from gentle poaching. It perched atop a mound of “bottle-poached” black French Du Puy lentils. (A double-twist on sous-vide, they’re poached in a bain marie inside a bottle — the outer wafer simmers, but the lentils never even bubble but slowly cook tender, soaking up vegetable broth, tomato confit, and herbs.) Completing the cast were black trumpet mushroom purée and tongue-sized rectanglulars of perfect panisse, Provencal chick-pea fritters, earthy in flavor but airy in texture. This combination brought back the shock of my first-ever sip of a great Côte de Nuits Burgundy — like a planetary spirit-mother (not the flawed, human one) wrapping her arms around me in loving solace for everything ever suffered, or to be suffered. I realized that I was careening toward an unprecedented five-star rating.

The one dish I didn’t cotton to was its course-companion of “baby anxious artichokes,” with wild arugula, tomato confit, and somewhere (where?) artichoke mousseline. At any other restaurant it might be impressive. Here, it was an interesting warm salad.
When our server asked how we wanted our meats done, we specified “very rare” for beef rib-eye and “rosy rare” for lamb saddle. Both wishes were precisely fulfilled. In the multifaceted assiette of lamb, the modest-sized portion of saddle was perfectly roasted, but the supporting players upstaged it. “Confit sweetbreads” offered a small portion of thymus, glazed sweetly with a crisp exterior, just enough to inspire a heavy crush before it vanished down the hatch. “Lambcetta” was a thick slice of house-cured “lamb-ham,” made from odd parts (neck meat, flap, and belly, direct from a local farm) and seasoned with exotic Moroccan ras al hanout—delicious and clever. Romanesco sauce, succulent-sweet almonds (had to be Marcona), small semi-hot cherry peppers stuffed with pureéd eggplant (okhi!), and mini-flaunts of cauliflower filled out the plate, a busy but engaging assemblage.

The duo of beef rib-eye pave and 36-hour short rib was, happily, less food than we’d feared. The rare rib-eye was dainty in size, the short rib beyond tender. And to make it all ridiculously lavish, it was served with a mini “croque Monsieur,” a tiny grilled sandwich of cheese and ham encased in multi-layered buttery pastry — plus a bit of Swiss chard and a beef-Banyuls jus to moisten the meat. Our paired wines for all courses (starting with meat) were precisely fulfilled. In the time the smoke cleared, RBI had fired him. Similar story with Gavin Kaysen, who ran off to the Big City just as he’d gained the possible five-star strength. So, I’ll be as daring as chef Rojas and just say it: This is the best food I’ve ever tasted in San Diego. I left my socks in Rancho Bernardo, where they got knocked off.

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“Before the fiddlers have fled! Before they ask us to pay the bill! And while we still have the chance! Let’s face the music and dance.” — Irving Berlin
**Einstein’s Cousins**

“With sauerkraut, you have to decide your acidity. Ours is moderate.”

Can’t believe it. Here I am in North Park, sipping away with Albert Einstein’s cousin! Evelyn, who runs this eatery with her husband Jeff, casually drops it that her grandpa and Albert were first cousins. Primo! That makes her Einstein’s... (uh, momentito, please): E. (Evelyn) = M (the Maestro)’s C (Cousin) squared. So she’s Einstein’s first cousin twice removed, right? Wow. If that ain’t relativity, what is?

We’re here on 30th, just a space-time hop, skip, and jump from North Park’s hub at University. The Old World Restaurant. Hmm... there’s something vaguely familiar about that name and about the antique iron forge standing against the wall, and overhead, the heavy lamp chandeliers. (Ah... yes. Jeff says they were inherited from Lubach’s, the long- lamented German eatery that used to be on Harbor Drive.) Come to think of it, there’s something vaguely familiar about Evelyn and Jeff. Have we met? Or is it just that she looks like the great Albert?

It was the sight of a guy in an orange shirt eating an orange-curry salad at one of the outside tables that drew me in. Plus, I noticed how folks at the tables inside seemed to be having a good time. So in I go. Knickknacks are everywhere along the bright walls. Dark wavy wood- slat-covered arches hold up the dining room, and the salmon-colored floor tiles make it kinda cheery, kinda old-school. It’s one of those places where all the tables have cream linen tablecloths under glass. And a flower in a vase set on top.

I go to the counter, pick up a menu, and plop down next to that forge. Lots of hot sandwiches, such as “home-made corned beef piled hot and high” on rye ($6.75) or, under “Sensory Distractions,” the “Sloppy Joe” — pastrami, ham, cheese, and bacon on rye, with salad ($7.95). There are plenty more “sensory distractions,” including “North Park Theater,” stuffed with meatloaf ($6.75), or the “Lyric Opera,” seafood salad and smoked Gouda crammed into a croissant ($7.95). Half-pound hamburgers or turkey burgers go for $5.99. They have a page of salads, most around eight buckeroos, and some “very low fat creations.”

“House Specialties” include a $7.50 lasagna ($7.25 for the all-vegetable version), a $6.95 quiche, a $7.95 meatloaf platter, and, hey, a sausage platter: “an Old World favorite. Grilled bratwurst and kielbasa, our special sauerkraut, potato pancakes, spicy mustard, rye bread,” it says. $7.95.

“I’ll have that,” I say to Evelyn. The phone rings. She picks it up. Her face goes serious. She nods at Jeff to take over serving me.

Ten minutes later, I’m plowing into this plateful of two split, grilled sausages sitting on a mound of sauerkraut, with two potato pancake patties, two slices of rye bread, and small tubs of mustard, applesauce, and sour cream. Truth to tell, I’m wondering what I should put all of that gunk on. Then I realize: the applesauce and sour cream’ll be for the potato pancakes. Jeff says the kielbasa is the more smoky-flavored red sausage, while the bratwurst is boiled and floured with beer, red onions, and apple juice. “That was actually a Kansas City idea,” he says.

Have to say, these sausages do have great smoky, herby flavor. But the sexiest thing on the plate is the sauerkraut. It’s sweet, sour, soulful. “We buy, dress, marinate, and season it all ourselves,” Jeff says. “We do this with sweet-and-sour red cabbage, cook it down with wine, dried apricots, raisins, and apples. With sauerkraut, you have to decide your acidity. Ours is moderate. Then you have to decide, wet or dry?”

They must be getting something right. Two of their biggest sellers are the Reuben sandwich ($7.95) and this sausage platter.

Then Jeff gives me a funny look. “Haven’t you had the sausage platter before? Weren’t you a customer when we were down in East Village?”

Omgosh. That’s it. “Old World,” of course. Years back. These guys had the old brick-restaurant-building facade where no the ballpark is now. That’s where they got the old forge from. “We were tossed out because of development plans around the ballpark. They flattened our building, the recession hit, and it’s still a vacant lot,” says Jeff. “That was 2005.”

And, yes, I remember now. I had exactly the same sausage platter down there.

We talk so much I order a $3.50 glass of chardonnay. Evelyn turns up, looking a little grave. “That was my family on the phone,” she says. “Uncle Henry Moos died yesterday. He was 90.”

Turns out Uncle Henry was the last in their family to know Albert Einstein. Wow. I get a little shiver as I leave. I came for a good meal, but how close is this to fame? Relatively speaking.

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**The Place:** Old World Restaurant & Deli, 3930 30th Street (half block north of University), North Park, 619-239-3958

**Type of Food:** American

**Prices:** Not corned-beef sandwich on rye, $6.75; “Sloppy Joe” (pastrami, ham, cheese, bacon on rye, with salad), $7.95; “North Park Theater,” sandwich with meatloaf ($6.75); “Lyric Opera,” seafood salad, smoked Gouda in croissant, $7.95; half-pound hamburgers, turkey burgers, $5.99; lasagna, $7.50; all-vegetable lasagna, $7.25; quiche, $6.95; meatloaf platter, $7.95; sausage platter (with grilled bratwurst, kielbasa, sauerkraut, potato pancakes), $7.95; breakfasts also available till 11:00 a.m. (noon, Saturday).

**Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Monday–Friday; 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Saturday; Sunday, closed

**Nearest Bus Stop:** 30th and University

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**San Diego Reader, April 14, 2009**
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**B E A C H E S**

Cheese Shop 2365 Avenue de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-495-5461. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. “The cheese trade is dead,” says owner Phil Schuetz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

**R E S T A U R A N T S**

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Hafford, Barbara Darelo, Amdbeer Martin, Shari McCollough, Max Nahl, 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: under $10; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $29; very expensive: more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

At this Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly (five-course prix-fixe) feast, with superb lentil soup (pumpkin, cardamom, red bell pepper, and chickpeas). A chicken-filled filet pie, an entrée, and roast pork loin are all spit-roasted right beside you as you walk in, to waken your taste buds. Cheeses like Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy café is more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

**I N S T R U C T I O N S**

try the foot-long. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2803, open daily breakfast to late lunch, with delivery to downtown addresses. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Cliff Hanger Café 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, 858-452-9810. “You should never leave the ground or empty stomach,” says the sign near the cliff, which is where this café hangs. What it is to be like at the Café at the End of the World? You sit, munch, and watch men becoming birdbirds, jumping off the cliff beside you. The view of the Pacific Ocean is spectacular. But, boy, grab your good luck try the Launch, (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa) Also go and grill right there — generous half-pound hamburgers. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Daily’s Restaurant 130 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-451-3929. 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. Or steam-up-your- nose veggie. Among the more interesting choices is the Cajun chicken with black beans and brown rice with cayenne pepper in the spices. The most popular weekday lunch order, the buffalo burger, has a little gamy aftertaste — but that just proves it is the legendary Jean’s prairie beast. Nice outside seating in a wooden awning, except when you’ve got to resist the smell from the more wicked entrées that aren’t on the same crusade. Inexpensive. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. — J.B.

Marrakesh 625 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-434-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world — influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. — E.B.

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 and grocers like the Thai Peanut and the Arti (artichokes hearts, feta cheese) are creamy thrillers. Interesting sandwiches include the Portobello mushroom with tomato and provolone on ciabatta or the Avocado (avocado, onion, and tomato with “Vege-raise”). The veggie burrito (black beans, mock chicken) is filling and doesn’t taste too much like chicken. Standards like granola bowls with fruit, honey, and yogurt are scrunched too. The man 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 love Roots’ peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

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. Matter of it’s 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 brilliant bistro salad with pancetta and egg, and a superb duck confit that’s France’s answer to Poking duck — crisp skin puffing from the surface of most meat. Desserts are light and elegant. Wine list ranges from affordable to don’t- you- wish. Narrow restaurant entrance is between a large drapery and Village Liqueur (look for small dining patios). Parking (and actual front entrance) in back. Atmosphere elegant but comfortable — dinner-casual to slightly dressy. Dinner nightly. Expensive. — J.B.

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 3165 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6808. 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 yakisoba (stir-fried chicken, vegetables, and noodles); a cabbage- stuffed enchilada (sawd noodles, scallops, shrimp, vegetables); and the value-packed chicken bowl — big plate of bland
chicken, broccoli, other vegetables, and a swing of rice. Dinner daily; lunch daily except Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Taverna 927 Silverado Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0100. Reservations area necessity at this tiny cutie, especially if you'd prefer the relative quiet of the nooked sidewalk patio to the idea of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which showcases pastas with simple fresh sauces, to marbled and red sauce. Highlights include chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the feather-light potato gnocchi is on spe-
cial, just say "yes". Save room for a slice of house-made lady's cake. Moderate. — N.W.

Tender Greens 2400 Historic Do-
cator Road, Point Loma, 619-226-6234. The main feature of the locally owned franchise of this "healthy food" chain is fresh, local, organic produce served cafeteria-style with or without mesquite-grilled natural beef, free-
range chicken, or local alfalfa tuna in a variety of soups, salads, dress-tap simple hot entrees (plain grilled protein with good mashed potatoes), and artist sandwiches on firm bread near by. This is the place to go to. The chicken soup is fantastic, and the chicken salad is always a hit. This place is packed with fresh ingredients, and the quality of the food is consistently good. — E.B.

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Brothers Family Restaurant $150 Warner Road, Jewett Cushion, 626-487-3009. Yes, it's look at being on the outside. Brick, red clay, glass. But go in and you're surrounded by brothers. John and Baby Kennedy. Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. There's three because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good old-fashioned charcuterie city rules here with no apologies, and the locals appreciate 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, sausage, and bacon, and just about every turkey sandwich with the works. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday–Friday. Inexpensive.—E.B.

Bryan's Cafe $30 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-1717. The seats are red, the lights are blue, and the menu of this edible-oriented wine bar offers French-accented, wine-friendly seafood, meats retail, including venison sausage and free-range chicken. Naturally Cali- forma wines with a wide range of prices would be an appropriate expression.—N.W.

Café on Park $381 Park Boulevard, North Park, 619-239-7225. Okay, it's trendy, from the hurry-spoon-and-fork sign at the door to the PC industrial interior (concrete walls, exposed pipework, and lights). But don't expect PC food. The place is a bit messy, with a wide-open floor and a full fryer. Brunch is a popular option. Breakfast is served all day, and dinner till 9 p.m. On Sundays, the restaurant is fully booked with roadies and blue-collars. But it's basically funny 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 "Quack-a-ree") means "house of song," in Aztec, though most would call it "quacker kelly dining room." Breakfast: 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., dinner 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., seven days. Inexpensive.—E.B.

La Fochada 20 25th Street, Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The name about La Fochada is that you can eat anything you want. This restaurant near the old and 25th Street Mexican-American town is no Bogay food—"maybe because of the name and the decor across the street. Great not-so-much-morn- ing Mexican, including eggs and breakfast. There you're surrounded by brothers: John and Baby Kennedy. Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. There's three because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good old-fashioned charcuterie city rules here with no apologies, and the locals appreciate 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, sausage, and bacon, and just about every turkey sandwich with the works. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday–Friday. Inexpensive.—E.B.

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La Fochada 20 25th Street, Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The name about La Fochada is that you can eat anything you want. This restaurant near the old and 25th Street Mexican-American town is no Bogay food—"maybe because of the name and the decor across the street. Great not-so-much-morn- ing Mexican, including eggs and breakfast. There you're surrounded by brothers: John and Baby Kennedy. Hugh Grant and his brother Jamie, the Wright Brothers, the Blues Brothers, the Brothers Rico. There's three because this place used to be run by three brothers. Good old-fashioned charcuterie city rules here with no apologies, and the locals appreciate 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, sausage, and bacon, and just about every turkey sandwich with the works. Open seven days for breakfast and lunch, with early dinner Wednesday–Friday. Inexpensive.—E.B.

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I started cooking growing up. At big family gatherings, I was always in the kitchen. When you were brought into my household, we didn’t worry about possession. It was about the food. It was always like that with us. This is still who I am.

I didn’t always cook, though. In fact, I spent the majority of my life in the military, I went to military school and then was an Airborne Army Ranger. When I got out, my brother-in-law Paul (we were very close) was teaching cooking at the New School of Cooking in San Francisco, so I went to live with him. Paul was a professional chef, but he didn’t have a lot of time to cook. I learned a lot from him.

I’m not a professional chef, but I do enjoy cooking. I like experimenting with new ingredients and techniques. I also enjoy travelling and trying different cuisines around the world.

What’s your favorite dish to cook?

I love making pasta from scratch. It’s a fun and creative process, and I enjoy experimenting with different sauces and toppings. My favorite dish to cook is a classic homemade pasta dish like spaghetti bolognese or linguine with clams.

What’s your go-to dish when you’re feeling particularly creative?

My go-to dish when I’m feeling particularly creative is a simple pasta dish like pasta carbonara. It’s easy to make and you can add or subtract ingredients based on what you have on hand.

What’s the most challenging dish you’ve ever cooked?

The most challenging dish I’ve ever cooked was making a perfectly cooked haunch of venison. It’s a large piece of meat that can be tough to break down and requires a lot of patience and attention to detail.

What’s the most satisfying meal you’ve ever cooked?

The most satisfying meal I’ve ever cooked was a weekend brunch with my friends. We made homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs, and lots of fresh fruit. It was a great way to spend a relaxing morning together.

What’s the one cooking tool you can’t live without?

I can’t live without a sharp, high-quality knife. It’s essential for chopping, dicing, and slicing ingredients. I also love using a good cutting board to protect my countertops.

What’s the one cooking ingredient you can’t live without?

I can’t live without a good quality olive oil. It’s essential for cooking and dressing salads. I also love using lemon juice to add a burst of flavor to dishes.

What’s the one cooking technique you can’t live without?

The one cooking technique I can’t live without is sautéing. It’s a versatile technique that can be used to cook vegetables, meats, and fish. I love using a little bit of oil and a good bit of heat to bring out the natural flavors of the ingredients.

What’s the one cooking tip you can’t live without?

The one cooking tip I can’t live without is to always wash your hands before and after handling food. It’s essential for maintaining food safety and preventing the spread of illnesses.

What’s the one cooking ingredient you always have on hand?

The one cooking ingredient I always have on hand is fresh herbs. I love using them to add flavor and aroma to dishes. I keep a variety of herbs like basil, parsley, and thyme in my garden and use them fresh in season.

What’s the one cooking technique you’re currently experimenting with?

I’m currently experimenting with sous vide cooking. It’s a technique that involves cooking food in a water bath at a precise temperature to achieve even cooking and enhance flavor. I’m enjoying trying out different recipes and experimenting with different cuts of meat.

What’s the one cooking tool you’re currently experimenting with?

I’m currently experimenting with a sous vide water bath. It’s a tool that allows me to cook food at a precise temperature to achieve even cooking and enhance flavor. I’m enjoying trying out different recipes and experimenting with different cuts of meat.

What’s the one cooking ingredient you’re currently experimenting with?

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The What Chews

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 small head of Boston lettuce, shredded (about 4 cups, lightly packed), grated pepper and juice of 1 lemon
2 teaspoons sugar
1 cup quarter chicken broth
1 cup half-and-half salt (optional)

HOW TO DO IT
Shell peas (you should have about 2 cups). Reserve about 2 table-
spoons of small peas to use as a garnish.
In a 3- or 4-quart saucepan, melt butter with oil over medium heat. Add onion and gar-
cil, and cook, stirring often until soft but not browned. Blend in curry powder and tumeric, then flour. Add shredded lettuce, lemon pepper, and juice, and salt.

Remove from heat and gradually blend in broth. Bring to a boil, stir-
ring over medium heat; then cover, reduce heat, and simmer until peas are just tender (8-10 min-utes). Blend in half-and-half. Taste and add salt if needed.

Transfer mixture — about a third at a time — to food processor or blender and process or whirl until smooth.

To serve cold, cover and refrigerate until thor-

ghly chilled. Or return to cooking pan and heat, stir-
ring often, until steam-
ing hot. Serve garnished with reserved, uncooked peas.

NOTE: When the soup is served hot, the curry flavor is assertive. Chilled, it will taste more luscious. A dollop of yogurt is a nice, finishing touch, if you are serving the soup cold.

To get other recipes from local chefs, go to sreedator.com.

The Chefs Eat

2 Pizza Shuttle & Subs Tool
Carry-out special only
Large cheese pizza $7.95
Plus tax. Not valid with any other offers or specials. Expires 5/09.

959 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad
(Next to Vons, just east of I-5) 760-434-5100 www.pizzashuttle.biz

1 Two large pizzas $15.32
Plus tax. Not valid with any other offers or specials. Expires 5/09.

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Best BBQ Burger In Town Since 1983
1/2-lb. western deluxe steakburger with gyro meat on top with fries only $7.95

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**Calendar**

**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.

All Shook Up
Production centered around the music of Elvis. 619-532-4010.
CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL, 850 D AVENUE, CORONADO. SATURDAY, 2 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7 P.M.

**Angels in America**

One: Millennium Approaches
Palomar College Performing Arts presents part one of Tony Kushner's epic about "American identity, personal morality, and spiritual redemption." Michael Mathson directed. (Note: The college will stage part two this fall.)

Palmamar College, 1140 WEST MISSION ROAD, SAN MARCOS. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 25.

Two: Millennium Approaches
Palomar College Performing Arts presents part two this fall.

Palmamar College, 1140 WEST MISSION ROAD, SAN MARCOS. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 25.

**The Cradle Will Rock**

Stone Soup Theatre's production of Marc Blitzstein's "proletarian musical" (1937) is fun, at times, but also frustrating. Set in the Depression, Coalfe's expose of corruption in high places. Blitzstein has various citizens prostitute themselves to robber-baron-like Mr. Master in order to thrive. Into this lion's den of iniquity charges stern-jawed, union-organizing Larry Foreman. He rocks the "cradle of liberty" and performs a secular harrowing of hell. Vocally, Stone Soup has a mix of able singers (Christopher T. Miller's Larry Foreman vivifies the room; Bryan Curtis White's Rev. Salmon outrares understated (asians) and performers for whom the rapid-fire score is either beyond their range or their abilities. All tend to blast through the lyrics and garble the words. Most frustrating: the production feels toned down. It needs a major dose of agitprop: raging, screwball (cartoony if necessary), eager to irritate. These folks finally have the chance — maybe their first and last — to tell their story. They'll do anything to shake up the status quo. Anything. 619-287-3965.


**Eleemosynary**

Wordswork presents a reading of Lee Blessing's award-winning comedy-drama about three generations of women. Admission is free. 20TH PLAYHOUSE, 3033 16TH STREET, VISTA, 760-724-2110. MONDAY, 7:30 P.M.

**The Glass Menagerie**

Lamb's Players stage Tennessee Williams's poetic memory drama about the evening the Gentleman Caller came to the Wingfield's for dinner. Robert Smyth directed.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, 619-437-0600. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 AND 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 10.

Dear Harvey
For a tribute to Harvey Milk, Patricia Loughrey interviewed "the people he knew and the lives he changed." At Diversionary Theatre, a cast of seven reads performs letters, interviews, and testimonials, while Thomas Hodges plays original music on piano and slides projected on a scrim. What comes through is a courageous man, savvy in politics, with a remarkable gift for seeing the potential in people — like Anne Kronenberg, whom he made his campaign manager when she was an inexperienced 22. The movie Milk has been criticized for hagiography (as if he were the first gay person to run for office and the first to shout "come out!"). Loughrey's script verages at times on gilding but succeeds in painting a balanced portrait (as when Kronenberg says, "He was a mensch in many ways — and a diva"). What also comes through are touches missing from the movie (for me, at least, Sean Penn stood between Milk and the audience, his performance calling as much attention to himself as to Milk). Dear Harvey offers more personal observations and recollections — the off-camera Harvey Milk, in other words, who, the 35-minute Diverionary piece shows, was quite a human being.

Worth a try:
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4145 PACIFIC BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 AND 2 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 25.

DINNER THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1300. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 24.

CLARK'S THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, 619-437-0600. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 AND 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 10.
The Good Person of Szechuan
SDSU School of Theatre, Televisi-
on, and Film presents Bertolt Brecht’s “comic consideration of right and wrong in the real world.” Peter Latham directed.
DON POWELL THEATRE, 5500 COM-
PANIE DRIVE, SDSU. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M.
SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M.
THROUGH MAY 3.
The Hit
Mike Buckley’s light, entertaining
romantic comedy has one of the-
atre’s more conflicted villains.
Samm, short for Samantha, means
ill but is new at her work as a “hit
man” and tends to become person-
ally involved. The real villain is the
hospital that convinced Susan, owner of an antique shop in San Francisco, that she’s dying of can-
cer. Susan hires Samm for a whack
job so Susan’s brother can use the
insurance for graduate work at
Stanford. Complications unfold in
a briskly paced show. Buckley’s a
triple threat: he wrote the script, he
acted the part. Susan’s “bipolar,” and
plays Sam, and he designed the
right and wrong in the real world.”

Mauritius
Passive Jackie needs a few skulks,
so she brings her ancestral stamp
collection to an appraiser. Two
stamps, just “tiny pieces of paper,”
turn out to be the “crown jewel of philately” worth, in Theresa Re-
beck’s tally, “singing, chanting,
and conniving. For Jackie runs a
guestlist through many a prac-
ticed tactician, but so, it turns out,
Mr. John heads a game
Cyrper Theatre cast as Jackie, the
lamb that John expertly converts
into a lion. John DeCarlo’s com-
pulsive-talking Dennis, Sandy
Campbell’s upscale, backstabbing
Mary, and Jack Minet’s sneaky
Philip contribute. Unheadline
Manny Fernandez (who’s getting
scary good in these roles) ladles
smaller menace as Sterling, dap-
per-dressed thug (and stamp
fetishist extraordinaire). George
Ye’s fight choreography, some of
the best around here in many a
moon, turns Sean Fanning’s inven-
tive, two-way set into a danger
zone, especially when Sterling
doesn’t have his way.

Heart a Fly
PLYTE Theatre — ROLAND, 4863
EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COL-
LAGE AREA. 619-337-1570, THURS-
DAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATUR-
DAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. AND 7
P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MAY 30.
National Comedy Theatre
Improvisational comedy, making
up funny stuff on the spot, is dif-
cult enough. Years ago, however,
Keith Johnstone thought it’d be
more exciting if done competi-
tively. National Comedy Theatre
sembles an athletic event. 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 re-
wards (one of the most refresh-
ing parts of the contest: people ac-
nounce failure, abundantly,
then forget it). It makes for a
lovely, often funny evening.

Heart a Fly
MAY 5-10
BALBOA THEATRE • 1664 4TH AVENUE, NORTH PARK. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 26.
The Platt Brothers
The brothers debut their new show,
which combines “family-friendly
comedy, high-flying acrobatics,
original music,” and personal sto-
ries. 775-313-0798, www.theplat-
thriller.com.
SUNSET THEATRE, 3511 HAWAII
STREET, NORTH PARK. SATURDAYS,
8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 3 P.M. THROUGH APRIL
26.
Pychopathia Sexualis
Cmpas Theatre stages John
Patrick Shanley’s comedy about an
obscene artist with a fetish for his
father’s argyle socks and an up-
coming marriage for which the
socks, now missing, will play a
 crucial role. Mark Stephen directed.
COURNOS THEATRE, 3714 SIXTH AV-
ENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210.
SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M.
THROUGH MAY 24.
Rabbit Hole
Eight months ago, Recka’s four-
year-old son chased a dog into the
street and was killed by a car. No
one can prepare for that night-
mar. The Good Person of Szechuan
plays. David Lindsay-Davies, 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 31.

Mauritius
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so she brings her ancestral stamp
collection to an appraiser. Two
stamps, just “tiny pieces of paper,”
turn out to be the “crown jewel of philately” worth, in Theresa Re-eck’s tally, “singing, chanting,
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mar. The Good Person of Szechuan
plays. David Lindsay-Davies, 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 31.
some kind of explanation, even if it isn’t true.

Worth a try
North Coast Repertory Theatre, 587 Kohn San Diego Road, Solana Beach. 858-483-1105. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 26.

The Scarlet Pimpernel
Welk Resort 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, 8830 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 866-803-7460. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 1:45 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 26.

Senior Sock Hop, or You Can’t Dance in Bare Feet
For its annual melodrama, the North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe goes to a high school where “the seniors are really senior and the principal is determined to run the sock hop!”

NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE AND CANDY SHOPPE, 2021 EL CLAIR BOULEVARD, NORTH PARK. 619-647-4958. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 9.

Spider’s Web
Coronado Playhouse stages Agatha Christie’s mystery: a dead body in the drawing room and a house full of suspects. Keith A. Anderson directed.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1839 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-8956. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MAY 24.

Urinetown: The Musical
Point Loma Nazarene University stages the funny (and wise) tale of greed, corruption, and the proper use of water.

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY, 3800 LOMALAND DRIVE, POINT LOMA. 619-449-2433. TUESDAY, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.

Veronica’s Room
Patio Playhouse stages Ira Levin’s thriller. An older man and woman say Susan reminds them of a woman named Veronica. This is not a good thing.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 3900 LOMALAND DRIVE, POINT LOMA. 619-447-1055. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MAY 10.

Working
Working, Studs Terkel’s remarkable collection of interviews (1974), is an oral report on the American worker. Stephen Schwartz and Nina Fano’s musical based on the book premiered in 1978. The show closed in less than a month. Schwartz is remaking the original at the Old Globe. The emphasis is less on what workers have to say than on innocuous entertainment, as they’re performing before their bosses.

Woyzeck
UCSD Theatre and Dance presents Georg Büchner’s early-19th Century drama about a soldier driven to extreme behavior that was a good century, at least, ahead of its time. Gabor Tomsa directed.

POETRY THEATRE at UCSD, 1910 GILMAN DRIVE, UCSD, TUESDAY, 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 8 P.M.

Zanna, Don’t!
Ariel Performing Arts presents the San Diego premiere of the “musical fairy tale” about a magical matchmaker at Heartsville High, where everyone is gay. In Specto directed. 619-402-1875.

ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL, 3380 PARK BOULEVARD, HILLCREST, FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MAY 10.

Order today! Tickets $25, $45, $55 858-459-3728
At last a bone to gnaw on. Not a very meaty bone, only a very scrappy bone, but a bone nonetheless. State of Play, the Americanization of a BBC miniseries, qualifies as a ripped-from-the-headlines thriller, and from more than one type of headline: the political sex scandal, the privatization of the military, the death throes of newspapers. The topicality inevitably gives rise to some soapboxing, and along with it some playing on the pieties of the audience, though it is doubtful whether this either enhances or erodes the main business of generating thrills. There appear at first to be two distinct police cases: first, in the gritty and grippy opening, the fatal shooting of a black street kid and critical shooting of an innocent passerby, and second the apparent suicide of a Pennsylvania congressman's mistress under the wheels of a subway train. At the fictitious Washington Globe (a stand-in for the Post, as there's no room in the present climate for a superfluous daily), hungry for quick profit under new owners, the veteran beat reporter (a chunky Russell Crowe beneath a Samson-esque lion's mane) follows the first trail, debarred from the second by his personal friendship since college days with the compromised congressman (a trim and trimmed Ben Affleck), who is currently chairing a committee to look into Defense Department outsourcing. The second case falls by default to a shoot-first online blogger (a cheeky Rachel McAdams), to the disdain of the old-school reporter.

The first thrill, or tingle at least, comes when the two cases converge: the reporter diligently dialing the numbers on the dead kid's cellphone (and amusingly putting on a homeboy patois for the purpose) and eventually getting the answering machine of the dead mistress. Whoa. What's the connection? Other, bigger thrills arrive in due course, including a shocking second attack on the hospitalized survivor in the first case, and the reporter's sudden running into and hasty running away from the identified assassin, leading to a well-played game of hide-and-seek in the favorite locale of a parking ramp. Along the way, there are good turns from Helen Mirren as the pragmatic newspaper editor, Robin Wright Penn as the adulterous wife of the adulterous politician, Jeff Daniels as a Capitol Hill éminence grise, and, most show-stoppingly, Jason Bateman as a hopped-up P.R. man in the thick of the skullduggery. And director Kevin Macdonald, of The Last King of Scotland and assorted documentaries, keeps the traffic moving swiftly down the investigative path, stressing the topical issues no more than necessary to allay the guilt of viewers who couldn't enjoy the thrills if they couldn't cluck their tongues over war profiteering or fret over the fate of the free press.

In the end, the plotting descends into mechanical trickery for its own sake, but by then the starving moviegoer should be in a frame of mind to take what he has got.
through the agency of a bewitched supernatural school janitor, sends the middle-age-crazy hero not back in time, but back in age, back to the high school of his youth, so that he must fend off the incessant flirtations of his teenage daughter and make age-inappropriate advances to the disaffected wife he had long since lost interest in (and who, incidentally, has the minimum mental wherewithal to notice, if not to make adequate fuss about, his uncanny resemblance to the boy she married twenty years ago). We expect to encounter logic problems in any time-travel tale, so it’s best not to compound them with extraneous nonsense whereby the daughter’s brutish boyfriend — inexplicable in itself — sense whereby the daughter’s brutish compound them with extraneous non-

MANN, seemingly doomed to subsist at the level of Drillbit Taylor, Knocked Up, Big Daddy, The Cable Guy, et al., is very good as the wife, carrying a lot of tension, intelligence, sensitivity, pain, and whatnot in her pop eye and pursed mouth, without ever forgetting she’s in a comedy. One of the little aggravations of modern movie-going is that you can’t have a Leslie Mann without a Zac Efron or an Owen Wilson or a Seth Rogan or an Adam Sandler or a Jim Carrey. The compensation she provides, although not small, is not sufficient.

It has been several years since my first and only visit to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center IMAX Dome Theater. Renovations completed at the end of last year, together with God knows what other technological fine-tuning in the digital projection, have given the presentation a new look. The seams in the picture, in effect transforming a patchwork mainsail into the concave side of a giant eggshell. And the digital image has been brazenly sharpened up, with only slight distraction at the edges. “The Ultimate Movie Experience,” it says so itself, Under the Sea, all forty minutes of it, proves to be an ideal subject for the format, ideal, that is, for the built-in disorientation of looking at a screen as big as the sky, ideal for subconscious creatures beyond the science-fictional imagination of any CGI wizard. (See the Leafy Sea Dragon for verification, or for that matter the Weedy Sea Dragon, Eel.) Sight unseen, I imagine it would be less than ideal, by comparison, to view the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh on that scale, as you are invited to do in the alternating Van Gogh: Brush with Genius, through the end of April only. Somehow, when we’ve lost our bearings anyway, the magnification of a Potato Cod to the dimensions of Moby Dick isn’t so objectionable. The educative narrative (spoken by a subdued Jim Carrey) contains, in addition to the L.J.S. and M.O.X’s of the creatures, the obligatory global-warming warnings, but these are nowhere near as alarming as the spectacle of a tortoise tearing away the flesh of a jellyfish (who would have thought!) or of a cuttlefish cracking the shell of a living crab. I don’t know if it’s a movie, but it’s an experience all right.

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

All reviews are by Daman 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.

**Adventureland — Coming-of-age comedy with airs. Jesse Eisenberg for all intents and purposes plays an extension of his pre-teenage environment 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.**

**Duplicity — Entertaining enough game of industrial espionage, kicked off, behind the credits, with a dastardly sound-of-kill fight on the tarmac between the unarguably Paul Giamatti and Tom Wilkinson. The repeated doubling back in time proves to be more expansive than clever, but writer-director Tony Gilroy, giving light after Michael Clayton, hasn’t abandoned his conscience. And he has written some breezy dialogue, despite the major windbreak of Julia Roberts. On the other side, Cloe Owen nicely holds up his end. 2009.**

**Earth — The circle of life, all around the globe, romantic to tropic, desert to ocean, illustrated everywhere in luscious calendar art, crystalline in digital projection. The Disney nature documentary allows some survival-of-the-fittest brutality, but none of the gore that would accompany it. “Yes,” concludes narrator James Earl Jones, “it’s full of lush realities, but sometimes it’s just paradise.” Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield. 2009.**

**Che: Part Two — The free-standing second half of Steven Soderbergh’s worship service, in narrower screen than the first half, and in less vivid color and no black-and-white, unfurls a contrasting chronologically account of Guevara’s final year, 1966-67, his ill-fated attempt to do in Bolivia what he had done in Cuba. As in the first half, there is an extended battle toward the end of it, and prior to that a lot more of atmospheric feeling (in similarly squarish frames) of the lifestyle of a revolutionary; in addition to a worrisome increase in the hero’s arthritic whining. His post-battle execution is as lovingly dragged out as any scene 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 Palace as Guevara and Castro, was doubtless a Hollywood travesty, but that at least made it somewhat fun. (Tack Palance by his lonesome makes anything somewhat fun.) Soderbergh’s corrective is no travesty and no fun, Benicio del Toro, Franka Potente, Joaquin de Almeida, Lou Diamond Phillips. 2008.**

**Crack: High Voltage — Jason Statham, his stolen heart, his beat-the-clock recovery effort, chronicled with a spastic camera, warping lenses, sophomoric smut, stupefy-
ing action. With Amy Smart, Bai Ling, Clifton Collins, Jr., and Dwight Yoakam, di-rec-ted by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor. 2009.**

**The Informers**

“The totally faithful adaptation. Delivers guilty pleasures aplenty.”

— Rob Nelson, Variety

**“Part morality tale, part voyeuristic time trip. Strong stuff!”**


**“Impresses with style.” “Electrifying performances!”**

— Troy Patterson, SPIN

— Dennis Dermody, PAPER Magazine
**Fast and Furious** — Stripped-down action sequel. Or anyway, the title is stripped down, dumping the definite articles and de-moting the nouns to adjectives. The tricked-out action, meanwhile, barrels ahead with total disregard for lucidity or credibility. It’s not precisely a reunion of the original four stars, Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Michelle Rodriguez, inasmuch as before they can come together one of them gets bumped off. Thoughts then turn to revenge. Shallowly. Just the right depth for the juvenile target audience. (“Are we cool?” “Yeah, we’re cool.”) With John Ortiz, Laz Alonso, and Gal Gadot; directed by Justin Lin. 2009.

**Fighting** — Channing Tatum as a bare-knuckle streetfighter, with Terrence Howard, directed by Dito Montiel. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 4/24)

**Goodbye Solo** — A gruff American loner hires a gregarious Senegalese cabbie to drive him, one way, to Blowing Rock in the Blue Ridge Mountains at a future date. One way? Why? The cabbie’s curiosity, to say nothing of his humanity, gets the better of him, and an odd couple begins to be formed. The ginger-haired, prune-faced Red West (a former Elvis bodyguard) and the buoyant Souleyman S. Savane seem like real people in an unreal relationship. Much talk, many closeups. Directed by Ramin Bahrani. 2009.

**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 (look- ing 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 (“HUM- mong,” 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.

Hannah Montana: The Movie — Singing sensation Hannah Montana, “the most popular teenager in the world,” has a secret, an ordinary life as a normal high-schooler under her real name of Miley Stewart (played by Miley Cyrus, alias Hannah Montana), daughter of a down-home Tennessean, Bobby Ray Stewart (Billy Ray Cyrus). Only a blond wig hides her true identity from friends and tabloids, a thinner disguise than Clark Kent’s eyeglasses. Sugar-coated as it is, the film sheds no credible light on the actual existence of Hannah/Miley, but it does summon up the incredible innocence of a Hollywood teen musical of old, a Deanna Durbin, let’s say. With Emily Osment, Lucas Till, Margo Martindale, and Vanessa Williams; directed by Peter Chelsom. 2009.

The Haunting in Connecticut — A beleved family housed in a converted funeral home: flickering lights, banging doors, charbroiled ghosts, a malignant shower curtain, and whatnot. It has the advantage of being a “true story,” thereby curtailing certain kinds and degrees of excess. There is, even so, a routineless and a staleness about it, and in the direction of Peter Cornwell there’s a compulsion to oversell it. The mass disentombment at the climax had no need to be oversold. Virginia Madsen, Martin Donovan, Elias Koteas lend it some useless respectability. With Kyle Gallner and Amanda Crew. 2009.
I Love You, Man — A gay comedy with an original angle: A woman’s man with a self-developed feminine side suddenly feels the lack of a male mate when the time comes to pick a best man, hilariously casting about for a buddy to cultivate. The lapses in taste — no, the eager, steady assaults on taste, the projectile vomit, the fart commentary, and so forth — lower expectations. But the personable Paul Rudd and Zooey Deschanel’s pivotal role has plenty of opportunity to show off his gifts, particularly in his forced efforts to be a guy’s guy, more particularly when namely or inartificially tongue-twisted, the urge to be witty running way ahead of the brain’s ability to come up with some wit. His spirited diapage into a Jamaican calypso is a crack-up. Jon Favreau does well, too, as a churchilien misnomer for buddhyy. And, in the part of the leading contender, the least you can say for Jason Segel of Forgetting Sarah Marshall is that he keeps his pants on. With Rashida Jones, Sarah Burns, Jamie Pressly; directed by John Hamburg. 4★

The Informers — Interspersed storylines set in L.A. in the Eighties, with Billy Bob Thornton, Kim Basinger, Mickey Rourke. Winona Ryder, directed by Gregor Jordan. (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 6; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Knowing — A schoolboy’s sealed submision to a time-capsule fifty years ago seems to have predicted every major calamity up to the present and beyond. A couple of au-thetically loathsome disasters and a couple of creapy moments with a group of silken stalkers known as the Whisper People provide small compensation for the dragged-out overwrought climax (the slow movement of Beethoven’s Seventh once again gets dragged out, too) and the lingering plot questions. With Nicolas Cage, Chandler Canterbury, Rose Byrne, and Laura Robinson; directed by Alex Proyas. 4★

Paul Blart: Mall Cop — Delusional mall detective. 2009.

The Mysteries of Pittsburgh — Little-browed love triangle out of a Michael Chabon novel. The musty bookishness begins with the naging first-person narration of a good-looking diliated (“After you’ve thrown up in the topiary and raised your mouth up with cheap vodka, you really don’t want to talk to anybody”), but it continues ever after the narration dies down. With Jon Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Senna Miller, Mena Suvari, and Nick Nolte; directed by Roman Marshall Travib. 2009. ★


The Foot Fist Way — Minor-league moviemaking about minor-league baseball. A Dominican pitching prospect learns a knackle-curve, gets invited to spring training in Arizona and assigned to a farm club in Iowa; a fish out of water, or at best a little fish in a big pond. It’s a bit flat and a bit rough around the edges, but it has some attentional detail — the English-language class of useful words and phrases (“I got it! I got it!”), the kindly waiters who illustrates the different styles of eggs in order to break the monotony of the foreigner’s daily French toast, the prim farm couple who billet him during the summer season (“No chicks in the bed-room”), and so on. The modesty of the production carries through to a modesty of plotting: no great success in the offing. With Algenis Perez Soto, Ellary Porterfield, Richard Bull, Ann Whitney, and Jaime Tierli; directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. 2009.

17 Again — Reviewed this issue. With Zac Efron, Matthew Perry, Leslie Mann, Michelle Trachtenberg, and Thomas Lennon; directed by Burr Steers. ★

Slumdog Millionaire — Freesish daydream, partly amourous, partly avuncular, 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 trial and third-degree grilling 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 squab and brutality, but filmed by Danny Boyle with a hellish, almost uncaring, endurance and exhibitionism. Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Irran Khan. 2008. ★

The Soliloquy — Fact-based drama of a homeless classical musician, with Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey, Jr., directed by Joe Wright. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 4/24)


Sugar — Minor-league baseball. A Dominican pitching prospect learns a knuckle-curve, gets invited to spring training in Arizona and assigned to a farm club in Iowa; a fish out of water, or at best a little fish in a big pond. It’s a bit flat and a bit rough around the edges, but it has some attentional detail — the English-language class of useful words and phrases (“I got it! I got it!”), the kindly waiters who illustrates the different styles of eggs in order to break the monotony of the foreigner’s daily French toast, the prim farm couple who billet him during the summer season (“No chicks in the bed-room”), and so on. The modesty of the production carries through to a modesty of plotting: no great success in the offing. With Algenis Perez Soto, Ellary Porterfield, Richard Bull, Ann Whitney, and Jaime Tierli; directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. 2009.

The German Woman — A heartbreakingly lovely Honduran emigrant (Paulina Gaitan) from a border town in Mexico makes her perilous way, with father and uncle, through Mexico en route to Texas and New Jersey, her path converging with that of a sensitive, pensive Mexican gangbanger (Edgar Flores), a tattooist by his right eye, who runs afoul of his blood brothers. First-time filmmaker Caio Koji Fukunaga offers a soft-hearted view of a hard world, seeking out tender innocence and then stomping it out for our horror and pity. The illegal alien film and the gang life film are both genres that are prone to a certain sameness, and the combination of the two into one film doesn’t produce a sense of difference so much as a doubled same-ness. Slickly done, nonetheless. 2009. ★

●


MONSTERS vs. ALIENS — Machine-made cartoon from DreamWorks, credited to co-directors Bob Letterman and Conrad Vernon. It posits a secret government quarantaine of belligerent monsters modelled on such Fifties archetypes as the Blob, the four-fifths-human Fly (except now a Cockroach), Mothra, the 50-Foot Woman (a girl-power placebo), and the Creature from the Black Lagoon. None of the figures, human or non-, merits a second glance as a work of graphic art. And the insufferable insouciance of the premise, fully and accurately summed up in the title, hides behind a smokescreen of computer wizardry, a R.D. verson, jaded-in-jokes, capitalist confi-dence. Hides, but not successfully. With the voices of Ben Stiller,0 Spencer, Seth Rogen, Hugh Laurie, Will Arnett, Kiefer Sutherland, 2009. ★

Surface — A secretive government, with real-cop aspirations comparable to those of the title character of The Foot Fist Way. A meticulous production and a state-of-the-art score, but not to pick up the paranormal adolescence of the protagonist. Hides, but not successfully. With the voices of Ben Stiller0, Spencer, Seth Rogen, Hugh Laurie, Will Arnett, Kiefer Sutherland, 2009. ★

The Foot Fist Way — Minor-league moviemaking about minor-league baseball. A Dominican pitching prospect learns a knackle-curve, gets invited to spring training in Arizona and assigned to a farm club in Iowa; a fish out of water, or at best a little fish in a big pond. It’s a bit flat and a bit rough around the edges, but it has some attentional detail — the English-language class of useful words and phrases (“I got it! I got it!”), the kindly waiters who illustrates the different styles of eggs in order to break the monotony of the foreigner’s daily French toast, the prim farm couple who billet him during the summer season (“No chicks in the bed-room”), and so on. The modesty of the production carries through to a modesty of plotting: no great success in the offing. With Algenis Perez Soto, Ellary Porterfield, Richard Bull, Ann Whitney, and Jaime Tierli; directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. 2009.
**FALLBROOK**

River Village 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8744)

Obsessed (PG-13) (12:15 2:45) 5:30 8:15 10:45
17 Again (PG-13) (12:20 2:30) 5:00 7:15 9:30
10:30 State of Play (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:15 9:45 Fast and Furious (PG-13) (11:30 2:45) 4:30 7:15 10:45
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:00 1:55 3:30) 4:15 6:30 8:00 10:00
Kidtoons Presents Earth Day (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.
No 11 am-3:00 pm shows Tues.-Thu.

POWAY

Poway 10
53475 Poway Road (619-466-9423)

Obsessed (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45
17 Again (PG-13) (10:20 2:30) 5:00 7:15 9:30
10:30 State of Play (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:15 6:30 7:45 9:30
10:15 Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:00 1:55 3:30) 4:30 6:00 8:00 10:00
Kidtoons Presents Earth Day (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)

Earth (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:15 9:30
Sat.-Sun. (12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:15 9:30
Obsessed (PG-13) (Fri. 11:45 2:25 5:05) 7:45 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (11:45 2:25) 5:05 7:45 10:25
The Soloist (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45 5:30) 7:15 10:25

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 79 at Vista Village Drive (760-454-4541)
Call theater for program information.

**NORTH COASTAL**

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2830 Marcos Road (760-728-7489)
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri.-Sat.

**OCEANSIDE**

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-586-1790)

Obsessed (PG-13) (12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45
No 11:45 Sat.-Sun. The Soloist (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:30
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) (11:00 1:00 2:00 3:00) 5:00 7:00 9:00 10:00
17 Again (PG-13) (12:00 2:30) 4:15 6:15 8:45 10:45
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:30 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45) State of Play (PG-13) (11:30 1:30 3:30 6:00 8:00)
10:30 Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (12:15 2:45) 4:30 7:15 10:45
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15 10:45
No 11:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 2:15 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 4:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 7:15 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 9:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:30 1:30 3:30 6:00 8:00)
10:30 Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (12:15 2:45) 4:30 7:15 10:45
I Love You, Man (R) 9:15 10:15
Kidtoons Presents Earth Day (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.

**ENCINITAS**

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-438-3308)
Gran Torino (R)

**LA COSTA**

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-389-3221)

**ENCLAVE**

The Soloist (PG-13) (10:00 1:00) 4:15 7:00 9:45
Earth (G) (10:00 12:00 2:00 4:00) 6:00 8:00
17 Again (PG-13) (10:15 12:30 3:00) 5:15 7:45 10:15
No 10:15 Sat. & Sun.
State of Play (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:30
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) (10:30 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15 10:45)
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:30 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45)
10:30
Kidtoons Presents Earth Day (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

**OCEANSIDE**

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-586-1790)

Obsessed (PG-13) (12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45
No 11:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 2:15 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 4:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 7:15 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
No 9:45 Sat.-Sun. & Wed.
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (11:30 1:30 3:30 6:00 8:00)
10:30 Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG-13) (12:15 2:45) 4:30 7:15 10:45
I Love You, Man (R) 9:15 10:15
Kidtoons Presents Earth Day (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Flower Hill 4
2609 Via de la Valle (760-669-9425)

The Soloist (PG-13) (10:45 1:30) 4:15 7:00 10:00
The Informers (R) (10:45 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
State of Play (PG-13) (10:30 1:30 3:30 7:00 10:30)
Sunshine Cleaning (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

San Diego Reader, April 23, 2009 118
Taken — A ring of Albanian white-towers (Middle Eastern buyers) has the bad fortune to shanghaid the virgin daughter of a retired American spy — “I was a pre-vent,” 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 Weaverbaker 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: Not in watching the native director, Pierre Morel, sell out his country on top of himself; Catharsis, you know aren’t, can’t come out of crud. A hot shower afterwards would be your closest approximation. Mag-gie Grace, Famke Janssen, Olivier Bouraux-dry-cleaning store. In aid of his recovery, he, for his part, only has eyes for Trouble: Koteas. 2009.

Two Lovers — The movie itself was rather overwhelmed by the advance an-nouncement that its star, Joaquin Phoenix, was hereupon retiring from acting to pur-sue a career in hip-hop. It is a movie easily overwhelmed, an intimate little indie di-rec-ted and co-written by James Gray (The Lindo, We Own the Night), both with the self-same Phoenix), about a suicidal politically-minded woman who has moved back home with his parents in Brighton Beach and toils by day in their dry-clean store. In aid of his recovery, they try to set him up with a business associ-a-teen’s nice, sweet, kind daughter (the Hilary Swank–Vinessa Shaw), whose preferred fa-vorite movie is The Sound of Music.” “That is a good music,” he allows. “Underrated.” But, for his part, only has eyes for Trouble: the completely fked-up drug-abusing girl next door (Goyneth Palermo), or more exactly all his upstairs and across the courtyard, who is deep in an affair with a mar-ried man. The simple story, a tour takeoff on Dostoevski’s often-filmed White Nights, doesn’t have far to go and takes a long, slow time to get there. Phoenix’s striking dis-comfort in the leading role — the adoles-cent awkwardness in his body, the Her-cules effort of speaking cleanly and audibly — inevitably raises the question of whether his discomfort is the character’s or his own. Either way, it works in the role, but the question is a distraction. With Is-sabella Rossellini, Moni Moshoven, Elias Koteas. 2009.

Body of Lies 2008

An intriguing look at the war on terror from the CIA operatives’ standpoint. Leonardo DiCaprio is excellent, as usual, in his role as a CIA spy trying to pull down the leader of a terrorist group operating out of the Middle East. The movie becomes almost a lesson in geography, as he jumps from country to country with stops in Iraq, Jordan, UAE, Syria, and Turkey. This movie was good but not great. Unfortunately, a weak and uninspired performance by the typically sharp Russell Crowe thought it down. Crowe’s character seemed way too relaxed to be somebody working high up at the CIA. One has to wonder if the screenwriter was trying to make a point in showing how out of touch the U.S. government is with the war on terror by making Crowe’s character so clueless. The story is interesting, as far fetched as it may seem. My only question after watching this film was, “Does this stuff really happen out there?” I know it’s only a movie, but it makes you wonder what our spies really do that nobody knows about.

Shall We Kiss? 2009

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 Rourke (“The Rambler” (Robin Rambowski), a Dodge Ram-dwelling, self-described “old broken-down piece of meat,” two decades past his prime, yet persisting in plying his trade at sparsely popu-lated venues outside the glare of TV lights, dreaming of one last big payday at a twenti-eth anniversary rematch with a Southern California car salesman formerly known as The Ayatollah. Rourke, monocled burlap stiffened since his stint of moonlighting as a profes-sional pugilist, has one of the most ravaged faces in the entire gallery of once beautiful leading men, somewhere between Jack Nicholson and Francisco Rabal, and his moody, lubricating breathing is excruc-iating. There is, however, an inherent sen-timentality in the basic situation, and to not at all toughened through the by-the-num-bers plot around an attempted flirtation with his neglected nymph daughter (Evan Rachel Wood), a clumsy courtship with an over-the-hill stickler (Marisa Tomei, carry-ing on in the before-its-too-late exhibition-istic mode of Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead, plus nipple rings and tattoos), a post-match beat-down, 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, in a daz-zling anticipation of a train wreck, follows him into the locker room to map out the matches with his fellow contestants (an amusing glimpse behind the scenes), follows him to the hair salon (for upkeep of his Eighties heavy metal hair), 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 cus-tomers, but really warming up to it. (Bad scene: flipping out behind the deli counter, specifically at the meat slicer.) The wrestling matches, natural dramatic climax, are crucuials for the actor and the character alike. Not to forget the spectacle. 2008.
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BIOGRAPHY

Rae Widmer, CMA, is a registered respiratory therapist with more than 15 years of experience in pulmonary care. She is a member of the American Association for Respiratory Care and currently serves as an instructor at Concorde Career College. Rae has dedicated her career to helping others improve their quality of life through effective respiratory therapy interventions. Her expertise includes managing patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. Rae is passionate about sharing her knowledge and experiences with others in the field.
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Bridget Breuner
Short Nail Worker
San Carlos
I walked horses at Del Mar to cool them out. Most people probably haven’t been kicked in the gut by a horse. It’s quite painful. I wouldn’t talk to them on the backstretch, not the paddock area. The jockeys and handlers all dress in flack jackets now. Back then they didn’t. I was so bruised, I had to sleep on a pillow for three months. It was a colt that was two years old. It was injured and hadn’t been to the track in 12 days. It decided they call a cow kick.

John Riddle
Piano Teacher
Downtown
I talked over Lara Falls in the Grand Canyon, Arizona. That’s the biggest rapid in the U.S. The first time I went, the guy was telling me not to scout it, just let it be and I missed the hole. The second time, I was told to let the riff fill with water to help balance it out. It was given some advice on how to do it and all seemed to work out.

Angie Andrews
Singer/Songwriter
Texas
I walked past John Kennedy Jr. 4 A different times, I was looking for him and didn’t make it I was walking right by. I was also at a diner that Henry Kissinger was at, I wanted him to sign my program but wasn’t sure how to approach him. I called my friend, and he walked me through it. He told me to get a program off the table and approach him calmly and ask him to sign it. [Kissinger] was signing autographs, but he was too wet himself to follow me and he ended up signing it.

Kim Teckley
Leathercraft
Piney
I climbed the Great Wall of China. That was in November 2008. It was a trip with my mom and the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. There were those really steep steps you had to climb. I only did 20 of them. It was a cold morning, and I felt like I was getting frostbite on my nose. They gave you those cards if you got to the top. They also would take pictures of you wearing a sumo mask if you wanted.

Sarah Partridge
Restaurant Manager
North Park
I picked grapes on the coast of Croatia. That was in November 2008. It was a trip with my mom and the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. There were those really steep steps you had to climb. I only did 20 of them. It was a cold morning, and I felt like I was getting frostbite on my nose. They gave you those cards if you got to the top. They also would take pictures of you wearing a sumo mask if you wanted.

Heiko King
Retired Nurse
Santee
I’ve done too many things that I’m proud of. I had drinks with Marilyn Monroe at a country Hollywood party at a mansion in Beverly Hills. Although, I’m not sure if that qualifies as something people haven’t done, as I’m sure many had drinks with her during that time. But also sang a song with Bing Crosby. Again, it was a party. There was a few famous people there, and at 4 a.m. everyone broke into song. There was one point where just he and I were singing to a crowd of 20. It’s one of the thrills of my life.

What have you done that most people haven’t?
Astound your friends & become famous!

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. We reserve the right to reject offensive text.
3) We're keeping track of how many puzzles you successfully complete. Your information will only be printed when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or 619-233-7007 or e-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 are subject to attachment. E-mail in PDF format, 600 by 600 pixels, maximum size of PBM, Superimpose that don't fit the format will not be counted or scored.
5) 5 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly! And now for the really small print:


We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Address: _____________________________________________
Name: _______________________________________________
Personal Message: _____________________________________

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. A new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK’S CONTENTIONS:

- indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos</td>
<td>15. &quot;Smartie, y’a quizz? Y La Banda de Ataque\n&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mary Arau, Encinitas | 15. "Hi fellow puzzle people. Try Nabisco."
| Shannon Barry, Pine Valley | 15. "3 for the dog who came in and sat!"
| Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach | 15. "The Reader, he T. The Bible, the happiness."
| Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest | 15. "Happy Thursday to my Splendixious Love."
| Charlotte Brown, Clairemont | 15. "Thanks for the hint!"
| Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont | 15. "E.T. Cages, Carmel Mir."
| Phillip Castle, Carmel | 15. "Shoap up or ship out!"

This week's contenders:

- Anna McCutcheon, Downtown, 15. "Quality painting at lowest prices painthub.com/free estimates."
- Ron Meyer, Santee, 15. "Hi Reader, thanks for the hint!"
- Gary Dismukes, Scripps Ranch, 15. "Hi Reader, thanks for the hint!"
- Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 15. "Back in Black" band
- Hightail it, 1201, in old Rome
- Money ___ object!"
- ____ Miz"

We reserve the right to reject offensive text.

See Your Ranking Online!

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.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
Neighborhood/City: _________________________________
State: __________________ Zip Code: ____________
Circle T-shirt size: ____________
Personal Message: ___________________________________

This week’s contenders:

- Anna McCutcheon, Downtown, 15. "Quality painting at lowest prices painthub.com/free estimates."
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- Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 15. "Back in Black" band
- Hightail it, 1201, in old Rome
- Money ___ object!"
- ____ Miz"
Jack Roberson, Clairemont, 10. ‘Navy. Own boat, fish off it. – $60. Worked for 20 years. Love to be outside. Never met a woman I didn’t like. Always have a good time. Never go without a smile. My theme song is “Happy Trails.”’

Tom White, University City, 10. ‘Navy. Worked for 20 years. Never met a woman I didn’t like. Always have a good time. Never go without a smile. My theme song is “Happy Trails.”’

Dennis Rees, Alpine, 10. ‘Kudos to Reader staff! I’m a big fan of the Reader. Love the way it covers the community. This is my favorite newspaper.’

Carol Roberson, Escondido, 10. ‘My theme song is “Happy Trails.”’

Jack Jackows, Encinitas, 10. ‘Pedestrian crossing for a toddler crossing.’

N’Namdi Sikumbuzo, Serra Mesa, 7. ‘Genesis 38:8-9.’

Danielle Montez, North Park, 6. ‘Ship shape with number 9!’

Stacey Street, North Park, 6. ‘My Kind of Crosstown. No hat!’

Susan Williams, North Park, 3. ‘Happy Anniversary Jon Bee! I love you.’

Dorothy Kruse, Carlsbad, 2. ‘Second time’s a charm.’

Sean Holt, Ocean Beach, 1. ‘Do I get credit this time?’

Avril Varga, Poway, 1. ‘First timer and no help!’

Rebel, 619-246-2950. ‘Tell You What: I’m going to take another look at that map.’

Tony Golden, Clairemont, 10. ‘I can ready my audio tape with my voice on it. For $25 come and hear what I can do.’

Victor Correa, San Ysidro, 10. ‘Heard the best of me take another look at that map.’

Bud Fisher, Mira Mesa, 10. ‘I can read my audio tape with my voice on it. For $25 come and hear what I can do.’

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John Knox, San Ysidro, 10. ‘I tell you most!’

Jack Trip, San Diego, 8. ‘Metals prettiest and best restaurant!’

Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach, 9. ‘Thee Samoan mea maumenea request.’

Nathan Ladd, Mission Hills, 9. ‘D_left him. I don’t buy into the hype that comes with it.’

Linda Milberg, Santee, 9. ‘Lola’s and Chicory. Now open!’

Laura Patterson, Azalea Park, 9. ‘Looking for a house? Call Mary Young, the California Group!’

Dana Swang, La Jolla, 9. ‘A day does great estate afternoon diplomacy.’

Jenny Hughes, Escondido, 8. ‘A real estate marketplace.’

Victor Correa, San Ysidro, 10. ‘I can read my audio tape with my voice on it. For $25 come and hear what I can do.’

Mercedes Madison, Santee, 6. ‘Can we do this again? We could do it twice a day!’

Joseph Dzajic, Clairemont, 9. ‘Come on, baby. I’m seeing you next week.’

Don Romer, Ramona, 8. ‘Dad was the best. His music will live on forever.’

Carolee Thompson, La Jolla, 7. ‘I care about your project as much as you do.’

Carolee Thompson, La Jolla, 7. ‘I care about your project as much as you do.’

Hilary Brown, Carmel Valley, 7. ‘Who doesn’t love Samoan art worth money, not art? Can’t I get a chance to prove myself?’

Dustin Beaubot, Temecula, 7. ‘I ran out of things to say to Andrea DeLusco, Downtown, 7. ‘Steve Gunsolley, Normal Heights, 7. ‘An off-kilter M.C.’

Jesse Hanson, Ocean Coast, 7. ‘I don’t know what to do with this thing.’

Brian and Suzanne, Point Loma, 6. ‘Genesis 38:8-9.’

Jim Hitchcock, Chula Vista, 6. ‘Why can we do this twice a day?’

Susie Lektorich, Coronado, 6. ‘I can tell you most!’

Tom and Jenni, Mira Mesa, 9. ‘With luck!’

Deann Beaubot, Temecula, 9. ‘Decrease your carbon footprint, win a vanpool! Go Caridinals!’

Marvin Contrasvelt, El Cajon, 9. ‘You can hear me now?’

Mike Delman, Santee, 9. ‘If you want to go to work, you have to work.’

Desiree and Dan, Mira Mesa, 9. ‘Baby you’re my world!’

Bill Meyer, Tecolote Guitar Works, Bay Park, 5. ‘Guitarkeoke Night, early, space limited! 7120 Clairemont Dr.’


E.M. Hutchings, La Mesa, 6. ‘You just have to do it.’


[Image 130x340 to 147x457]
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**DOWNTOWN/ GASLAM.**


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**Reader Pop Quiz**

This week's questions:
1. Albert Einstein was a first cousin twice removed from the co-proprietor of what North Park noshery?  
2. This week, for the first time ever, food critic Naomi Wise awards a historic rating of five stars to what restaurant?  
3. Name, please.  
4. Have scientists isolated a human pheromone?  
5. Hot Tuna, due in town on the 23rd, have been cutting records for quite a few years now. Like, how many?  
6. Name the citrus-killing bacterium also known as "citrus greening" that's threatening to invade California.  
7. What famed heavy-metal drummer drops by the opening of an El Cajon music store that Crash Joffer also attends?  
8. What family medical emergency necessitates Barbara's watching her five-year-old niece this week?  
9. Give the name of the most recent Willard Grant Conspiracy album.  
10. Local musical act Waves is getting "pubbed" with "T-shirts that read, "Waves Sux." What?

**Last week's winners:**  
Brian Albers, Louise Guarnotta, Elizabeth Morse, Candice Smith, and Millicent Kent

**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 3803, San Diego CA 92118; or fax to 619-231-0489; or e-mail to Readerpopquiz@sdreader.com; or deliver to 1701 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).
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 **MILD ABDON**

by E.J. Pettinger ©2009

LEAD STORY  
In January, federal prosecutors revealed that District of Columbia council member Marion Barry (who was on probation after a 2005 conviction for failing to file tax returns for the years 1999 through 2004 and almost failed to file a return for 2006) failed to file for 2007. In March, a Georgia state senator proposed punishment for the 22 members of the legislature who either owed back taxes or had failed to file returns for at least one year since 2002. The 22 were not identified, in compliance with privacy laws, but the senate’s Democratic leader, Robert Brown, ousted himself as one of the 22 in the course of calling his scolding colleague a “bloodsucker.”

Prodigies  
(1) Pet rescuer Judy Walker of Oviedo, Fla., and Old Bahama Juan Stringfellow are battering out custody of Walker’s two-legged puppy, which Walker believes has special needs but which Stringfellow is seeking to adopt, in part to portray Stringfellow’s own famous, hind-legs-walking dog “Fafth” as a puppy in a movie she is working on. Stringfellow said Walker had reneged on a Feb. 2 adoption date and implied that she had hired celebrity attorney Mark Geragos to get the puppy. (2) Eleven-year-old Michelle Peniche killed six young bulls in a single fight before 3500 spectators in Merida, Mexico, in January, despite the mayor’s ban on the event as a child-labor violation (but which was allowed to proceed after Michelle’s father appealed to a federal (interim) judge). Michelle began his career in the ring at age four.

Can’t Possibly Be True  
— Gilda Costa, 54, was arrested in Framingham, Mass., in February and charged with kidnapping and beating his girlfriend following a five-hour-long argument. They were arguing about what the operating hours are for the local library.
— Tennessee anesthesiologist Visuvaramilag Valaravaj was arrested in February in Kentucky and charged with providing controlled substance prescriptions (OxyCon, methadone) to as many as 350 non-patients. Why Tennessee licensed Dr. Vilvarajah is a mystery, as he had been approved by the state department of health even though officials knew that he was on parole at the time after serving a sentence for murdering his wife and mother-in-law. A department spokeswoman told The Tennessean newspaper that no law prevented Dr. Vilvarajah’s licensing.

Inexplicable  
— A 25-year-old man was arrested in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., in February after an apparent suicide attempt. According to the police, the man tried to gas himself inside his car in a closed garage but did not have a garage himself, so he drove into a stranger’s garage for the attempt, causing about $1000 in damage.
— Total nudity is prohibited during Brazil’s annual Carnaval, but samba dancer Dani Sperle appeared in the street parade in Rio de Janeiro in February wearing a headress, necklace, matching armrings and nothing else except a patch three centimeters long (1.2 inches) covering an intimate area.

Unclear on the Concept  
— In Airdrie, Alberta, in January, police officers responded to a report from the Ralph McCall Elementary School that a man was standing in the yard yelling with a portable loudspeaker toward a group of frolicking kids, calling, “Girls in the field, come over to my truck, come pet my dog.” When alarmed adults nearby approached him, the man quickly got in his truck and took off.
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Thirty Years Ago

For Marty Levin, life can still be a drag. Once the area’s most celebrated ex-smoker, the Channel 10 anchorman is now back puffing away, although at a reduced rate. A year ago Levin announced to his viewers that he planned to quit smoking on his 32nd birthday, May 22, and invited all those interested to join him in his struggle.

Levin had been inspired by the efforts of his weatherman, Mike Ambrose, who had quit smoking on his birthday. And since Ambrose got quite a reaction from the viewing audience — the switchboard lit up with calls of encouragement — Levin and Channel 10 decided to make a campaign out of it.

Thirty Years Ago

...continued from page 1

— BY URSULA "LIKE A CIGARETTE SHOULD," Dan Yagoda, April 26, 1979

Twenty Years Ago

Neighborhood organizer Steve Temko and 200 of his Midcity loyalists certainly got the city council’s attention last February. These resi-
**RED MEAT**

Universal Humor solvent

by Max Cannon ©2009

This movie soundtrack seems a little muddily. I can’t make out one word the actors are saying.

That’s because it’s all in Dutch.

Oh, you’re right. That’s odd that a theater would show a film and not provide subtitles.

Everyone in the audience here is Dutch, Dick.

**REDFISH**

We need a better wild mushroom field guide.

**MOTORCYCLES**

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**SPG HOT TUB DELUXE:**

2009 model. Dark blue, 6 person seat, brand new. $6,500.

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**Car show happening at Liberty Station Conference Center 2600 Star Lane. San Diego. April 29, 25. 10am and 7pm. Free admission.**

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**REDFISH**


SHEEP and GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Southern Baptist
Address: services at the Soledad Club, 5056 Soledad Road, La Jolla
Founded locally: February 2008
Senior pastor: Matt Smith
Congregation size: 90
Staff size: 2
Sunday school enrollment: 9
Annual budget: n/a
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: “the whole church”
Dress: mostly casual, some dresses
Diversity: mostly Caucasian
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 30 minutes
Website: www.barbassroadbc.com

“I met my wife in a bar in New York City,” said Barabbas Road pastor Matt Smith. “I was a rower, training for the Olympics, and I hated religion. I knew she was the girl I wanted to marry, and I found out when we exchanged numbers that she was a virgin, which was totally not in my plans because I wanted to sleep with her and all that. So, I decided, in my arrogance, to disprove Christianity so that she would sleep with me.”

And what happened? “I retired from rowing, I got saved, we got married, and I now have a church that’s trying to reach out to intellectual skeptics. I’m finding that there are no good answers other than the Christian answers. I do a lot of debating.”

“Also, a lot of physical training. ‘We have something like nine personal trainers at our church,’” said Smith’s wife Rebecca. “That’s our biggest Outreach. Every Sunday at noon over at Kate Sessions Park, we have two trainers that do free training for whoever wants it. And there are always two different sports to play as well — things like volleyball or soccer.”

“It’s an area where we can give,” adds Smith. “And it’s a great first-touch ministry — something to invite people to. That way, he says, ‘the service can be very simple, very much an emphasis on learning the Bible. We don’t even have a lot of announcements. If there’s a big project service, the small groups will have it or it will be discussed on the website forum.’

Smith’s hair was artfully tousled and crept over the collar of his white button-down shirt, its sleeves rolled up above his elbows. He wore pristine suit pants but no socks — and no tie because he was not preaching that day. Today we would hear from Paul Rochford, Smith’s classmate at Southern California Seminary (which is connected to El Cajon’s Shadow Mountain Community Church). Rochford did wear a tie — and a dark, narrow suit, which set him apart from the rest of the congregation (three of the band members didn’t even bother with shoes)

The service, held in the airy confines of the Soledad Club, was indeed stripped-down — the biggest frill after the warm-fuzzy rock band were the tray-tables in front of each seat, so that congregants had a place to rest their Bibles and take notes. “There was a reason for this — Rochford ranged far and wide through Scripture in his sermon, and the crinkly flipping of hundreds of onionskin Bible pages was a regular prelude to his extended quotations from Holy Writ.”

Before the sermon, there were brief prayers — “We thank You that You are here and that You love us” — and a slew of songs, some of them with lyrics more theologically daring than the standard “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord.” (Viz: “Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals to the faithfully gathered underground.”)

“Paul is going to preach today, which is a very big privilege,” said Smith in his introduction. “I pray, God, that You make it obvious with Paul, and with all of us, that You are here. Paul is a peer of mine...he’s smarter than me and better looking, so that’s why he’s going to preach today.” Rochford also asked that “we would be reminded of Your presence, of Your reality” before snapping his Bible open and saying that his “single purpose” here was “to take His word and give to the people of God, infused by the power of God, for the glory of God.”

He began with an “impressive command from the word of God” that we “have this attitude in ourselves which is also in Christ Jesus.” What attitude? “With humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourself.” The reason for this humility of service is: if it was up to me or you to be the greatest, and we worked our way up, when we got to heaven, God would say, ‘You guys are awesome.’ This way, if our greatness was in serving, all we’d say is, ‘Wow, God, I manifested You in the world...’ And then God is able to receive all the glory, not you.” Jesus was a model for this, said Rochford.

Though He knew about His passion before it came — everything it would entail, everything He could do to avoid it, and every way it was beneath Him — He chose to serve. “This is our love test: Jesus said, I give you a new commandment. Don’t just love one another the way you love yourself. Love one another as I have loved you. Service is just love in action.”

“What happens when we die?”

“We either go to heaven or hell,” said Smith. “We want to do good.”

Values of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiego.readers.com.

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Matt Smith
Barabbas Road pastor

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