Before visiting San Diego’s Zirk Ubu, the last time
I’d gone to the circus,
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and
50 pounds of elephant dung
nutcakes!
in a cardboard box on my shoulder.

For oil refiners, ‘tis the season to be gouging — See page 6
“When I crashed my car,” Dad explained how, exhausted from his schedule, he’d fallen asleep at the wheel of his Fiat 124 Spider, which he’d purchased in Italy the year before. “It still had Italian plates on it… I was exiting the highway and went off the road. The car flew through the air and landed flat on its wheels. But when it landed, it broke my back — cracked one vertebra and crushed another. I was still in uniform, and when the highway patrol found me, they thought I was dead.

I found David in the kitchen. “I’ve been thinking about things, and I’m really going to make an effort to not be such a workaholic,” I said. David smiled. “You know, I mean, as soon as things let up a little, maybe in a few months.” His smile faded from joyful to knowing. I was relieved it hadn’t vanished entirely.

For more stories and videos by this author, go to sdreader.com.
Crasher
I WOULD DRIVE 100 MILES

by Josh Board

I covered a hundred miles driving to three different parties on one recent Saturday.

The first party was up in Murrieta. I would’ve blown it off, but it was for an old high school friend named Steve.

It was great seeing some guys I hadn’t seen since high school. One owns a book-publishing company, and we all pitched our book ideas to him. Another is a cop, and we made fun of him being colorblind. We said things like “I’m chasing a red Buick. Uh, wait. It might be yellow.”

After chowing down on steak and chicken, I went south for the next couple of parties. The second one was in San Carlos. The theme was “CEOs and Office Hos.” I put on the tie that I’d brought with me.

I find it odd that some women dress minimally on Halloween; instead of wearing a scary costume, they just want to show skin. Yet, the women at this party surprised me: more of them were dressed as CEOs.

Gerald laughed when I told him this. He said, “Yeah. I think a lot of the guys were bummed that so many went the CEO route.”

I was talking to a few guys in suits, and a woman with a drink in her hand said, “What is going on here?” I said, “With that so many went the CEO route.”

“Don’t say my name if you write about this.”

me, it’s always a Board meeting.” The joke didn’t work with a crowd that didn’t know my last name.

Another woman said, “These guys are important. But you know in real life they’re probably not.” A few of us laughed at that. A few others seemed hurt. Karaoke was started in one room, and I heard someone

on the back patio. A few people ran over to make sure she was all right. She said, “Yes, I’m a little drunk. I’m looking for my purse.”

I could hear someone trying to sing an Eminem rap inside. The fallen woman got back to her feet, and I noticed she had a bit of blood trickling down her cheek. She said, “Oh, shit! You’re that writer. Don’t say my name if you write about this.”

I walked back in and a woman with a leopard-skin jacket walked by to grab some food. She had a $100 bill dangling from her pocket.

I noticed a table was set up with name tags. Gerald had written dirty-sounding names on some of them. Other people were creating their own.

One guy told a story about his bank account being wiped out by theft. He was mad that a bank manager he had known for a long time wanted to do an investigation. Somebody nearby said, “That makes sense. Sometimes people have their friends wear a hoodie and sunglasses and rob them while they’re at the ATM. They plan it all out so the cameras catch them being robbed. Sometimes it’s when they are taking a business’s deposit to the bank. It’s a fairly common scam.”

I headed to my last party in National City. I took the tie and blazer off but kept the cheesy Hawaiian shirt on, as it was a luau for a woman turning 40. It wasn’t in the best neighborhood. As I parked, I noticed a woman sitting in her car that was parked the wrong way. She looked strung out. As I got out, I noticed a condom in the gutter. I also noticed I still had the name tag on. I peeled it off.

As I approached, I saw the party hosts had rented a Port-a-Potty. I heard a woman say, “I have to pee so bad, but I don’t want to use this thing.”

I overheard another person ask how old Lisa would be. The response from another lady was “She’s 25 again. Come on. You know you aren’t supposed to ask a woman’s age. Even if it is a birthday party.”

I walked up to a group of guys talking about things they’ve done to impress women. One said he put roses in the Jacuzzi. He said, “It looked nice, and the girls we invited over liked it. But my friend’s dad wasn’t happy when the water pump got jammed with rose pedals.”

There were more than 300 people in the backyard. I heard that I missed a few of the punk bands playing. I was surprised the neighbors never called the cops because the houses were in such close proximity and they didn’t have fences.

One person told me their son was the bass player in the Atoms, a local band. I had heard of them but wasn’t familiar with their stuff. I wasn’t able to respond with anything more than “That’s cool.”

One guy was shoveling something on the side of the house and he said I was taking photos of women who were sipping drinks with umbrellas. He said, “Why not get a photo of the guys working?” I laughed and looked around. It did seem like a lot of guys were working. One was shoveling over the barbeque. Another guy was stringing up decorative lights. One guy was acting as the photographer for the evening. I was told he was also a Navy SEAL, and he just laughed. I wasn’t sure if it was true. He didn’t appear that imposing.

I asked the cook how he got stuck with the job. He said, “I’m a chef at a local hotel.” He pointed to his cap, which had his name on it. I asked, “Why not one of those big white chef hats?” He said, “Nobody wears those unless it’s in a movie. Those are shit.”

I saw a few guys passing a
I went and grabbed a Coke and noticed about ten kids playing football, which I thought would’ve been better if there was more grass. The yards were mostly dirt. Grass is more comfortable to be tackled on.

People kept coming over and offering me food. I told them I’d eaten at two previous parties. I did grab a piece of cake.

It was dark when I walked back to my car. For some reason, the neighborhood looked safer...maybe because I couldn’t see all the things that struck me as odd in the daylight.

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.
Before visiting San Diego’s Zirk Ubu, the last time I’d gone to the circus, I’d walked out with 50 pounds of elephant dung in a cardboard box on my shoulder. I had read that elephant dung was good for gardens, I was a beginning gardener, and I had elephant-dung connections: a former student of mine was a clown in a major traditional circus. Her parents had just spent well over a hundred grand to send her to a fine liberal arts college, and she wanted to continue her education by going to clown college!
joy-bringers, and nutcakes!

"Has anyone seen my invisible claw hammer?"
I like to think it was my letter of recommendation that got her in. All clowns need a specialty gag. Hers was contortionism: she emerged from a box about the size of a three-slice toaster. She got herself in trouble almost immediately with the circus authorities because she complained that a particular animal trainer (one of the headliners) was cruel to his animals. Clowns are low on the totem pole in the traditional circus. She was a vegan, clown, and animal-rights activist. She worked for the circus for several years and married the boss clown. They have a few kids now, and both still do clowning work. Every year she sends me a Christmas card with the whole family dressed up in full clown attire.

The circus and circus life as I’d known it — mostly from movies and books — had never engaged my imagination and didn’t impress my daughter much either. When she was three, we took her to the big top. My former student and several of her clown pals even came up into the audience before the show to give my daughter special attention. Yawn. The elefunks? Ho-hum. When we asked her afterwards what were her favorite parts, she said, “The goldfish.” Meaning the little goldfish crackers we had brought along as a snack. Zirk Ubu, one of San Diego’s alternative circus troupes, includes no elephants, but its members

Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment

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

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.

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

Always worrying? Anxious? Panic attacks?

You may qualify for free psychological treatment.

Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing excessive worry or panic attacks. Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and not currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply. Please call 858-534-6445 for more information and to see if you qualify.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER

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

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

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

To learn more, call the Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.
For people with Alzheimer’s there’s no time to lose.
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:
• Are 50 to 88 years old
• Have a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer’s disease
In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive study medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a nurse or study coordinator and a physician.
Ask your doctor if the ICARA study is right for you.
For more information, call:
1-888-365-3203

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.
Qualified participants:
• Are 18 to 70 years old • Have pain in both legs or both feet caused by diabetes • Have experienced this pain for at least the past 6 months
Qualified participants will receive all study-related care, evaluations and medication at no charge.
Participation is at no charge and compensation is available for time and travel.
For more information, call:
1-888-365-3203

ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION
Are you or an adolescent you know:
• Suffering from depression?
• Are between 12 and 17 years of age?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 2 months?
You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational new medication.
Participants will receive free of charge:
1. Study-related exams
2. Investigational drug
3. Compensation for time and travel
For more information, call:
1-888-365-3203

OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE KNEE OR HIP
If you are:
• Over the age of 18
• Are in good general health
• Currently on a stable dose of oral NSAID therapy
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL.
Participants will receive:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug
• Compensation for time and travel
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 1-888-365-3203

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?
If you have high blood pressure, you may be eligible to participate in a voluntary clinical research study of an investigational medication for high blood pressure.
Qualified participants will receive, at no cost, the following study-related procedures:
• Blood pressure monitoring • Laboratory tests • Physical exams • Electrocardiograms (ECGs) • 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
1-888-365-3203

DEPRESSION IN SENIORS
Are you or someone you know:
• Over the age of 65 years old
• 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.
Participants will receive at no cost:
• Study-related exams • Investigational medication • Compensation for time and travel
For more information call:
1-888-365-3203

DEPRESSION IN SENIORS
Are you or someone you know:
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1-888-365-3203

www.synergysandiego.com
perform several traditional circus-associated acts — juggling, stilting, blockhead work (i.e., pounding a spike into one’s nostril with a hammer), aerialism, clowning, puppetry — and a whole lot of new nuttiness, new ideas about what circus can be and what role it can play in our culture.

Let me introduce the troupe to you briefly, by both their real and their stage names.

Justine (she said she’d prefer I not use her last name, although it is on Zirk Ubu’s webpage), 21, is the youngest member of the troupe, is in several scenes, runs the concessions (popcorn and cotton candy), and is a self-described “expert on goggles.” Her stage name was Xylitol Sweetbread (she later changed it to Arlinka Galore). I looked up “xylitol”: it’s a naturally occurring sugar, used as a sucrose substitute for diabetics. And as we all know, sweetbread is the edible thymus or pancreas of an animal. She’s the stage assistant of Murrugun the Mystic, another troupe member whom I’ll introduce soon. They are in a romantic relationship. They share the rent by busking: street performing. Her regular day job: she makes and remanufactures clothing.

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www.oaresearchstudies.com
Jim Call/Sheik Maracas is the oldest member of the troupe at 61. The music, very important for this show, is his department. He was in a San Diego punk band in the late ’70s and early ’80s called the Penetrators. He specializes in what he calls “noise music,” which sounded about 75 percent music and 25 percent noise. It, and the way he mixed other music with it, struck me as just right for Zirk Ubu. Sheik Maracas limits his costume to a fez. He spends most of the night in the sound booth. His day (night) job: DJ at a strip club.

Richard Cohen/the Red Sultan is also a professor at UCSD — of religious studies, primarily Buddhism and Hinduism. “A Jewish kid from Long Island,” he grew up about five minutes from his wife, Dame Bedlam, although...
they didn’t meet each other until they were freshmen at Wesleyan University. They’re in their mid-40s. He specializes in concept and development and being a “mystery buffoon.” A combination of talents that one doesn’t, but should, see more often! The Red Sultan creates characters like a magic house that falls in love with a chicken.

Allorah Creevay, aka Miss Tickle, is a stage and TV actor, comedienne, and a seasoned improv performer. She calls herself a “dinner bell for a feast of the absurd.” Day job: psychic, often channeling a 16th-century Native American chief named Great White Eagle. Lakota. He speaks in English, “but with an accent.” She also does a little “dog whispering.” I asked her what she liked about being in Zirk Ubu. She said, “Our art bumps up against their insides.” I’m sure she meant the insides of the audience, but the troupe members bounce off the insides of each other, sometimes butt heads, but mostly work with a kind of fluidity, even liquidity; individually, they’re individuals. Together, they’re a river!

Megan Fontaine/Miss Mango, dancer, aerialist, acrobat, stilt, costume designer. Day job: busker/circus artist.

Derrick Gilday/Dango, juggler, stilt balancer, acrobat, catcher and lifter of Mango. Day job: circus artist/busker; with Mango, as Mango and

**Type 2 Diabetes Makes Up 95% of the Diabetic Population.**

If you are one of them, consider this: Profil Institute for Clinical Research is currently conducting a research study of an investigational oral medication in people with Type 2 Diabetes.

You may qualify for the study if you are:

- A Type 2 Diabetic
- 18 – 60 years old and otherwise healthy
- A nonsmoker
- Treating your diabetes with or without oral anti-diabetic medication but without insulin.

If you qualify, you may be compensated up to $2,925 for time and travel.

Up to 4 overnight visits may be required.

For more information please call Profil toll free at 1-866-245-8171.

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**Research Studies**

**Overweight Volunteers Needed for VA Endocrine Study**

You may be eligible if you:

- Are a Male age 40-65 and a Non-Smoker
- Have a Parent or Sibling with diabetes
- Have no history of psychiatric illness and are taking no psychiatric medications
- May be pre-diabetic or borderline diabetic (but not diabetic or taking diabetes medications)

Participants will be asked to:

- Come for two outpatient visits
- Come for one overnight stay

**Total Compensation: $500**

If interested, contact Tanya Baker at:

(858) 552-8585 x2875 or tanyab@ucsd.edu

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**Avoiding Relationships?**


Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

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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

**Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety**

6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego
Currently Treating Your Diabetes with Insulin?

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:

• A Type 2 Diabetic
• 30-75 years old
• Using insulin alone or insulin in combination with oral anti-diabetic medications
• Females must be post-menopausal or surgically sterile

If you qualify, you may be compensated up to $2,730 for time and travel. Up to fifteen overnight visits may be required.

For more information, call Profil Toll Free @1-866-245-4987

Where is your focus? ...on your overactive bladder?

Overactive bladder makes it difficult to perform daily activities. You do not know when the sudden, strong urge to urinate will happen.

The Women's Overactive Bladder Study is a research study testing the safety and effectiveness of a new delivery method of an overactive bladder medication for women. Qualified participants:

- are women age 18 and older
- are experiencing overactive bladder symptoms with urgency for over 6 months
- have not had three or more urinary tract infections in the past year

Qualified participants will receive study-related exams, lab tests and study drug at no charge.

For more information please call
Medical Center for Clinical Research 619-521-2841 mccresearch.com

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 and study medication at no cost
• compensation for time and travel

No insurance required.

Conveniently located in Kearny Mesa.

Call us at: 858-279-SKIN (7546)
E-mail: info@therapeuticsresearch.com
Website: www.therapeuticsresearch.com

THERAPEUTICS
CLINICAL RESEARCH
Dango. In a deep relationship with each other, on- and offstage.

Iain Gunn, aka Asbestos the Clown: puppetry, peace officer, 38 years old. If anyone is anything close to being a leader of this organized anarchist posse, it’s Iain, if only because of his expertise in a wide range of circus arts. A master puppeteer, he earns his living that way, mostly working with children. He’s involved with Bridget Rountree whom, alphabetically, we’ll meet soon.

Noticing any patterns here? Six of the eight people I’ve introduced to you so far are in relationships with others in Zirk Ubu, and there’s another couple to come. It’s a normal thing; we often meet those we love at work — because we spend a great deal of time there. Or it could be that people who share special and, in this case, rather odd and rarefied proclivities tend to find each other. Or could it be a riddle inside a peanut underneath a slice of cheese?

Mary-Margaret Mitchell/Madame Mandible is engaged to a chef who is not a member of Zirk Ubu. She studied painting at the University of Illinois and now works in interior design, specializing in custom murals for children’s bedrooms and commercial spaces. She’s a performance/concept artist, does props and sets, and “wears everything from a tutu to a tool belt.”

Scott Nelson/Murrugun the Mystic: sideshow, sword-swallowing, fire-eating, and fire-breathing, etc. Fire-eating and fire-breathing are two different arts, and here’s one tip re both: like peeing, don’t do it into the wind.

Bridget Rountree/Mademoiselle Mechanique is a dancer and aerialist. She specializes in turning “thoughts into form,” which I think nicely sums up what Zirk Ubu essentially does: turns strange and original thoughts into strange and original forms.

From the abstract to the concrete, the concrete being inexhaustible and holding great possibilities of discovery. That’s just about every artist’s responsibility. She said something about Zirk Ubu’s “organized chaos,” a good oxymoron. (My all-time favorite oxymoron? “My heart, that velvet wrecking ball” — the poet Bill Knott.) Mademoiselle Mechanique’s day job: she’s a puppeteer and keeps the...
Do You or Someone You Care For Have Alzheimer’s Disease?

Men and women ages 55 to 90 are invited to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for Alzheimer’s disease.

Participants must currently be taking a prescription medication for Alzheimer’s. Health insurance is not required.

Qualified volunteers will receive at no cost:

• Study medication
• Study-related medical care
• Memory testing
• Transportation service or travel reimbursement

For information call the Affiliated Research Institute:

We need your help | (888) 286-0630

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

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

To qualify, you must be:

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

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

For more information, please call Profil at 1-866-245-5921

PSORIASIS?

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

We need participants:

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

Qualified participants will receive:

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

Call us at: 858-279-SKIN (7546)
Or e-mail us at: psoriasis@therapeuticsresearch.com
www.therapeuticsresearch.com
Research Study – Type 2 Diabetics

Do you have type 2 diabetes and still have uncontrolled blood sugar levels even with the help of a healthy diet and exercise, with or without medication? If this sounds like you, then you may be eligible to participate in EMERGE.

Dr. Sunder Mudaliar and his associates at UCSD are looking for men and women with type 2 diabetes as volunteers to take part in a research study to assess the efficacy, safety and tolerability of an investigational drug for diabetes.

Duration:
Breakdown goes as follows: screening period (up to 4 weeks), treatment period (24 weeks), plus 28 weeks (up to a total of 1 year treatment) if you agree to continue in the study after the initial 24 weeks, follow-up 2 weeks.

Inclusion Criteria:
• Males or females aged 18 to 75 years
• Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes
• Be at least 18 years old
• Have abnormal lab results in at least one of the following tests:
  - Blood sugar (a1c)
  - Blood pressure

For more information, please contact:
Catherine DeLue at: 858-552-8585 ext. 6740.
Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $550.

Are Your Waistline And Blood Pressure On The Rise?

If your waistline is over 35 inches, you could be at risk for the metabolic syndrome. Never heard of it? It’s a condition that affects those who are overweight and have elevated blood pressure, which may put you at risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

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

To be considered, you must:
• Be at least 18 years old
• Have elevated blood pressure
• Have a waistline greater than 35 inches (for women)
• Have a waistline greater than 40 inches (for men)
• Have abnormal lab results in at least one of the following tests:
  - Blood sugar (a1c), triglycerides or cholesterol

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

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

Type 2 Diabetic Volunteers

Dr. Robert Henry and his associates at the VA Medical Center are looking for Type 2 Diabetic volunteers to evaluate the effects of dapagliflozin compared to placebo on insulin resistance and insulin secretion.

Duration:
Approximately 24 weeks total: 11 clinical study site visits
(The visits will include an initial screening visit and 10 clinic visits.)

If you meet the following criteria you may be eligible to participate.
Inclusion Criteria:
• Males or females aged 18 to 70
• Have elevated blood pressure
• Have abnormal lab results in at least one of the following tests:
  - Blood sugar, triglycerides or cholesterol

For more information, please contact:
Catherine DeLue at 858-552-8585 ext. 6740.
Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $1,400.

Are Your Waistline And Blood Pressure On The Rise?

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Catherine DeLue at 858-552-8585 ext. 6740.
Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $1,400.

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Medical Cannabis Non-Profit Collective
In compliance with health and safety code 11362.5, Prop 215, SB 420
Valid doctor’s recommendation and California ID required. Must be 21 and over.

Are Your Waistline And Blood Pressure On The Rise?

If your waistline is over 35 inches, you could be at risk for the metabolic syndrome. Never heard of it? It’s a condition that affects those who are overweight and have elevated blood pressure, which may put you at risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

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For more information, please contact:
Catherine DeLue at 858-552-8585 ext. 6740.
Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $1,400.
This wouldn’t pass for an ordinary rehearsal — there was no director (though it turned out that Mademoiselle Mechanique was directing the next show). They practiced their opening scene, in which they turned themselves into a shifting human sculpture. In the show they’d wear full-body white painter’s suits and white masks. Now, only a few of them were masks. They had an informal meeting, brainstorming, talking business matters, ideas for the upcoming show. Nothing seemed to be decided on. It seemed chaotic, but I learned this really about confidence — by showtime they always pulled it together. And they didn’t give a damn about being perfect. Mango told me later, referring to her and Dango’s busker gigs, “If we mess up, we can pretend it was on purpose.” They don’t mess up much, and when they do, nobody dies.

Alternative circuses are not brand-new, of course. Zirk Ubu is an off-shoot of another San Diego

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she began to build her “peep show” in what she called “the wonder box.” As she described it, and from a few pictures I saw, it would most likely be called an installation piece, or maybe a sculpture, or maybe a performance piece, or maybe all of the above.

Younger/newer artists seem to be doing many things, i.e., they’re savvy about, and adept at, many skills. In Zirk Ubu there must be at least a dozen art forms operating, and most of the performers are good at two or three or more.

I was once accused of being monocultural. After asking what that meant, I was told that I like and care about only one art form: writing, and especially poetry. Not true. I like painting, I like music, I like theater; it’s just that I prefer to read and try to write. I also felt that my life as a poet made me just odd enough, maybe, to apprehend the motives and passions of this troupe.

As best I understand it, the peep-show piece consisted of a large box with three peepholes. You’d

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The Red Sultan asked me to play a part in their next show.

Red Sultan both earned doctorates from the University of Michigan, and both have published scholarly books in their fields. They came to the alternative circus world at first simply because they were looking for something different to do. They started hanging around Technomaniacs, going to shows, helping out, and eventually getting onstage, the pleasure of which boils down to “enjoying watching people have fun doing something that’s not polished but passionate and nutty, something not perfect, something not slick.” (I’m conflating things said by both the Red Sultan and Dame Bedlam.) Since they don’t have traditional circus skills — they don’t juggle or stilt walk or eat fire — they create skits. As one of them put it, “Turning ideas into costumes, which leads to skits.” Or, “Thinking through costumes.” The costume comes first, and then they invent the character: the costume tells them who should wear it. Their bits are for entertainment, but they also “act as some sort of exploration on our parts.” That’s Mr. (Robert) Frost’s equivalent of “No discovery for the writer, no discovery for the reader.”

I asked them if they’d quit their day jobs to do circus full-time. They both said no but added simultaneously, “We’d take a sabbatical!” and when I asked if they got nervous before a show, the Red Sul-
The Red Sultan had to die. "The Red Sultan asked me if I’d like to play that part in their next show. Shameless, dumb as a bag of ball-peen hammers, I said, "Sure." That night I went to Seaport Village to see Murrugun and Xylitol do their busking act, but when I arrived they had just finished up and had a pretty good night: about $240, including a $50 bill. Murrugun’s namesake was a son of Shiva and was the guardian of swords. I’d catch their act a few days later.

The first members of Zirk Ubu I saw working their individual acts were Mango and Dango, who are both 27. They had won the First Annual Seaport Village Buskers Festival in 2007 and were at the end of a five-month-long "pretty summer contract" performing in Old Town. When I got there, they already had gathered a large crowd, several of
them family groups, many of whom were regulars and happy to see them again. If I had to define their busker act: acrobatics, juggling, dance, humor, and a dose of straight-up nonsappy humanity.

Dango fell in love with busking while bumming around Europe. He put it simply: “Real life. Real props. Real sweat.” A few years later, back in San Diego, he met Mango around the local circus scene and circus school — Sophia Isadora Academy of Circus Arts — and soon thereafter they began a Mexico–to–Panama City tour, performing at schools, nightclubs, children’s fundraisers, parks, restaurants, anywhere they could. They created a company called PIECE — People Involved in Expressing Creative Energy — which is now called, appropriately, Mango and Dango. Probably not a company you’ll see listed anytime soon on the New York Stock Exchange. When they’re traveling and busking, they give 25 percent of everything they make to local charities. There’s almost a spiritual quality, certainly a generous spirit, to their mission, their passion. Two weeks after getting back from Central America, they went to Europe, bought a van, and “performed on the cobblestone streets of every major city.” They spent some time at a Copenhagen circus school, sometimes had to Dumpster-dive for food. In describing these travels, these discoveries, they seemed drunk: on joy. They’d just purchased tickets for a three-month tour of Southeast Asia and Japan. They don’t have an agent, business manager, or personal assistants. They go, find a place to perform, perform, and then find another place to perform.

Their show in Old Town was a blast. My favorite bit ended with Mango wrapped around the head and shoulders (“like a spider monkey,” she told me later) of a big guy they pulled out of the audience. After the show, we hung out at a restaurant. All the staff knew them; several people walking by said how much they’ve enjoyed their act. Dango was tired. He ordered a large margarita. He said he needed to go home and lie down for a while. He’d earned it: their act is very athletic. He does most of the lifting and throwing; Mango does...
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The next night I caught Murrugun and Xylitol busking at Seaport Village. What can I tell you about Murrugun? In a nutshell, he is a raving lunatic! I love the guy. He was recovering from puncturing his esophagus while trying to swallow six swords at once. First of all, that’s about 20 pounds of metal down your throat. In the dropping (that’s what a sword swallower calls it) of the sixth sword, a few already in there “scissored.” He knew if he didn’t eat or drink anything he’d be okay until he went to the emergency room the next morning. After some surgery and an ongoing course of antibiotics, he was dropping a sword now and then but still hadn’t gotten back to multiples. He said he knew why what went wrong went wrong, and he knew how to prevent it. This night the wind was swirling (not good for eating or breathing fire), but I saw him do something I hadn’t seen before: he blew fire out of his nostrils. He also lay down on a bed of nails (big nails, sharp nails), put a piece of plywood on his chest, and coaxed four of the biggest guys in the crowd to stand on it, on his chest.

I went to a rehearsal for the Zirk Ubu show that was coming up the next night at Rich’s, on University Avenue in Hillcrest. Normally a gay dance club, it has a stage, and, most importantly, a very high ceiling with safe anchorages for the silks and the ring used in the aerial acts. The entire interior of the club is painted black, and it sports two giant disco balls, the first I’ve seen since the 1970s.

The cast was stringing large pieces of white crepe to both sides of the stage, some members were in half-costume, some not in costume at all. The colors for this show were primarily back and white, and a vague theme was “interruption.”

He blew fire out of his nostrils.
The troupe has three primary aerialists: Psych, Mango, and Mademoiselle Mechanique. Dango will be up there someday. You can see it in his eyes. But get this straight: all four of these people are incredible athletes. Dango and Psych don’t look like bodybuilders, but they are ripped. Psych, warming up, was doing the equivalent of iron crosses, a difficult gymnastic move. Mango and Mademoiselle Mechanique are both slim (and both drop-dead beautiful), but when they’re doing their routines, their delt, their upper-back muscles, their triceps, are like ropes. Like the cordage you’d see on sleek and fast-sailing ships. Mango and Dango work out regularly, and the only place they have to practice at home is their small front yard, much to the delight of neighborhood kids. Their art form demands discipline. Strength. Concentration.

I joke about Murru-gun being a candidate for

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Mademoiselle Mechanique is in a romantic relationship with Asbestos.

The rehearsal seemed chaotic, but eventually a rough plan came together, the order of the bits, etc. Each show is in two acts, each with several skits, bits, scenes. Mademoiselle Mechanique, as I said, was directing. Sometimes Iain directs, sometimes others (you have to understand that “direct” with Zirk Ubu does not mean what it does normally).

Psych and Mango spent some time hanging around, literally, from the silks. Dame Bedlam and the Red Sultan were practicing a kind of light sword dance/tight, she at one point buried herself in a huge cloud of white tulle while the song “I Only Have Eyes for You” played. At another point (and not part of the bit), the Red Sultan walked up to Madam Bedlam, who was leaning against the stage, touched her face with a few of his fingers, and kissed her. Twenty-seven years and counting. Murrugun and Dango were miming Murrugun’s bit that night: he lay on a bed of swords (not nails, swords) and put a cinder block on his chest, and Dango smashed the cinder block with a sledgehammer. “Drive that frickin’ thing home,” said Murrugun. (He really said “frickin.”) They were miming it so as not to waste a cinder block. Meanwhile, Xylitol practiced heckling: “That’s not a real cinder block!” It was. Troupe members will do this sometimes — heckle, boo, cheer, and applaud. They like to get the audience involved.
There’s the sound of shellfire and Jim’s noise music and older songs. I heard Dango say, “Has anyone seen my invisible claw hammer?” Miss Tickle was wearing a Marie Antoinette wig about two feet tall. She called herself “a small medium at large.”

They practiced their opening scene, called a charivari, in which the whole troupe was onstage in white suits and masks. This was something like a combination of (1) human sculpture, sometimes moving, sometimes not. Xylitol sat on someone’s (Dango’s?) feet (he was on his back), and he lifted her up and down rhythmically. Sheik Maracas’s noise music was somehow in sync with their movements; (2) a slow-motion dance by people from another world; (3) an animal — big cat — stalking and sizing up prey; and (4) what’s that thing called we did in arts-and-crafts classes? Fold a piece of paper many times, cut it with scissors in a particular way, and then unfold it. Like that, except giant, and moving.

Miss Tickle was onstage and reading something and said “Updike” when she meant to say “uptake.” A Freudian slip? Probably not; none of these people are analyzable, not even by Dr. Freud. Psych and Mango were practicing on the silks — an elaborate upside-down ballet. If it weren’t so athletic you’d be reminded of complex positions illustrated in the Kama Sutra.

Asbestos said, “Anybody got an extra G-string?” Whenever I saw Mango, she was always moving, always half-dancing to whatever music might be playing. For this we should be grateful.

Mademoiselle Mechanique, as I’ve mentioned, is in a romantic relationship with Asbestos. She was born in San Diego and trained in competitive gymnastics for seven years. She was thinking the Olympics, but as a teenager she decided that “training every day was not nearly as much fun as friends.” A UC Berkeley grad, with a degree in fine art and literature, she loves the collaborative nature of circus. “I see circus as a hybrid, a collage of all the creative things I’ve done.” She prefers that to “the lone artist working to further one’s own ideas” and likes “the conversation with others, blending the many into one.” Her final comment: “Of course, a good laugh is worth a thousand words.” No argument from me, and I’m a word guy!

Asbestos the Clown seemed to me the embodiment of clowning. In costume and makeup he looked like a clown, from the inside out. He’s originally from Vancouver, B.C., and got a bachelor of fine arts from the Univer-
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Asbestos teaches puppetry and performance at mag- net schools with an arts focus and sometimes teaches workshops for “fledgling teaching stu- dents at Cal State San Mar- cos to help them incor- porate puppetry and per- formance into their class- room work.” He loves the performing but also “the deep stillness and calm that comes five minutes or so after the show — successful or not. There is nothing really like it.” I think I actually did have a feeling like that after the show myself, and as I’ve admitted, my time onstage was brief.

The evening of the show, we arrived at Rich’s several hours before the first act at ten o’clock for what was to be a full dress rehearsal. Everyone seemed to be trying on different costumes. For a while I thought several new char- acters had joined the show. Dame Bedlam and Madam Mandible were trying dif- ferent looks. Ditto Made- moiselle Mechanique. Turns out each troupe member was having publicity pho- tos taken. Each was shot in full costume and in sev- eral different poses.

I started wondering when the dress rehearsal was going to happen. It was 8:30 or so. I was watch- ing from the rear of the club. My perspective was slightly elevated, with a railing and some booths behind me. I think it was the VIP section normally, though I got the feeling this place, and particularly Zirk Ubu’s audience, was not class conscious.

Dango came by and asked me if I’d ever been boooed off the stage. I said no, but I’ve had my share of bad reviews. I under- stand now that Dame Bedlam and the Red Sul- tan were easing me into my role as the Bad Poet.
At rehearsal the day before, she gave me the shirt — white, with many ruffles, like the shirt from the famous Seinfeld episode — and I took it back to my room to try on. Now, she gave me the giant white pantaloons — or culottes? — that I had to wear. The Red Sultan and Dame Bedlam were saving the hat and the breathtakingly absurd ruffled collar for just before they shoved me onstage. I’d get my face painted white between acts.

The place started filling up about 9:30. None of the cast seemed rushed or worried; most were doing last-minute prep, stretching, fluffing things fluffy. By the time it was in full swing, I’d say there were at least 250 people there. The crowd was mostly people in their 20s and 30s, but I also noticed several people in their 40s, 50s. Many were punked-out. There were gay and lesbian couples, hetero couples, all sorts of ethnicities — African American, white, Asian, Hispanic — and some impossible to identify in any way because they, too, were in costume. One person had a giant Egyptian-inspired wolf head on his/her head. Not a mask, a whole head over his/her head. I couldn’t figure out how the occupant could see through it. But he/she could dance with it on. (Between acts, everybody dances!) It looked heavy, and I figured it was about 110 degrees inside. I’m saying again: the crowd is part of the show.

About 10:30 the show started with giant puppet hands moving from behind the crepe: probably Asbestos at work.

Backed by strobes, noise music, smoke machine, the whole troupe entered, semi-, no, about 83 percent coordinated. White suits, white masks, robolike movements, an almost ceremonial feel, futuristic, pagan. Mango climbed on someone’s shoulders. She’s always climbing on somebody! She peered at the audience through a little magnifying glass, or was it a monocle? As to say: Are you ready for this?

This segued into Mango and Dango doing the tango, which turned into a tango/gymnastics routine. The crowd was going wild. Dango twirled Mango around almost as easily as an old-time top-hat dancer twirls a cane. Asbestos blew a whistle and entered wearing a referee’s striped shirt. (The basic theme, interruption; the basic colors.) He gave them a ticket, maybe a summons, perhaps for dancing a little too suggestively in public. He exited, Mango tore up the ticket, and they were back, in a heartbeat, to their acrobatic/tango dancing.

There was more craziness: Miss Tickle came onstage and read from a script. Some dastardly act had taken place. Something about a neighbor coming by to borrow a “cup of nails.”

Shrouded figures with lights in their mouths and hands ghost danced until — suddenly — Mango pushed them with authority off the stage. The crowd went nuts when they saw her and, a second later, Mademoiselle Mechanique. The crowd knew what was about to happen: their hoop act, which is very acrobatic and slightly (with a wink) erotic.

Both were wearing black-and-white stripes, and Mademoiselle Mechanique wore zebra stockings held up by a black garter belt. She also wore a black wig. They were working hard, acting goofy, coordinating their routine, and having a lot of fun! Ditto the audience!
Murrugun the Mystic was next. He had decided to forgo the bed of swords and cinder-block bit. “At least until I finish my course of antibiotics.” Instead he pushed three pieces of sharpened wire through his body: one through his left bicep, one through his right forearm, and one beneath his tongue, emerging beneath his chin. "Tame night for Murrugun."

There was satire: two members wearing McCain and Obama masks duked it out, stopping mid-fight for a friendly drink, before resuming acrobatic fisticuffs. Obama seemed to win when he pulled off McCain’s pants. In case you’re wondering: he wears boxers. Then Obama seemed to be hitting on a woman who had been watching all of this — Mango, I think, still no hat or collar. I went back to the back of the club. Three-quarters clowned-up and nobody blinked. My bit was near the end of the show.

The athleticism of this bit — its wild energy and its wackiness — was astonishing.
The final scene was similar to the first, but this time the cast came out on all fours, like big cats crossed with monkeys, their faces down and the masks on the top of their heads. Then, quite logically, they all stood up and did a little bit of the macarena. Lights up, crowd went wild.

Bless this crew of visionaries, joy-bringers, and nutcakes! May they flourish, and may San Diegans in the hundreds, in the thousands, after they’ve seen Zirk Ubu, go home a little more oddly alive than when they came.

— Thomas Lux

Thomas Lux is the Bourne Professor of Poetry at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His most recent book is God Particles, Houghton Mifflin Co.
Around the Circle

Little did I know that upon moving into my neighborhood that I was sooner or later going to have to go around in a circle and reintroduce myself at least a handful of times.

This is extremely challenging for me, because I don’t talk much. It is clear to me that my neighbors do. Every weekday around 5:45 p.m. I see them all out there in the driveway, beverages in hand, musing over the latest trailer-park prattle. It goes a little something like this: “Who’s building a new fence and a loft above their trailer next?” “I’ll do it.” “Wait, does she have a permit for that thing?” “The doctor says it’s contagious, so just keep that in mind.”

There is sometimes laughter that takes over the constant chatter, and that’s okay. It’s the rest of it I try my best to tune out. But living in such close proximity to one another makes this quite difficult. We live in a tight community—all 47 of us packed onto one lot. “I’d like you all to know that, yes, I’m going out of town, but I don’t need you to collect my mail for me.” Thanks anyway, Mrs. So-and-So, but I’ve got it all figured out. And no, Mister, thanks, but I already have a dad. Isn’t that enough? Don’t they get me yet? I feel like I’ve been talking to these people every single day for the past four years, telling them none-of-their-business useless information: Yes, I do get up at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and, yes, I am spending the night at my girlfriend’s

Editor’s note: This is the winner of April’s $250 second-place prize for our monthly neighborhood-essay contest. Deadline for the next contest is May 31, midnight.

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

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house again tonight. And no, I don’t care that you’ve been celibate for the past 25 years by choice. Okay, I’m just going to go quietly now and listen to the crows hollering incessantly instead of hanging around out here.

“J.D., are you in there? We were wondering if you left your underwear in the laundry room. They’re about as big as a postage stamp, and it looks like something you might wear.” Dear God, are they talking to me? Back to me again already? I thought I was off the hook for awhile. Are you sure we went around the circle again? It seems like it keeps getting smaller and smaller.

Okay, everyone — I have issues with people who have a problem with respecting boundaries. Yes, old man, that includes you. Don’t you think it might be a good idea to invest in some curtains? I see you lying in your bed at night as I’m lying in mine. Yikes! How can you sleep with socks on?

“No, I didn’t leave my skivvies in the laundry room.”

“Oh, sorry to bother you.”

”Okay, then.”

“Lattice and climbing vines for my deck.”

“Okay, sorry — oops, looks like my beverage has run dry.”

“Okay, then. Goodnight.”

At last, another evening in the park is over, and I can go rest peacefully now. ■
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LETTERS

continued from page 20

Hala’s political views. Hala is certainly entitled to her opinions — after all, this is America — but her opinions — as they have been reported — are inconsistent with mine and Tom’s. Having said that, I am not sure what relevance her views had to your story or Tom’s ownership of the Union-Tribune.

With respect to the characterization of the dispute between the estate of Frank Joubran and me, while what you wrote may accurately reflect what was in court papers at the time, had you checked with the parties involved you would have found that it is not consistent with the facts of the situation. Frank Joubran and his family did very well investing with me. The lawsuit was brought after Frank’s death and was based on a misunderstanding of the facts. I must admit that I was more than a bit surprised that while you devoted significant space to many of my other family members — cousins, uncles, and the like — so little space was devoted to the person both Tom and I considered our role model and our mentor: our father. Alex Gores via email

Matt Potter responds: Except for the fact that we reported that Tom Gores emigrated when five years old, these letters do not seem inconsistent with what we reported in the story.

Piles Of Flaming Doo-Doo

Ken Leighton is a lying piece of crap and needs to be stopped!

In his article “Tick Tick Tick…” (“Blurt,” May 14), Mr. Leighton blatantly lies about recent happenings at the Jumping Turtle in an attempt to completely destroy their business and have them shut down by both the City of San Marcos as well as the sheriff’s department.

I cannot believe that anyone who writes and publishes such falsehoods would still have a job! Mr. Leighton has been trying for months to shut down the Jumping Turtle, going as far as making false calls to the sheriff’s department just to cause trouble.

I do not condone nor do I support anything Mr. Ken Leighton has done or said over the past few months, and I feel as though he should be terminated from his position with the Reader, as well as fined for spreading such slander and causing the unbelievable amounts of trouble that he is causing. If Joe Troutman and Matt Hall lose their club because of Ken, I hope they sue just him but the Reader as well for allowing Mr. Leighton to continue on their staff.

Please fire Ken Leighton immediately!!!!!! Any more controversy because of him may become very costly to you!

Kimberly via email

Ken Leighton responds: I read this article back to the San Marcos official who issued the new entertainment permit. That official confirmed the article as factual. I also confirmed the facts with the sheriff’s department. I have never called the sheriff’s department to report any problems at the Jumping Turtle.

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Thursday | 21

DISCOVERING YOUR PERSONAL STYLE
Who we are now is a mash-up of who we used to be and who we want to be. Elizabeth Jerome and Stefanie Venter will show you how to incorporate those keepsakes from college with the latest styles in home decor. See LECTURES, page 64.

POEMS FROM GUANTANAMO
"I wish someone would comfort me! At night I taste bile and cannot sleep" is one of the lines from Marc Falkoff’s Poems from Guantanamo, comprising poems written by detainees of the controversial prison. Poems will be read by actors from Write Out Loud, and law professor Marjorie Cohn will speak about ending torture and securing justice for detainees. See IN PERSON, page 62.

YOURS FOR THE BAKING
How do you make a cupcake taste good without eggs, refined sugar, or gluten? One way is to sweeten your dough with agave nectar. Erin McKenna — author of the cookbook BabyCakes, named for her vegan bakery in New York — will tell us how it’s done. See FOOD & DRINK, page 61.

Friday | 22

FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER
Break out your sequined shirts and white polyester pants because it’s disco time at the Oceanside Museum of Art. See live-video performance art, design your own Mr. Potato Head, make scratch-and-sniff paintings, and more. Can you dig it? See SPECIAL, page 68.

Saturday | 23

GET READY TO RUBIK!
The solution to what has been called the “frustration cube” can be as simple as following a few basic steps. Some cube masters can solve the puzzle in 13 seconds, while others can solve it in 3 minutes... with their eyes closed! Watch the fingers fly at the fourth annual San Diego Rubik’s Cube Competition. See SPECIAL, page 68.

Sunday | 24

SPRINGTIME AND GREYHOUNDS
The 18th annual reunion picnic benefits Operation Greyhound, an organization that finds homes for retired racing greyhounds. Bring your own rescued pooch or just bring yourself to make some new, “fast” friends. See SPECIAL, page 68.

Monday | 25

MEMORIAL DAY BOOK SALE
Pick up a book before heading to the barbecue — just in case there’s some downtime. Kensington/Normal Heights Friends of the Library are having a sale in Library Park, and it’s not just books — there’s also CDs, DVDs, and more. See SPECIAL, page 68.

Tuesday | 26

BRAIN DRAIN
When the blood supply to any part of the brain is interrupted, that section of the brain ceases to function. Hear Dr. Frederick de la Vega discuss stroke prevention, warning signs, and treatment options for stroke victims. See LECTURES, page 64.

Wednesday | 27

LIPINSKY FAMILY SAN DIEGO JEWS ARTS FESTIVAL
The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the 16th annual exploration of Jewish culture through theater, music, dance, and visual arts, May 27 through June 30. See THEATER, page 111.

THE LITTLE RED HEN
The hen asks, “Would you help me plant my corn?” When she gets no assistance from her friends on the farm, she is reluctant to let them share in the bounty come harvest time. Witness this classic tale of teamwork as performed by puppets at Balboa Park. See FOR KIDS, page 62.
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“Solo Time” MiraCosta College’s North Coast Symphony Orchestra and local musicians showcase their talents. Soloists include clarinetist Leland Lallier, who will play FINZI’s “Five Bagatelles”; and musicians Kathryn Ringrose and Beth Ward, who will team up with other performers on “Concerto in B Flat for Three Oboes, Three Violins, and Continuo.” Orchestra performs “Overture to Semiramide” by Rossini, Mendelssohn’s “Symphony No. 3 (Scotch)” Tickets: 760-795-6815. Sunday, May 24, 7:30pm; Monday, May 25, 2pm, free. MiraCosta College Theatre, One Barnard Drive. (Oceanview)

Chamber Music at the Library Piano trio members Nanae Green (piano), Sarah Paik (cello), and Naomi Leslie (violin) play works by Smirane, Chopin, Stravinsky, Kreisler and J.S. Bach. 858-552-1668. Thursday, May 25, 7:30pm; Sunday, May 31, 2pm. free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (La Jolla)

Honor Recital Undergraduate pianist Karen Chow presents honors recital, performing classical works by Mozart, Scarlatti, Chopin, Beethoven, Debussy, and Glinka. 858-534-3229. Thursday, May 22, 8pm, free. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (La Jolla)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams performs. 619-702-8138. Sunday, May 24, 2pm, free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (Balboa Park)

Season Finale Jacobs’ Masterworks series concludes when San Diego Symphony, conductor Jahja Ling, and pianist Jon Kimura Parker perform Gershwin’s “Piano Concerto in F,” described as a “jazz/blues-influenced follow-up” to “Rhapsody in Blue.” Also on tap: “Remembering Gatsby” by John Harbison, Rachmaninoff’s “Symphony No. 2,” 619-235-0804. Friday, May 22, 8pm; Saturday, May 23, 8pm, Sunday, May 24, 2pm; $20-895. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (Downtown)

Evolution of the Violin

The Evolution of the Violin Violinist Jennifer Lynn traces violin's changes, from baroque to classical to modern, using a baroque violin, classical violin, and five-string electric violin with an amp and pedals. She will play selections from each period. Last year Lynn performed with Foss Fighters at Grammy Awards and Rock Star Supernova at Greek Theatre. 858-562-1668. Wednesday, May 27, 7pm, free. Carmel Valley Library, 3919 Towngate Drive. (Carmel Valley)

Spring Fest Spring showcase offers “opportunity to witness exciting and innovative performances by USD’s extremely gifted music graduate composers and performers.” 858-534-3229 Thursday, May 21, 8pm, Friday, May 22, 8pm, free. Conrad Prebys Music Center at USD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (La Jolla)

Symphony Exposed Find out how Sergiy Rachmaninoff got his mojo back after the failure of his first symphony when San Diego Symphony, maestro Jahja Ling, and host Nurvi Mehta present Rachmaninoff’s “Symphony No. 2,” 619-235-0804. Thursday, May 21, 7:30pm; 515-562. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (Downtown)

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"Balkania After-Party" Dromia provides live music for dancing. 619-281-5656. Friday, May 22, 9:30pm. $10. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (North Park)

“Dance n’ Dine” The PKG Project presents the California Ballet in an evening of contemporary dance with dinner. Reservations: 619-474-3222. Sunday, May 23, 7pm; $45. Café La Maire, 1411 Highland Avenue. (National City)

“XII Muestra Chorégrafica Binacional” The "XII Binational Choreographic Showcase” is designed to engage dancers and choreographers, enhance relationships in binational dance community. Program includes series of master classes, roundtable discussions, showcase of new choreography, critics talk-back. Co-produced with Tijuana’s Minerva Tapia Dance Group, weekend also features Cuervo Eireo (Monterey) and Antares Danza Contemporanea (Hermosillo). U.S. companies are Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, San Diego Ballet, Yuiko-Stunde IMAGO Moves. Event begins with wine and cheese reception and exhibition of dance images by photographer Jennifer Spencer and Julio Rodgriguez Ramos on Friday, May 22, 6pm. On Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, events begin at 10am, with showcase concerts at 6:30pm on Saturday, 7:30pm on Sunday.
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ought to obtain justice. Suggested
donation: $5. 619-238-7559.
Thursday, May 21, 7pm; Museum
of Photographic Arts, 1649 El
Prado. (BALDO PAMIR)

New Muslim Cool (Preview of
documentary chronicling life of
Puerto Rican American rapper
Hamza Perez. Follow his journey
from drug dealer to Muslim, rais-
ing two kids as single dad in Pitts-
burgh, taking his message of faith
to young people through his work
in M-Team hip-hop duo. 619-230-
1190. Monday, May 25, 1:30pm;
free. WorldBeat Cultural Center,
2100 Park Boulevard. (BALDO PAMIR)

Palestine Blues ("Movies that
Matter" documentary focuses on
Palestinian olive trees, water, and
a village’s fight to save their land from
the Green Line.” 619-235-6135.
Friday, May 22, 7pm; $5. Ages 10 and
up. Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125
Park Boulevard. (CUCO BERNADE)

Rivers of a Lost Coast (Palmer
Taylor and Justin Coupe’s film "fol-
lores legendary north coast fly fish-
ermen from the early pioneering
years of the 1920s to the current
collapse of California’s salmon and
steelhead runs.” Expect brief talk
about local issues pertaining to
southern steelhead. Filmmakers
will answer questions after screen-
ing, all in Summer Auditorium
(building #8625). Donations ben-
cfili Escondido Creek Conservancy.
838-390-3111. Saturday, May 23,
7:10pm; Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, 8602 La Jolla
Shores Drive. (LA JOLLA)

The Pope’s Toilet (This Uruguayan
film is set in 1988 in a small town
anxiously awaiting the arrival of
Pope John Paul II. See film by di-
rectors César Charlone and En-
rique Fernandez when it’s shown
for Film Forum. In Spanish with
English subtitles. 619-236-5800.
Wednesday, May 27, 6:30pm; free.
San Diego Public Library, 820 E
University Avenue. (CUCO BERNADE)

FILM
"UCSD Up-and-Coming Stu-
dent Film Fest 2009" (Art-
Power! Film’s juried student film
fest. Student film screenings fol-
lowed by awards ceremony, post-
screening discussion with panel of
media industry experts, refresh-
ments. Evening begins with music
by Matt Swagler and the Dirty
Birds. Pay what you can. 838-534-
6688. Thursday, May 21, 7pm; Museum
of History and Art, 225staton Ave.
(SOUTH PARK)

Jesus Camp (Oscar-nominated
documentary offers look at Chris-
itan “revivalist subculture.” Purchase
requested. 619-299-9360. Sunday,
May 24, 6:30pm; free. Café Libe-
ralia, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (BALDO PAMIR)

Kopps (Swedish comedy from
2003 follows police officer ob-

Stained glass
classes $99
6-week class, reg. $200
Custom creations • Doors • Lamps • Mirrors • Stained glass • Mosaics
Joe’s Glass Shack
888.204.4214

BALLOON RIDES
$149
Per person
Includes 2 free tickets to WorldBeat Cultural Center
See SouthBayLimousine.com
Expires 5/28/09.

FOOD & DRINK
Meet a “Raw Food Uber-Guru”
David “Avocado” Wolfe presents his
new book Superfoods: The Food and
Medicine of the Future. With a mas-
ter’s degree in nutrition, back-
ground in science and mechanical
engineering, Wolfe “is considered
one of the world’s top authorities
on natural health, beauty nutrition,
herbalism, chocolate, and organic
superfoods.” 619-230-1190. Thurs-
day, May 21, 5:30pm; $10. World-
Beat Cultural Center, 2100 Park
Boulevard. (BALDO PAMIR)

Yours for the Baking Erin
McKenna signs and discusses her
cookbook BabyCakes. Most of the
recipes are gluten-free, all lack re-
fined sugar. 858-454-0347. Thurs-
day, May 21, 7:30pm; free. War-

The Reader’s 1st Annual Restaurant Issue.
Over 600 Restaurants.
Original critical mini-reviews – our biggest food guide ever.
A life of eating.
True confessions by Naomi Wise, Ed Bedford, and Matthew Lickona.

Thursday, June 18.

Enjoy the biggest thrill of your lifetime!

*Bring this ad for FREE VIDEO of your skydive on Sunday!
Expires 5/28/09.

Enjoy the biggest thrill of your lifetime!

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San Diego Reader, May 21, 2009 61
The 454-acre Del Dios Highlands County Preserve, recently unveiled just outside the North County community of Del Dios, now provides a direct connection between Del Dios Highway and the popular Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Formerly, hikers and mountain bikers had only one method of reaching Elfin Forest Reserve’s network of hiking trails — the aptly named, but steep and narrow “Way Up Trail” originating along Harmony Grove Road. The new Del Dios Highlands route, although steep, offers plenty of room for travel with its generous width. That’s important for mountain bikers, who may need maneuvering space while pedaling laboriously and crookedly uphill in one or another of their machine’s “granny gears.”

The new trail begins at 9860 Del Dios Highway (west side of Del Dios Highway), opposite Date Lane. Drive in a short distance to the Del Dios Reserve’s small parking lot, open from 8 a.m. till half an hour before sunset.

The wide dirt road ahead (closed to vehicles) curves up chaparral-studded slopes fully exposed to the morning sun, but partly shaded toward the end of the day. Waves of blue visited these hillsides last March when the ceanothus, or wild lilac, was in bloom. By now, however, the scrub vegetation looks quite rough and drab.

A very steep section commences after around one mile of travel. Every step or pedal cycle upward, though, improves the view, which encompasses a hidden rural quarter of Escondido known as Harmony Grove, and stretches as far north as the distant San Bernardino Mountains.

As you curl around a summit at about 3.3 miles, you’ll get a wide view of the Olivenhain Reservoir, an oddly (but practically) situated element of the local water-delivery system positioned high above any natural gathering spot for waterfowl.

On just a little farther is a gate, beyond which lies the intricate trail system of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. You can obtain drinking water at the Rightpick Picnic Area just ahead or set your sights on the Lake Hodges Overlook picnic site, or head toward other destinations within the recreational reserve.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The Reader and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.
ergy Health. "Your vitality is impacted by important factors that have little to do with diet or exercise." 619-445-8146. Thursday, May 21, 12pm; free. Armchair Adventurer Bookstore, 2357 Alpine Boulevard. (SFPE)

"Familia Del Circio" The 2009 Fern Street Circus productions promise performers of all ages showing off their circus talents, skills. See aerialists, acrobats, jugglers, stilts walkers, trampolinitists, clown. In this story of the circus family, 619-235-9756. Friday, May 22, 7pm; Saturday, May 23, 1pm, 4pm and 8pm; Sunday, May 24, 1pm and 4pm; $7-$14. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (RUSSDIA PAR)

"Intimate Miracles" Sebastian presents "close-up" magic shows. Tickets include food. RSVP: 619-865-2937. Saturday, May 23, 5pm and 7pm; $20. UAW Local 506, 2266 San Diego Avenue. (MYF PAR)


"Poems from Guantanamo" This collection of poems was written by Guantanamo detainees, a sampling will be read by actors through Sunday, May 31, $15-$20. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

The 6x6 Poetry Series gets underway; 12 local poets will read from their work for six minutes. Also on tap: music by Kendrick Dial), community videoography, oral history, and visual art. Sunday matinees are interactive, designed for youth, families. 619-238-1153. Fridays, 8pm; Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm; through Sunday, May 31, $15-$20. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire Author C.M. Mayo discusses, signs her new novel, "based on the true and never before completely told story about the little boy who, as in a fairytale, became a prince and a pawn in the struggle-to-the-death over Mexico's destiny." Sangria will be served! 858-755-3733. Wednesday, May 27, 7pm; free. The Book Works, 2670 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)


Voices: Mapping the Hood Dance theater production directed by Evoke choreographer Ericka Aisha Moore boasts additional choreography by Yvonne Hernandez and transcenDANCE dancers for Art @ the Core: Building Community. Piece combines dance with film, poetry (live spoken word by Kendrick Dial), community videography, oral history, and visual art. Sunday matinees are interactive, designed for youth, families. 619-238-1153. Fridays, 8pm; Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm; through Sunday, May 31, $15-$20. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Ancient Legends and Exquis-ite Dances" Shen Yun Performing Arts takes stage to present classical Chinese dance and music. Accompanied by a live orchestra, show hosted by bilingual emcees showcases legends, vocal and instrumental performances, dances, and modern day narratives from Falun Gong, radiating themes of virtue and courage through classic battle between good and evil. 800-988-4233. Tuesday, May 26, 7:30pm; Wednesday, May 27, 2pm and 7:30pm; $30-$120. Ages 4 and up. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESC)

Spring Music Concert All levels of school's vocal and instrumental talent, from "up-and-comers" to award-winning ensembles, featured in recitals. 619-475-8556. Thursday, May 21, 7pm; $7-$10. School of
Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Creative and Performing Arts, 2425
Duck Drive, (IMPERIAL HILLS)
Squelchy-Clean Comedy! Fam-
ily-friendly shows for all ages. 858-
435-1457. Saturdays, 7pm; $5
Navedo’s Comedy Club at Bella
Roma Pizza and Restaurant, 6830
La Jolla Boulevard 0103. A local
UCSD Guitar Ensemble. Guitar
students return to perform a vari-
ety of works, ranging from classical
to contemporary to jazz. 858-534-
3229. Tuesday, May 26, 8pm; free.
Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD,
9500 Gilman Drive.

UCSD Jazz Ensemble. Some of
UCSD’s finest undergraduate jazz
musicians come together to show-
9500 Gilman Drive.

Some of

May 21, 7:30pm; $22-$57. Anthol-

Friday, May 22, 7:30pm; Saturday,

May 23, 7:30pm; $22-$57. Anthol-

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Friday, May 22, 7:30pm; Saturday,

May 23, 7:30pm; $22-$57. Anthol-

Friday, May 22, 7:30pm; Saturday,
San Diego Reader
May 21, 2009

Watch the famous 1980’s movie that made TOPGUN famous!
Doors open at 6:30pm - Movie starts at 7:30pm
Cheap Eats by Kansas City BBQ - Home of the famous TOP GUN BAR
“Turn and Burn” on thrilling Flight Simulators
“Report to Duty” Flight Deck Tours - TOPGUN Merchandise
No Host Cocktails Featuring the “F14-tini”
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$10 GENERAL ADMISSION
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“Anyone see an aircraft carrier around here?”

Check out our website for more details on the many great events happening on the USS Midway Museum during Legacy Week, May 23-29, 2009: www.midway.org

RA SAN DIEGO • BROADWAY AT FIFTH AVE. • 619.321.3021

In memory of St. Jude patient, Nicky Mailliard, RA Sushi will donate all proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to help fund cancer research.

FATHER’S DAY AT RA SUSHI

MAY 17

RA SUSHI RECOMMENDS

A memorable dining experience for all of the men in your life, RA Sushi will be offering a special Father’s Day menu highlighting our popular items. Also, enter our drawing for a chance to win a great prize.

RA SUSHI

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& The Brain—Our Three Pound Gem

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Mary K. Boyd, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Professor of Chemistry, University of San Diego

Advance ticket purchase recommended.
www.sdnhm.org

San Diego Natural History Museum
www.bodyworlds.com

NICKYS WEEK
MAY 24TH – MAY 30TH
Benefiting cancer research at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

In memory of St. Jude patient, Nicky Mailliard, RA Sushi will donate all proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to help fund cancer research.

RA SAN DIEGO • BROADWAY AT FIFTH AVE. • 619.321.3021

In memory of St. Jude patient, Nicky Mailliard, RA Sushi will donate all proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to help fund cancer research.

RA SAN DIEGO • BROADWAY AT FIFTH AVE. • 619.321.3021

In memory of St. Jude patient, Nicky Mailliard, RA Sushi will donate all proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to help fund cancer research.
Do You Need A Lawyer?
Ask-A-Lawyer at La Jolla Village Square
8657 Villa La Jolla Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037 – Behind the California Pizza Kitchen
Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10 am-4 pm
(800) 464-1529
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm
Or visit www.sdcba.org

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López Ridge Park, 7245 Calle 8066. Sunday, May 24, 9am; free. Help clean trash out of natural ar-

Trash Pickup in López Canyon, 16251 Bandy Canyon 6956. Saturday, May 23, 9am; $35-

Monday, May 25, 7:00 pm
Solemn High Mass for the Feast of St. Philip Neri
Tuesdays is included in paid museum 

Get Ready to Rubik! Fourth an-

Fallsbrook Vintage Car Show
The 44th annual show promises

Ethnic Food Fair
Enjoy food from over 30 nations (for sale), along with native costumes, ethnic

Ask the Designer
Professional landscape designer Linda Whitney offers personalized 45-minute landscape design consultation. Letting you photograph your area, ideas from magazines, project di-

The Brothers of the Little Oratory in San Diego
Solemn First Vespers of the Feast of St. Philip Neri
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 655 C Ave., Coronado

For further information see our blogsite at:
http://sandiegoorators.blogspot.com
Or visit our website at: www.chorsbrevarii.com or call Director John Polhamus at: 858-997-8636


Museums & Public Art

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego - Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Pig Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Loma, and more. 14550 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

Heritage Museum - An interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poyer's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park. 14134 Midland Road, 858-679-8577. (POWAY)

Malcolm A. Love Library at SDSU - "Creating Community: African Americans in San Diego" exhibition celebrating San Diego's African American history draws upon library's archival collections. For details, call 619-394-6791. 5500 Campanile Drive, 619-394-6726. (COLLEGE AREA)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - La Jolla - Work by nine architects who lead San Diego-based architectural design firms "redefining housing design, development, and urbanization in the San Diego region and beyond." Showcased in "MIX: Nine San Diego Architects," opening Friday, May 22. Curators selected studio Teddy Cruz, UCE and studio architects, Sebastián Mariscal, Public (James Brown and James Gates), Rinchart Herbst (Todd Rinchart and Catherine Herbst), Lloyd Russell, and Jonathan Segal as representatives of a generation of architects who have pursued sophisticated design forms aligned with a critical understanding of the economic and social context of the region. Closes Sunday, September 6. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Making Music "ON! The Beginnings of the Electric Sound Generation" presents rarely seen examples of early, electrified instruments from 1900 to 1965. Exhibit includes iconic electric and electro-acoustic guitars, lesser-known electric instruments such as banjos, violins, basos, keyboards, amplifiers, effects pedals, and unusual applications of electrification such as the electric zither. Through March, 2010.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum - Museum showcases American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four-scale models of railroad structures, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downtown in the Casa de Balboa building. 1469 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

Singles Parties for 30+

Come socialize with other singles or meet that special someone.

Upcoming Parties:
- Thursday, May 28
- Catalina Room, Marina Village, San Diego
- Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm
- Advance registration required
- See website for details
- www.lucky7match.com

Weekly Schedule:
- Tuesdays 7-11 pm
- 94th Aero Squadron, 8885 Balboa Ave.
- Saturdays 8 pm-1 am
- 4 Pts Sheridan Hotel, 8110 Aero Dr.
- Skies Lounge
- DJ & Dancing 7-11 pm & $11 admission to all parties

Hosted by Darlena
Karma Can Be Ironic

“I spent the night in jail after spending the day feeding the homeless,” says Joel D. Mutch, aka Point Blank, of hip-hop trio Even Keel. On April 30, Mutch says he and other artists from the band’s label, Hatch It Records, brought a carload of food to O.B. to spread happiness to kids in need and offer a decent meal while entertaining a group of O.B. street kids with beat boxes and freestyles.

“The day started out somber,” recalls Mutch, “when we arrived to find out that one of the street kids had been stabbed to death the previous evening. Some of these kids felt very uncomfortable about their living situation at this point.”

As the band performed, “One of the young ladies tried to pickpocket me while I was deep into an improvisational verse,” says Mutch. “Once I felt the weight difference [in my pocket], the music was stopped and I asked, ‘Why do you have my wallet in your hand? Apparently, some of the boys who were lurking in the shadows had put her up to this.”

After retrieving his wallet, Mutch says, “We decided to hit the road and avoid any further complications.” After departing O.B., “Lights flash and [a policeman is] pulling us over to the shoulder. The officer steps to the passenger side of the vehicle and explains that he has pulled us over because we had a San Diego Chargers lanyard hanging from the rear view mirror [an illegal obstruction].

“Inevitably finding a bench warrant, [the officer] placed me in cuffs and put me in the back of the squad car. The warrant was for a violation in which the court had not acknowledged my legal right to be in possession of [medical] marijuana. Sometimes knowing your rights isn’t enough when dealing with a system with so many loopholes.”

Mutch was bailed out of jail at 10 a.m. the next morning. “To throw salt in the wound, I was fired from my place of work because I was 10 minutes late...how’s that for irony and karma!”

Even Keel released their debut album Coming Up in March. They appear Sunday, May 31, at Brick By Brick.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Cyber Skullduggery

“If it really out of line to post your songs for sale on another band’s MySpace page?” posits rock trio New Day Mile. “Yes it is!” they say. Singer-guitarist James Brady is all for self-promo-

(continued on page 72)
name pasted their songs for sale into our MySpace com-
ments. We blocked them from doing anything else on
our page and deleted the comment. We’re open to let-
ting bands we’re friends with post flyers, and we do the
same on their pages, but posting their songs for sale is just straight-up
disrespect.”

Despite cyber skulldug-

print flyers…. They’re just
trashed. I’ve found the most
effective marketing seems to
be online social networks
such as Twitter, Facebook,
ilike, MySpace, and email
lists. It’s time-consuming, so
your music suffers, but that’s
what it takes now.

“It’s all DIY. Labels are
pretty much over, and you
can’t even get arrested any-
where anymore if you don’t
have a draw. Bands have to
do it all themselves, just play-
ning music doesn’t cut it.”

New Day Mile’s most
recent EP Damn Strate
was recorded locally by Alan
Sanderson, who worked on
the Stones’ Bridges to Baby-
lon album. They appear Friday,
May 22, at Radio Room.

— Jay Allen Sanford

The band bus gets two
packs of Red Bull, a 12-pack
section). The crew bus gets a
case each of Bud Light and Miller
Lite and “a case of small-box
assorted cereals.”

Swift also expects a per-
sontal delivery from Starbucks
with a Grande Caramel Latte
(“iced”), a Grande
Americano (“with soy milk”), and a
slice of pumpkin loaf.

(From themokinggun.com.)

At this writing, frontroom-
ing.com is selling seats in
section L18B, row 6, for $812
each.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Crain, Dave Goodis, Larry Har-
mon, Ken Lockhart, Bart Mandava,
Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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Friday Night Jazz
May 22 & June 5 • 7 - 10 pm

5 Jaeger Bombs
Happy Hour prices all night
with military ID.

The Keating Hotel
Location TBA

The Keating Hotel
Location TBA

Join us for dinner and enjoy

Friday Night Jazz
May 22 & June 5 • 7 - 10 pm

5 Jaeger Bombs
Happy Hour prices all night
with military ID.

The Keating Hotel
Location TBA
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PACKAGE INCLUDES:
2 premium-seat concert tickets (center section, rows 1-4);
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Tickets required for all ages. Dates subject to change or cancellation.
Acts will be added periodically throughout the summer. Please check our website for updates.

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Located at:
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LEXUS CONCERTS
by the bay

JUNE
Thursday, June 4 • 8:00
ERYKAH BADU
Saturday, June 6 • 7:30
JOE COCKER
with special guest
LeRoy Bell
Sunday, June 7 • 7:00
'70s SOUL JAM
featuring The Stylistics, Dramatics, Chi Lites & Manhattans with host Jimmy “JJ” Walker
Sunday, June 14 • 7:30
THIRD EYE BLIND
with special guest
Low vs. Diamond
Friday, June 19 • 8:00
KEYSHIA COLE
Sunday, June 21 • 8:00
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS
Sunday, June 28 • 7:30
ANI DIFRANCO

JULY
Wednesday, July 8 • 7:00
YES
with very special guest
Asia
Thursday, July 9 • 8:00
HEART
featuring
Ann & Nancy Wilson
Friday, July 10 • 8:00
JOAN BAEZ
Sunday, July 12 • 7:30
INDIGO GIRLS
Tuesday, July 14 • 7:30
GREGG ALLMAN
Wednesday, July 15 • 7:30
COWBOY JUNKIES / SON VOLT
Friday, July 17 • 8:00
GABRIEL IGLESIAS
Sunday, July 19 • 7:30
JEWEL
Monday, July 20 • 7:30
TEARS FOR FEARS
with special guest
Wainwright
Tuesday, July 21 • 8:00
THE MOODY BLUES
Wednesday, July 22 • 7:00
HAPA / LEDWARD
KA’APANA / JOHN CRUZ
Friday, July 24 • 7:00
JOEL MCHALE
Sunday, July 26 • 8:00
CHICAGO
Tuesday, July 28 • 7:00
GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS & JOHNNY LANG
Friday, July 31 • 6:30/9:00
JIM GAFFIGAN

AUGUST
Sunday, August 2 • 6:30
HIPPIEFEST
with
The Turtles featuring
Flo & Eddie, Chuck Negron formerly of Three Dog Night, Felix Cavaliere of the Rascals and Badfinger featuring Joey Molland
Friday, August 7 • 7:30
ALAN PARSONS LIVE PROJECT
Monday, August 10 • 8:00
DIANA KRALL
Tuesday, August 11 • 7:30
LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND
Thursday, August 13 • 7:30
JACKSON BROWN
Friday, August 14 • 7:30
AMERICA
Friday, August 21 • 8:00
TOWER OF POWER
Tuesday, August 25 • 7:30
CHRIS ISAAK
Tuesday, August 25 • 8:00
HIS LARGE BAND
TOWER OF POWER
Friday, August 28 • 7:00
DAVE KOZ AND HIS LARGE BAND
with special guest
Peabo Bryson
Sunday, August 30 • 7:30
SUSAN TEDESCHI

SEPTEMBER
Friday, September 4 • 6:30
BLIND SIDE
with guest
Joshua Redman
Friday, September 11 • 7:00
AIR SUPPLY
with special guest
Christopher Cross
Thursday, September 17 • 7:00
BONTAJ ROULET: BONNIE RAITT & TAJ MAHAL PLAYING ALONE AND TOGETHER
Friday, September 18 • 7:30
LEANN RIMES
Saturday, September 19 • 8:00
WANDA SYKES
with special guest
Keith Robinson
Monday, September 21 • 7:30
AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD
Friday, September 25 • 7:30
BEACH BOYS
Saturday, September 26 • 7:30
KEALI’I REICHEL
Sunday, September 27 • 8:00
PINK MARTINI
Mon./Tues., Sept. 28/29 • 7:30
CROSBY, STILL & Nash
Friday, October 2 • 8:00
CHRIS BOTTI
Sunday, October 4 • 7:30
CECILIO & KAPONO
Wednesday, October 14 • 8:00
JESSE COOK
Thursday, October 15 • 7:30
ALTERNATIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL
SOLD OUT!
Friday, September 4 • 6:30
BOB WEIR & RATDOG
with special guest
Jackie Greene
Just added! On sale now!
Sign up for our Belly Up VIP - E-mail List for a chance to win 2 tickets to the VIP area for Fiesta Del Sol feat. Donavon Frankenreiter, Common Sense and West Indian Girl!!!

B.B.'s first appearance ever at the Belly Up!

Sunday November 22

B.B. KING

On Sale Tomorrow at Noon!

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Dine before the show and skip the line...next door at the Wild Note Cafe!

6/19 K'NAAN
6/20 EOTO - New Date!

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7/15 Hot Buttered Rum • 7/20 Cage w/Yak Ballz
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SAN DIEGO NORTH
Remix guru Anthony Gonzalez will bring his electronic-rock road show M83 to Belly Up. Formed in France in 2001, M83 was originally a duo known for slow-burn dance beats, shoegaze, and soft-voiced creepers. Gonzalez split with former partner Nicolas Fromageau in 2004 and stretched his songwriting chops to pop effect and critical acclaim. Last year’s solo effort "Folds" was Folds’s highest charting disc, debuting at number eight on the Billboard 200. Check out his duet with Regina Spektor, “You Don’t Know Me,” for the track listing of “Way to Normal.”

Too much fun stuff Friday to break it all down or leave anything out, so follow the bouncing ball. The elder statesmen of the Canadian indie-rock renaissance the Dears appear at Casbah. Murray Lightbloom has one of the more-accomplished voices and poetic pens in the genre. Great Northern and the Eulogies on the bill.... Got a countrified stomper out at Beauty Bar with River City. Or, the Whale, and Silent Comedy. That’s one tempting triple bill, y’all. Earthenmen and Strangers (Ap), the Splinters (Sp), and Dreamdate (Sp) are all in town to support the Thin Man CD-release thing at Whole Stop.... The Love Me Nots will pluck another at Bar Pink with Monsters from Mars and the Wooly Bandits. Cowboy Mouth opens wide at House of Blues. Dusty Rhodes and the River Band will set the downtown stage.... Radio diva Gucci Stefan and No Doubt I be down south at the Cricket Amphitheatre.... While up north, it’ll be New York City nu-wavers the Virginia at Belly Up.... and at Chic Café, a locals-only showcase features Boomsnake, Drew Andrews, Nut/Drinkers, and Snuffaflavogus.

Underground hip-hopper and CEO of Wondaland Records, Charles Mitchell, aka Mitchy Slick, will slide into 4th&B Saturday night. Slick is in with Blacksmith boyses Strong Arm Steady, but also fronts a successful solo joint. The Southeast San Diego native is out to tout his latest rap, Lost N Da Way... D.C. dub rockers SOJA (Solders of Jah Army) roll on Canes. The quartet’s latest reggae-drenched collection Born to Babylon is due to drop this summer. In the mean, take an iTunes taste of lead single “I Ain’t Gonna Wait.”... Brooklyn-based indie rockers the Obits (featuring Rick Froberg of local Pitchfork, Jethro, Hot Snakes fame) hit Casbah. The quartet signed to Sub Pop for full-length debut I Blame You, a collection of garage cuts that’ll surprise but satisfy Fevberg fans. The Lights and Drug Wars share the bill.... Else: I’ve come to wish you an untypical birthday. Belly Up hosts a birthday bash for the estimable Morrissey, featuring Morrissey imitator Jose Maldonado and his Sweet and Tender Hooligans.... Barn room rockers the Shamey Jays will play a CD-release for Your Pretty Packages at Brick by Brick with Endoox, Joey Harris, the Anna Troy Band, and Redpost Buzzards in support. Tropical pop-big band Red Pony Clock will cof at Beauty Bar with Maren Parceel (W批评 Hit Weekend) and dynamic duo the Dabbors.

The coolest covers band in the known universe, the Detroit Cobras, will sifter into Casbah Sunday night. The Motor City quintet cleaned out their closet for last year’s The Original Recordings (Singles and Unreleased 1995–1997), a nice touchstone for the unrevisited. Rockabilly band the Dex Romweber Duo split this early-bird bill. The show goes at 7p. ’50s Sunday-nighters: Bar Pink books L.A.’s garage-rock mainstays Killola, country-pop superstar Taylor Swift shines on Sports Arena. Canes calls all tribbers, including Atomic Punks (old Halen), Priest Heavy (Sudu Priest), and Dazed and Confused (the mighty Zep)... and Soda Bar sets up Red Pony Clock and Bunnygrunt with “a very special secret guest.”... Hmm...


Tuesday

Tuesday night is too tough to call, so measure your head before ordering. You’ve got foliodesc trance tramps Rachael Hughes and Nathan Shneywater, aka Brightblack Morning Light, at Casbah with Rio en Medio and the Focus Group. L.A.’s breakbeat electronica’s Crystal Method at House of Blues...from Chicago, industrial dance band heavies My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult and DJ Robie Roth at Beauty Bar...and Sweden’s answer to Jonathan Richmond, indie-pop star Jens Lekman, doing his acoustic crooner thing at the Loft at UCSD.

Wednesday

The British blues-rock virtuoso Robin Trower (Procol Harum) plays House of Blues hump night. The 64-year-old singer celebrates 40 years in the biz by releasing double-live disc AT & KG II, a collection of performances from last year’s American tour.... College-rock radio station and NPR affiliate KCRW (Santa Monica) presents Angelino electro-soul outfit Little Dragon and San Diego trip-hoppers Genius of Soul at Casbah. Out.

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“He’s better known as the man behind Zen Mastering, but I discovered him as a performer.”

O ur music is very lyric-driven,” says Eben Brooks. “If I had to choose a genre, I would call it progressive acoustic rock, but by progressive I mean politically and personally progressive. It’s possible for lyrics to reflect a wide range of complex social topics, even if writing anti-war songs nowadays is an open invitation for people to impugn your patriotism.”

Brooks counts various sci-fi authors as among his influences. “I’m a very big fan of Roger Zelazny’s work, and I’ve read all the Amber Chronicles,” says Brooks, whose video for his song “Champs Elysées” was inspired by Zelazny’s Courts of Chaos. “We chose Lestat’s to shoot at because the writer and director wrote a script that fits perfectly with their setup and decor. Lestat’s has great stone gargoyles.”

He points out that fantasy fiction and rock have long been simpatico. “I’ve always been a big fan of Jethro Tull, who tends to weave fantasy and sci-fi elements into their songs. Hawkwind write music heavily influenced by Michael Moorcock, and there’s always Led Zeppelin’s work based on Tolkien.”

The Eben Brooks Band performs at Claire de Lune on June 7.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SAN DIEGO?
“I followed a girl down here from L.A. and discovered that, for the first time in my life, I didn’t feel afraid all the time… San Diego has a way of encouraging you to take chances, while L.A. tends to punish anyone who dares to step out of the line and draw attention to yourself.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?
1. Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young, So Far. “The album has some of their iconic work, music that’s shaped the acoustic-rock genre ever since. Some of my all-time favorite songs are here: ‘Guinevere,’ ‘Ohio,’ and ‘Find the Cost of Freedom’.”
2. Paul Abbott, Enough Talk. “One of the best guitar players and instrumental composers I’ve ever heard. Locally, he’s probably better known as the man behind Zen Mastering, but I discovered him first as a performer.”
3. Franz Ferdinand, You Could Have It So Much Better. “These guys are absolutely hilarious.”
4. The Flash Girls, The Return of Fancy Smith and Violet Jones. “A fantastic duo that is now, sadly, defunct — or at least on hiatus. I discovered them because one member, Emma Bull, is one of my favorite science fiction authors.”
5. Michael Hedges, Live on the Double Planet. “Hedges was a phenomenal guitar player and composer. The tune that keeps me playing this disc over and over is his cover of ‘All Along the Watchtower.’”

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE POWER TO READ MINDS?
“I’d do my best to read them. I’m a big privacy advocate, and if there’s a worse breach of privacy than reading someone’s mind, I can’t think of one.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?
“As a kid, I once flew on the same airplane as Esther Rolle, who played the mom on Good Times. She was flying coach which, even at age 13, I found sad.”

IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WITHOUT?
“Flush toilets. I mean, I can imagine living in pretty primitive conditions, but if I don’t have good sanitation facilities, I get grumpy in a real big hurry.”

WHAT VIDEO GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
“City of Heroes, originally on the PC, but they just made a client for the Mac, so I play it on my Mac. Book Pro now. I love the superhero genre, and this game is unique in that you can actually do some meaningful play in only a half hour or so.”

MOST VISITED WEBSITES?
1. “LiveJournal.com, where most of my friends have their personal blogs.”
2. “DeviantArt.com, a large and well-populated online art gallery where I follow a number of talented artists, including comic book artist Jim Lee.”
3. “YouTube.com, mostly to follow the I Can Has Cheezburger channel of funny pet videos.”

HOW WOULD YOU RATE OBAMA’S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE?
“I wish he would stop giving money to irresponsible bastards who couldn’t figure out how to spend the money they had to begin with. I hope he can do the things he promised to do — and so far it looks like he’s really trying — so I’m still on his side. For the time being.”

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?
“I have a ministerial credential through the Celtic Witan Church of California, and I have performed three weddings, all for friends.”
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Chini and Cambros

3:30pm – 4:15pm and 4:45pm – 5:30pm
Shep Meyers Quartet with
Litljan Palmer

6:00pm – 6:45pm and 7:15pm – 8:00pm
Adrienne Nims

8:30pm – 9:15pm and 9:45pm – 10:30pm
Pro-2-Call

10:30pm – close
DJ GB3K

Each Memorial Day weekend, Rock Bottom hosts the KIFM Smooth Jazz Festival.
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**Starts Thursday**
Roots Covenant 9 pm-12 am
with Carlos Culture 12 am-closing (Reggae night)
Friday
Happy Hour
Jason Ott 6 pm-9 pm
Old Devil 9 pm-closing (Rock night)
Saturday
UFC 98 12:30 am-closing & 9 pm-12 am
Whiskey Rebellion 9 pm-12 am
DJ Chebu 12 am-closing (Latin night)

**Sunday**
Bredens 9 pm-12 am
DJ R2 12 am-closing (Latin night)

**Monday**
Hangover Cure with Gallagher's 12 pm-5 pm
Happy Hour 9 pm-12 am
Cheap Drink Specials

Gallagher's never has a cover unless it has a special event.

**Thursday, 7 pm —** Kemoabe. Covers/punk/rock. Free.

**Andrews Gallery:** 1002 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas.

**Friday, 7 pm —** "The Saturdays of May with Matt Curreri." The 6th Poetry Series gets underway; 12 local poets will read from their work for six minutes. Also on tap: music by Joanie Mendenhall and the Exfindex. 760-230-2680 or 817-235-2404. Free.

**Anthology:** 1137 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-3000.

**Friday, 7:30 pm —** Luka Bloom. With Birdie Busch. Rock. $20.


**Bar Leucadian:** 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-364-7394.

**Thursday, 10 pm —** Rich White. With the Love Me Nots and Alejandro Andrews. $25-$30.

**Friday, 8 pm —** Monsters from Mars. With the Love Me Nots and Gonzobilly. Punk.

**Saturday, 9:30 pm —** Morrissey's 50th Birthday Celebration. With Sweet and Tender Hooligans. $38-$48.

**Bar Pink:** 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Friday, 7:30 pm —** Ian Tyson. With Mitchy Slick. Acoustic/indie/folk. Ages 21 and up.

**Saturday, 7:30 pm —** Killola. With Sam Amidon and Lissie Trullie. Covers/standards/rock. Free.

**Bar Pink:** 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Friday, 7:30 pm —** Luka Bloom. With Birdie Busch. Rock. $20.


**Bar Leucadian:** 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-364-7394.

**Friday, 8 pm —** Rich White. With the Love Me Nots and Gonzobilly. Punk.

**Saturday, 9:30 pm —** Morrissey's 50th Birthday Celebration. With Sweet and Tender Hooligans. $38-$48.

**Bar Pink:** 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

**Friday, 7:30 pm —** Luka Bloom. With Birdie Busch. Rock. $20.


**Bar Leucadian:** 3829 30th Street, North Park, 619-364-7394.

**Friday, 8 pm —** Rich White. With the Love Me Nots and Gonzobilly. Punk.

**Saturday, 9:30 pm —** Morrissey's 50th Birthday Celebration. With Sweet and Tender Hooligans. $38-$48.
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The Dears have a lot in common with Arcade Fire. Both bands are from Montreal. Both are led by a husband-and-wife team. Both make powerful, emotional indie pop. And both are critics’ favorites. In other ways, the bands couldn’t be more different. Arcade Fire is chilulah — both in their gleeful song-alsongs and in their lyrical concerns (dealing with parents, etc.). The Dears are adult — both in Murray Lightburn’s mournful, Thorenhne-like singing, and in his lyrical concerns (being a parent, money troubles, racism, losing his religious faith).

The Dears formed in 1995, about eight years before Arcade Fire, four years before Broken Social Scene (with whom the Dears have shared members at one time or another), and three years before Metric. If it hadn’t been for some major lineup shakeups that set them back, the Dears might have been as famous as the other Canadians who dominate the indie world these days. More so, perhaps.

Despite their dramatic touches and heavy themes, Lightburn’s songs are relatively simple and accessible. Even the song “Whites Only Party,” from the 2006 album Dog of Losers, doesn’t hit you over the head with its hot-button topic. If you weren’t paying close attention, you might hear its shuffling beat and the line “We ain’t here to steal your woman/ Well, at least that wasn’t the plan” and think this was a carefree party song. The band’s latest, Missiles, is mostly a more-sober affair, but the opening track “Disclaimer,” has the kind of grandeur we as-
**Four Points by Sheraton:**
8110 Aero Drive, Kearny Mesa.
Friday, 8 pm — The Bug Nasties. Mod/R&B. Ages 21 and up.

**The Loft:**
9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD
Sunday, 8 pm — Robin Henkel Band. Blues/Funk/Jazz. $10.

**McDini’s:**
105 East 8th Street, National City, 619-474-6771.
Friday, 9:30 pm — Pali Roots. Reggae.
Saturday, 7 pm — Panamanian Reggae Party. With Bredren.
Sunday, 9 pm — Historia Musical. Latin.

**The Merle:**
820 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-814-6375.
Thursday, 7 pm — The Bigf ellas. Alternative/pop/rock.

**Molly Malone’s:**
1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050.
Friday, 9 pm — Flashback. Rock.
Saturday, 9 pm — Hear No Evil. Rock.

**Neurosciences Institute:**
10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla.
Saturday, 6 pm — Pals. Covers/standards/jazz. $25-$50.

**Nugent’s Fishgrille Restaurant & Sports Lounge:**
12015 Scripps Highlands Drive, Scripps Ranch, 858-566-3474.

**Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill:**
5500 Grossmont Center Drive
Thursday, 8 pm — The Allan Brothers Band. With the Doobie Brothers. Rock. $40.

**House of Blues:**
1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Thursday, 8 pm — Ben Folds. Rock. $32.

**Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College:**
140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, 760-744-1150.
Thursday, 8 pm — Palomar Concert Band and Palomar Brass Ensemble. Directed by Jonathan Ingber. $10-$12.

**The Kensington Club:**
4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington.
Saturday, 9 pm — Dan Padilla. With John Wayne Gacy Daycare.

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**Scripps Ranch, 858-566-3474.**

**Celtic:**
Saturday, 9:30 pm — California Celts. Reggae/sea.

**Gaslamp Quarter:**
835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown.
Monday, 6 pm — 7pm — The Bug Nasties. Mod/R&B. Ages 21 and up.

**Georges on Fifth:**
1140 West Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.
Wednesday, 8 pm — Palomar Concert Band and Palomar Brass Ensemble. Directed by Jonathan Ingber. $10-$12.

**Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill:**
618 South G Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050.
Friday, 9 pm — The Allan Brothers Band. With the Doobie Brothers. Rock. $40.

**House of Blues:**
1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Thursday, 8 pm — Ben Folds. Rock. $32.

**Houle’s Irish Pub and Grill:**
835 Fifth Avenue
Thursday, 8 pm — The Allan Brothers Band. With the Doobie Brothers. Rock. $40.

**Houle’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill:**
850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.
Thursday, 8 pm — Skelpin. Irish/folk.
Friday, 8 pm — Billy Watson. Blues/soul/jazz.
Saturday, 8 pm — Red Octopus. Rock.
Tuesday, 8 pm — Taryn Donath. Blues/soil.
Wednesday, 7 pm — Joe Wood & the Lonely Ones. Roadhouse blues.

**House of Blues:**
1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Thursday, 8 pm — Ben Folds. Rock. $32.

**Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College:**
140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, 760-744-1150.
Thursday, 8 pm — Palomar Concert Band and Palomar Brass Ensemble. Directed by Jonathan Ingber. $10-$12.

**The Jumping Turtle:**

**Milano Coffee Company:**
865 Rio San Diego Drive, Mission Valley, 619-688-1882.
Thursday, 7 pm — The Bigf ellas. Alternative/pop/rock.

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**The Kensington Club:**
4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington.
Saturday, 9 pm — Dan Padilla. With John Wayne Gacy Daycare.

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140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, 760-744-1150.
Thursday, 8 pm — Palomar Concert Band and Palomar Brass Ensemble. Directed by Jonathan Ingber. $10-$12.

**The Jumping Turtle:**
1660 Capitola Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.
Thursday, 7 pm — theBREAK. With Mr. L of the Pecuniaries, DJ Keshap, Noni, and other special guests. Electronic/hip-hop/rap. $12.

**The Kensington Club:**
4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington.
Saturday, 9 pm — Dan Padilla. With John Wayne Gacy Daycare.
May 21, 2009

Friday
Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-6177.

Saturday
Dinner. With Franklin Lounge, Nightclub:
O'Connells Pub and

Tuesday


Portugalia: 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-234-6276. Thursday, 5-7:30 pm — 1970's Rock Show, Rock, $18. Friday, 8-11 pm — 70s Cover Band, Classic rock/blues/soul. Free.


Schroeder's at Tango Del Rey: 3500 Del Rey Street, Clairemont, 858-784-9044. Saturday, 8 pm — Ian Tordella Quartet. Jazz $5-10.


Saturday
3rd Degree Blue

Sunday, May 24
3rd Degree Blues

Monday, May 26
Blue Four

Tuesday, May 26
Wednesday, May 27

Johnny "V"


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hometown CDs

by Ross Jorgervs

Album: Psychothermia (2009)
Artist: Canobliss
Label: Self-released
Where available/price: iTunes, $7.92; CDBaby, $7
Band: Johan Maldonado (vocals), Samson Pedrero (guitar), Jon Rusto (guitar), Chenzo Vidalez (bass), Mike Russo (drums)
Website: canobliss.com

Canobliss, though billed as metal, doesn’t get them. Instead, the band provides a mix of melody, fuzzy guitars, and clasy drums on their newest album, Psychothermia. Though undoubtedly influenced by heavy metal bands, Canobliss doesn’t fit the category. They’ve got more of a radio-ready sound than many straight-up hardcore metal acts and possess an undeniable pop edge – especially vocally. Borrowing from pop-punk bands such as Fall Out Boy and reggae-rock hybrid 311, many tracks have a soft edge to them.

Most of the time, the pop side shines more than the metal. The songs tend to be repetitive at their core, at least instrumentally, but lead singer Johan Maldonado’s vocals are where things get interesting. Youthful and at times haunting, it is often overpowered by the “metal,” and not allowed to stand on its own. On tracks like “Take Vics,” on the other hand, it is showcased, and the band even throws in a harmony for good measure.

Despite a sometimes bumpy merger of genres, Psychothermia is a good listen. Even though Canobliss lyrics can be over the top, offering such statements as “going to hang you like a velvet noose straight down from the sky” as heard on the album’s title track, all the elements of a solid album are there.

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$10 cover

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Signups start at noon. Free burgers.

MONDAYS: Beer pong • In-house pool tournament

TUESDAYS: In-house dart tournament

Wednesdays: DJ Neko spinning ‘80s Classic Rock

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June 22 — André Regal.

Del Mar Fairgrounds: 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-1161.
June 12 — Heroes of Woodstock.
June 13 — Melissa Etheredge.
June 16 — Phil Vassar.
June 17 — Bee Michaels.
June 18 — David Cook.
June 19 — Loretta Lynn.
June 20 — David Arcaletta.
June 21 — La Arrolladora Banda Limin.
June 23 — The Guess Who.
June 25 — The B-52s.
June 26 — Switchfoot.
June 27 — Fifth Annual Gospel Festival.
June 29 — Intocable.
June 29 — Cowboy Jack.
June 29 — Clint Black.
June 30 — Creedence Clearwater Revisited.

Dizzy’s: 300 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
May 28 — II Johnson and Kai Winding Tribute.
May 31 — Joni Mitchell Tribute.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
June 13 — Dead and Dillinger.

Hard Rock Cafe: 801 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-615-ROCK.
September 26 — Sugar Ray.

Harrah’s Rincon: 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-789-7008.
May 30 — Hilldale Music Department Benefit Concert.
May 31 — Maritim.
June 3 — DJ Qwik.
June 4 — Garvin Rodsalde.
June 5 — Kingpade.
June 6 — Butterfly Boucher.
June 10 — Testament.
June 11 — The Orb.
June 12 — Billy Ray Cyrus.
June 13 — Live.
June 14 — She Wants Revenge.
June 17 — Back.
June 18 — The Circle Jerks.
June 19 — The Don Band.
June 20 — Ben Kweller.
June 25 — Xavier Rudd.
July 11 — Led Zeppelin.

The Optimators • DJ Skarina
Skate Video Premiere

38 San Diego Reader May 21, 2009
Thursday, May 21
Toreback • Bastard Saints
Born of Fire (Slayer)
Friday & Saturday, May 22 & 23 • 9 pm

Fuzz Huzzi

Wednesday, May 27
State of the Union w/Samoan Irok

Thursday, May 21
The Cameltons
Friday & Saturday, May 22 & 23 • 9 pm

The Farmers • The Screamin Yeehaws
Travelin Salesman

Tuesday, May 26
Born of Fire

Wednesday, May 27
Custard Pie

$2 drinks 9 pm to close

The SHOUT! House
Rock ‘n Roll Sing-A-Long
Dueling Pianos

VOTED San Diego’s Best
Live Music Venue

5-8 PM: Direct from the Howard Stern Show
Tickets on sale via website

Classic Rock
Serious Guise

Sunday, May 24
W.F.O

Karaoke

State of the Union w/Samoan Irok

Out of New Orleans

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

The Sall & Richard Show
Tickets on sale via website

The Sall & Richard Show

San Diego Reader May 21, 2009 89
June 4 — Atom Orr.
June 6 — The Predicates.
June 29 — Kim Garrison and Kim Devine.
July 19 — Red Thir Eye.
Open Air Theatre: 5300 Campanile Drive, SDSU, 619-594-6947.
June 3 — The Offspring.
August 4 — Judas Priest.
Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.
July 12 — Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs.
July 29, July 30 — Journey.
May 30 — Pennywise.
May 31 — Fleetwood Mac.
May 30 — Propagandhi.
June 4 — Kate Voegele.
June 5 — Taking Back Sunday.
June 6 — Tribal Seeds.
June 8 — King.
June 13 — Strung Out.
June 19 — Tiffani Stac.
June 26 — Buck-O-Nine.
June 27 — The Summer Slaughter.
Spreckels Organ Pavilion: 2211 Pan American Road, Balboa Park.
June 16 — Breez’n.
June 17 — Damaru.
June 18 — Icy Vinile.
June 23 — NOTables.
June 24 — The Bayou Brothers.
July 1 — U.S. Navy Band Wind Ensemble.
July 2 — Klezmoids.
July 7 — Stars on the Water.
July 8 — Tinku.
July 9 — Rebel Monarchs.
July 14 — The Cool Rays.
July 15 — Hillcrest Wind Ensemble.
July 16 — Diamond is Forever.
July 21 — The Cat-illacs.
July 22 — Cool Fever.
July 23 — The San Diego Six.
July 28 — Bi-Nacional de Mambo Orchestra.
July 29 — Time Machine.
July 30 — Little Stone.
Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
June 7 — Julio Iglesias.
August 8 — Dick Fox’s Golden Boys.
August 21 — Randy Travis.
September 12 — Three Dog Night.
September 15 — James Taylor.
September 26 — The Beach Boys.
Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park: 5005 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
August 15 — Los Lonely Boys.
October 3 — Brooks & Dunn.
Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5005 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
August 13 — Three Dog Night.
August 21 — Tony Orlando.

Mangu Caribbean Cuisine and Cesar Caribbean Tapas & Bar
524 Island Avenue, SD (5th and Island) • 619-233-3166
Friday night in the Gaslamp means you’d better come early for the finest Caribbean cuisine in the Gaslamp and plan on staying late for some sultry dancing at MANGU! As always, U4RIK VODKA drink specials will make the night right!

For more information on upcoming events visit sdreader.com
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 619-233-3000 x780, 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: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 1/2 off all wells, beers, wines.

CARLETON
Makai: Monday-Thursday: 3:30-5:30pm: $2.75 beer, $3.25 wine, $3.50 sake.

CAREMEL VALLEY
Jewel Box: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: all drinks 1/2-price.

CHULA VISTA
El Dorado Seafood & Grill: Monday-Thursday: 4-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

COLLEGE AREA
Marin Calendar’s: Monday-Thursday: 3:30-5:30pm: $3.50 Bud Light.

Tivoli Bar: Monday-Friday: 4-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

HAPPY HOUR

Boar Cross’n: Thursday, 8-9pm: $1 Bud & Bud Light.

Fenway’s Sports Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday: 5-10pm: 1/2-off all domestic, house wines.

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Thursday: 3-7pm: $3.50 well, house wine.

Viva Vino: Monday-Thursday: 11am-5pm: $3 domestic, house wine.

Colleges

LAHANA: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $2.75 bottle beer, $4.50 well, house wine.

DOWNTOWN
Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $5 Imperial, $4 local beer.

4th Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $4.50 Bud Light.

Cosmo’s: Monday-Friday: 11am-4pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

The Shout House: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $3.50 well, house wine, Jäger.

Alley

5-7pm: $2.75 small sake w/ large beer.

DE LA MAR
Bully’s: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $2.75 bottle beer, $4.50 wells.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday: 4-7pm: $3.50 wells.

The Fish Market: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $3.75 domestic.

Pal Joey’s

5-7pm: $3.50 wells.

20% off all domestic, house wine.

The Alley

5-7pm: $.99 domestic beer.

Café Sevilla: Monday-Thursday: 5-7pm: $2.49 large sake, $1.99 drafts.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: All day: $.99 domestic beer.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday: 4-6:30pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

VERONICA
The Pizza Ranch: Monday-Friday: 11am-6pm: $3 local beer.

20% off all domestic, house wine.

El Dorado Seafood & Grill: Monday-Friday: 11am-5pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

The Pool: Monday-Friday: 11am-5pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

Hillcrest

Nino’s: Monday-Friday: 11am-5pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

All the community establishments can be found online at SDReader.com/drinks.
Café Eleven: Every day, 2-4 pm: $3 wells, house drafts. $4 margaritas (keep shaker).

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints.

Khan’s Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Saturday, 4-6 pm: $1.25 off draft, $1 off glass of wine.
Pampas Argentine Grill: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 4-6 pm: $3.25 off well shots.

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-7 pm: 1/2-off house sake/draft beer.

KENSINGTON-TALAMADE Beauty Bar: Monday, $3.50 shots. $3.50 mixed drinks.

 Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Every day, 4-7 pm: $5 of all cocktails, wine, drafts.

LUCADIA Bar Leudacious: Every day, 4-7 pm: $2.75 wells. $2.50 domestic drinks. $3 Corona, Pacifico, Imperiala.

SU CASA: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $2.50 domestic drafts.

LA MESA Holly’s Irish Pub & Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-6 pm: $3 off wells.

The Aero Club: Monday-Friday, 6:30-7 pm: $3 glass of wine.

Tango Restaurant & Lounge: Monday, all night: $1 off all drinks. Tuesday-Sunday, 4-7 pm: $1 off all drinks.

GRANTVILLE Tío León’s: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $3 wells, domestic drafts. $4 margaritas (keep shaker).

HILLCREST Café Eleven: Every day, 2-4 pm: $3 wells, house margaritas. $3 house wine.

Café Bleu: Monday, 5-7 pm: $5 wine, 6 martinis. Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7 pm: $5 wine, 6 martinis/1/2-off select wine bottles.

Red Wing Bar & Grill: Every day, 5-7 pm: $3 domestic drafts. $3 domestic wines.

Kensington Vine: Monday-Thursday, 5-7 pm: $3 fine wine.

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

Clay’s La Jolla: Every day, 4-7 pm: $3-4.50 Selects, $4.50 sangria, $6 house carafe.

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

LA Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $3 wells, house drafts.

LA Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $3 wells, house drafts.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7 pm: $1 wells, domestic taps.

SU CASA: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $2.50 domestic drafts.

LA MESA Holly’s Irish Pub & Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-6 pm: $3 off wells.

THE MUSEUM Canes: Monday-Friday, 5-7 pm: $3 off all domestic drafts. $3 off house wine.

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Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints.

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The Shack Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7 pm: $1 wells, domestic taps.
A Little Boost

“The publicity about the violence makes it sound much worse than it is.”

I can’t believe it. Here I am on deepest Revolución, when I spot that black hat, that gray-red beard, that loping walk. It can only be one person.

“Willy?” I say.

Willy Clausen has stuck it out here in Tijuana all through the bad times. I think of him as Our Man in Havana, except he’s a singer, the charro guero (the “fair-haired cowboy”), as he’s known, the guy who brought “La Bamba” up from Veracruz and, with a little boost from Ritchie Valens, made it a worldwide hit. Since then, he’s settled in TJ, because he loves Mexico, in fact, sometimes touring places like Nicaragua and doing summer stints in Sweden, where his family’s originally from. There he acts as a singing sheriff in a Wild West fantasyland called High Chaparral.

I haven’t seen him for a year. Now, here he is, heading down Calle 3a, Third Street, toward his little museum in Pasaje Rodríguez. I bet he’s coming from his daily rig of cactus juice, which he drinks to keep his diabetes at bay.

“You caught me just in time,” he says. “I’m off to Sweden on Sunday. No money worries for the next three months! All I have to do is wander ’round the High Chaparral and sing when I feel like it.”

I ask him about the economy and violence in TJ. “The economy’s bad, sure enough,” he says, “but violence? The only thing I’ve seen was when two drunken sailors — American — killed a prostitute at a hotel across Revolución.”

We wander up Revolución. The bar touts call out half-heartedly. We stop in for a coffee ($1.10) at La Placita, an open-to-the-sidewalk eatery that’s surprisingly busy, maybe because so many others have closed. “The publicity about the violence makes it sound much worse than it is,” says Salvador. He’s one of the longtime waiters here. “Americans have completely stopped coming. Revolución is dying. I’ve been in the restaurant business for 30 years. This is by far the worst. Business down at least 80 percent.”

Willy has eaten already, and he has to go. So I head up Revolución. Man, boarded-up stores and bars and eateries are everywhere. Even the venerable La Especial is gone, except for the original streetside taco counter they started out in business with about 60 years ago.

I get up to Calle Galanea, 7th. The Spanish paella place, Chiki Jai, is still open, thank God. But I’m looking for something a little more plain and simple, so I cross Revolución and head a few yards up 7th, looking for one of my favorite places. There’s the sign: “Café Français.” But, uh-oh. I pass the heavy, coat-of-arms-embossed door, La Belle Claude is open. TJ’s little piece of Paris. Last came here five years ago. Nothing’s changed. Inside, you’re enveloped by sweet-smelling, varnished-wood, coffee-aroma’d artye ambiance. Cabinets are filled to bursting with cheeses, teas, coffees, jams. Clazed fruit tarts, éclairs, truffles, and the shelves are loaded with honey. (

50% off entree

Buy one entree and get second of equal or lesser value for 50% off. Must present coupon.

Spécialités: Burgers • Kabobs • BBQ

Bayfront Grill & Hi-Ball Cocktail Lounge
626 E Street • Chula Vista • 619 425 3800

Free Thai entree
Buy one entree and receive second of equal or lesser value FREE

Thai Dragon House
6062 Lake Murray Boulevard (1 mile from Eastlake Drive), La Mesa
619-589-8882 • Mon-Sat. 11 am-9:30 pm, Sun. 4:30-9:30 pm
www.ThaiDragonHouse.com

Free Spumoni
Sunday only, with any dinner special of the house.

Sanfilippo’s.com

$2 off any pizza
 Thick or thin. Valid every day. With this ad.

$1 Cheese Slices
Mon.-Fri. noon-2 pm. With purchase of soda.

50% off sushi
Dine-in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

San Dieguito Reader May 21, 2009 37
The fried margarita ($12) is the standout at the mission-themed Mission Café and Coffee House. It’s served with lime and chili-rubbed shrimp, guajillo salsa, and a large cactus flower for garnish. / SAN DIEGO READER
Aladdin’s Mediterranean Restaurant & Anthony’s Fishette

Aladdin’s Mediterranean Restaurant is a wonderful place to enjoy a meal. The restaurant offers a variety of dishes including grilled fish and chips or Baja squid steak. The atmosphere is more casual than Anthony’s Fishette, and the prices are also lower. The restaurant is located in the area of Hillcrest, which is known for its clean atmosphere and bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle-Eastern favorites. The chowder is a good choice, and it pays a fraction of the price, and you get the same quality as what you would get from the hotel’s all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet.

Hillcrest’s owners plunk down at a table where a waiter will offer beer and wine. Hillcrest’s bistro is a deal. Evenings you have a ringside seat watching tourists heading for fun and locals coming home. Open daily.

Over 100 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com

Memorial Day Drink Specials!

Friday – Monday

$18 house margarita pitchers

5:30–9:00 pm

Free Drink

Lobster Sunday with Buffet

$13.49

Fri. and Sat. (Dinner)

$12.99 4:10–10:35 pm

Sun. and holidays

11 am–9:30 pm

Free Drink

Lobster Buffet To Go Available: Lunch $3.49/lb. • Dinner $4.49/lb.

Gift Certificates Available • Party Trays Available

10% Off Total Bill

$2 Off Buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $15 purchase.

$3 Off Buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $30 purchase.

Free Birthday Meal

With purchase of 8 adult meals and valid ID.

$1 PBR Drafts

ALL DAY MONDAY

Memorial Day – Sunday 2:00–6:00 pm

“Sensational Spanish Cuisine!”

Café Japengo

4933 Niagara Ave.
(Niagara Ave. & Bacon St.)
Ocean Beach • 92107

619-222-1722 • Free WiFi

www.cafejapengo.com

Flamenco Show... Sunday 7pm

Flamenco singer Angelina Aguuetas & Guitarist Juan “El Moro”

Paella Brunch Sat & Sun 11am–4pm • Banquet Facility • Catering

Food, wine, music & culture direct from Spain... Open Daily 11:00am

1653 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach • (858) 273-1218 • www.costabrewers.com

Tango Restaurant & Lounge

Live Entertainment, Piano Bar Friday & Saturday Nights

Serving Lunch Wednesday–Friday

11:30 am–2:00 pm

Dinner served nightly

beginning at 5:00 pm

Flamingle Every Night

All-you-can-eat buffet

Seafood | Sushi Bar | Hawaiian Barbecue | Dim Sum

(Oysters, dungeness crab, ribs & jumbo shrimp served after 4 pm)

Lunch Buffet

$7.99

Ages 3-6 $3.49

Ages 7-10 $5.49

Mon.-Sat. 11 am-4 pm

Free Drink

Dinner Buffet

$11.99

Ages 3-6 $4.49

Ages 7-10 $6.49

Mon.-Thurs. 4:30 pm

Free Drink

FREE DRINK with purchase of entrée. With purchase of entrée.

10% Off Total Bill

$2 Off Buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $15 purchase.

$3 Off Buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $30 purchase.

www.blueparrotbarandgrill.com • Free WiFi

Ocean Beach • 92107

4993 Niagara Ave.

“Best New Restaurant” — B.D.

“Best Food” — Open Table Dines’ Choice • “Best New Restaurant” — SignOnSanDiego.com

www.TangoOnGrand.com • 760.747.5000 • 417 West Grand Avenue, Escondido

Happy Hour Every Day!

4:00–7:00 pm

50% Off Bar Menu Drink Specials


1 Free Buffet Party of 10 or more.

1 Free Buffet Lunch or dinner. Minimum $15 purchase.

1 Free Buffet Lunch or dinner. Minimum $30 purchase.

Voted “Best Food” — Open Table Dines’ Choice • “Best New Restaurant” — SignOnSanDiego.com

www.TangoOnGrand.com • 760.747.5000 • 417 West Grand Avenue, Escondido

Happy Hour

Restaurant & Lounge

Bring in this ad to get 1/2 off any bottle of wine any day of the week!

*Excludes Private Cellar selections. With purchase of entrée.

Flamingle Every Night

All-you-can-eat buffet

Seafood | Sushi Bar | Hawaiian Barbecue | Dim Sum

(Oysters, dungeness crab, ribs & jumbo shrimp served after 4 pm)

Lunch Buffet

$7.99

Ages 3-6 $3.49

Ages 7-10 $5.49

Mon.-Sat. 11 am-4 pm

Free Drink

Dinner Buffet

$11.99

Ages 3-6 $4.49

Ages 7-10 $6.49

Mon.-Thurs. 4:30 pm

Free Drink

FREE DRINK with purchase of entrée. With purchase of entrée.

10% Off Total Bill

$2 Off Buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $15 purchase.

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Lunch or dinner. Minimum $30 purchase.

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www.TangoOnGrand.com • 760.747.5000 • 417 West Grand Avenue, Escondido
appetizers such as leek ravioli (which resembles Indian and Persian food but is domestic beers. Small patio. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W.

RESTAURANTS

THE CATAMARAN RESORT HOTEL AND SPA

BOARD AT THE BAHIA RESORT HOTEL OR

1125 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-688-8888. Chris Walsh, manager. Ingrid Croce in honor of her late husband, musician George Michael, is an elegant restaurant featuring international wines by the bottle (only plonk by the glass), with a menu that changes daily. La Casa de la Masa, a popular Mexican restaurant, is located in the same building as the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa. — E.B.

THE BAHIA BELLE

6930 Alvarado Road, Cardiff, 760-5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-551-2739. 39° 55′ 46″ N, 117° 13′ 3″ W. The Bahia Belle is a European-style restaurant with a Latin American influence. The menu includes such dishes as ceviche, fettuccine with garlic served with mixed greens and a garlic vinaigrette, and grilled salmon with a lemon garlic sauce. The restaurant also offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. — B.D.

Mama’s Bakery and Lebanese Deli

4237 Alberta Street, North Park, 619-686-1817. Mama’s Bakery and Lebanese Deli is a small family-owned business that offers Lebanon-style cuisine. The menu includes such dishes as lamb kefta (spiced ground meat balls), stuffed grape leaves, and stuffed bell peppers. The restaurant also offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. — E.B.

The Kebab Shop

43rd Street, Southcrest, 619-264-6525. The Kebab Shop is a Middle Eastern restaurant that offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. The menu includes such dishes as lamb kefta (spiced ground meat balls), stuffed grape leaves, and stuffed bell peppers. The restaurant also offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. — E.B.

Dine, Drink and Dance Like the Greek Gods

Live Lobster & Rack of Lamb Dinner

Dinner for Two $39.95 (Reg. $59.95)

With the purchase of 2 drinks. Served with soup or salad, potatoes, fresh vegetables and pilaf bread. Valid any day. With ad. Expires 6/4/09.

LiveGreekMusic & DANCING Thurs.–Sat.

Happy Hour 4–7:30 pm Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.

50% off beer, wine by the glass & wells

Outdoor fireplace, patio & separate smoking section available.

6030 Paseo Del Norte • Carlsbad • 760-630-9-0150 (672)

Serving dinner until 12 am Fridays & Saturdays • Family Owned and Operated • View our online video at Videonary.com

D.Z. Akin’s

9612 Symphony Circle, La Jolla, 858-558-9599 • haruyasushi.com

SAKE BOMB

BIG BEER & BIG SAKE

We are open until 10:30 pm in front of the University of San Diego. We serve a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. The menu includes such dishes as lamb kefta (spiced ground meat balls), stuffed grape leaves, and stuffed bell peppers. The restaurant also offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. — E.B.

The Bahia Belle

4646 Coronado Street (near Balboa), San Diego 858-268-8648

Beer & wine available.

Open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30-2:30, 5-11; Fri. 11-11:30; Sat. 5-11:30.

The Bahia Belle

Dancing, cocktails, and live music while cruising Mission Bay

under the moonlight...

Dine, Drink & Dance Like the Greek Gods

Live Lobster & Rack of Lamb Dinner

Dinner for Two $39.95 (Reg. $59.95)

With the purchase of 2 drinks. Served with soup or salad, potatoes, fresh vegetables and pilaf bread. Valid any day. With ad. Expires 6/4/09.

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Happy Hour 4–7:30 pm Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.

50% off beer, wine by the glass & wells

Outdoor fireplace, patio & separate smoking section available.

6030 Paseo Del Norte • Carlsbad • 760-630-9-0150 (672)

Serving dinner until 12 am Fridays & Saturdays • Family Owned and Operated • View our online video at Videonary.com

Stay slim! Eat more Shabu Shabu!

Have fun and cook your meat and vegetables in a Japanese Hot Pot!

LOW-FAT, HIGH-PROTEIN AND HEALTHY!

3-ITEM COMBO

$2 OFF

with this ad.

1. Cook the vegetables in the hot pot
2. Swish-swish the meat in the pot
3. Dip meat & veggies in two sauces

SHABU-SHAMU-SHAMU

4646 Coronado Street (near Balboa) San Diego
858-268-8648 Beer & wine available. Open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30-2:30, 5-11; Fri. 11-11:30; Sat. 5-11:30.

The Bahia Belle runs Friday and Saturday nights. Cruises begin at 6:30 pm.

$10 PERSON

ALL DAY, EVERYDAY

SAKE BOMB $6.95

BIG BEER & BIG SAKE

Expires 6/14/09

Free Roll

BUY 1 ROLL, GET 1 FREE
With FREE Miso Soup

Dinner only. With this ad. Expires 6/14/09.

Haruya

Mexican-American style

9340-B Claremont Mesa Blvd. (at Ruffin Rd.) 858-565-9995 • haruyasushi.com

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$10 PERSON

Haruya sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, "hunter" omelet. Lunch: the pork-chop sauerbraten, breaded veal wrapped in thin slices of ham and cheese, stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley, and mozzarella. The menu here focuses on traditional Jewish-American dinner entreés (including a lovely hummus-seafood salad and an ethnic sampler plate), plus 110 different stuffed-salad dishes among them the very popular corned beef. To start the day, there are American and Jewish breakfast specialties, including omelets, hash browns, and eggs Benedict. The menu includes such dishes as lamb kefta (spiced ground meat balls), stuffed grape leaves, and stuffed bell peppers. The restaurant also offers a variety of international beers and wines by the bottle. — E.B.

The Bahia Belle

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Dinner only. With this ad. Expires 6/14/09.

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This text contains a mix of information about different restaurants, markets, and a public auction. It appears to be a mixture of articles and ads, with sections on food, drink, and cultural events. The text is varied, with some sections providing detailed descriptions of dishes and others offering brief summaries or mentions of events. The overall tone is informative and descriptive, aimed at providing readers with information about various dining and shopping options.

For instance, there are descriptions of dishes at different restaurants, such as "The mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame "Chino-Latino" dishes..." and "Served family style. Plenty for vegetarians...". There are also mentions of markets, such as "Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches,..." and "Pappalecco is a sophisticated coffee-gelato-eatery...". Additionally, there is a mention of a public auction with various items up for bid, such as "We'll purchase or take it on consignment for our next auction."
**RESTAURANTS**

**NORTH COASTAL**

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**24** Awesome Coastal Bars and Restaurant Guide 2010. This book will show you the best of what you can visit in the north coastal region of California.

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**Spices Thai Cafe**

1800 Valley Center Rd., Carlsbad, 760-729-4099. Spices Thai restaurant that's not only eclectic but also visually stunning. The menu is filled with delicious Thai dishes that are both tasty and healthy.

**SOUTH BAY**

**Bathroom 2305 South Coast Highway 101, Carlsbad.** This beautiful bathroom, with its breezy seaside front, is a branch of an upscale sushi business ten years longer than his. This restaurant is famous for its fusion Japanese sushi and sashimi, with quality ingredients and a wide variety of dishes. It's a must-try for any food lover.

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2244. Outside, it reminds you of a barn; crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie Fan-ny bread, roasted marinated peppers, double-crum bread (chance) or the meat and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich squares with haggis sauce, and the crepes are delicious and filling too. Bin’s wife is Austrian and makes great Vienna-style coffee. Open 7 am to 5 pm. Monday through Wednesday, 9 am through Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**AZA Seafood Bistro** 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-542-0500. If you can make it past the bland exter- **E.B.**

**Kountry Kitchen Ramona 626 Main Street, Ramona, 760-793-3200.** Thanks goodness the Kountry Kitchens’s still around. They still open at 5 am for the farmers and anyone else who’s up that early. The Italian Saucepiste Breakfast is still a delightful trap-bacon-sausage with a rich, luscious flavor, along with eggs and hash browns. Up the street is the Cowtown Country Service, a quieter place with the same eggs, sausage and bacon. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Olde Homestead Fudge Co. 190 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760-773-7782.** The Fudge Factory’s greatest dish is not what it’s named for, but rather what it is — N.W.

**Loa Tropical** 1941 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-596- 9066. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town: long, angled roof with a portico dressing up the basic house structure behind. It’s a great sprawling place that’s ideal for kids and families. You can’t beat their omelets, all 19 of them, from the Just Yum Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, Cheddar, or American) to the magnificent Factory Omelet (a build-your-own: up to four meats, eggs, vegetables). A Greek family has turned this location outside Santee from an abandoned se- nior hall into a regular pit stop for both the community and its visitors. For lunch, try the Factory Burger. It has two hamburger patties, plus eggs, meat, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Pablo’s of the Desert** 990 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760- 767-5753. Pablo’s claims “Authentic Mexican Cuisine, patio dining, and great tequila margaritas”! Well, the gar- nished patio is open when the weather is favorable, and the cuisine runs to gringo favorites in the Mexican mode (lots of combo plates), but the flavors are honest and pleasing. The most auth- entic dishes come from the “Special- ties” section of the menu, including a good chile verde (pork in green chile sauce), various varieties of es- caladas, and several flavors of chilquillos. Full bar,包括 sangria, margaritas, Mexican beers. Closed in the fall, mostly on weekends; see the calendar for other seasons, open for lunch and din- ner with drink specials. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

**User Reviews — RESTAURANTS**

**Best user comments from Reader website**

**Brick Alley Bar & Grill, Midway District**

As good as you can expect from a bar and grill. We noticed that Brick Alley had opened recently and thought we would try it. Before going we saw the previous review, which almost convinced us not to go, but we decided to try it for ourselves anyway. “Disappointing” is not the way to describe this place. The ambiance is very cute and the service was nice. I can’t vouch for the meals the previous reviewer got, but we each got burgers (blue bacon on burger and potato on bun) and they were both very well done. The garlic fries are also better than average garlic fries. Based on the vast dis- crepancy between our experience and the experience of the previous reviewer, it might be safe to say that Brick Alley is good at being a bar and grill — and really that’s what you should expect from a bar and grill.

**by hujedaddy, 5:36pm, May 16, 2009**

**Thai Time II, Midway District**

Great food, friendly staff, and nice ambience. Great Tom Yum soup. I give this place two thumbs up! — kendrya, 9:51pm, May 11, 2009

**The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn, Mission Valley**

This hidden gem is hidden on the side of King’s Inn. We never would have discovered it if we didn’t have a coupon for dinner. One of the best Mexican restaurants in San Diego. You get a lot of good food for the money and the atmosphere is incredible. Great complete meals for under $10. Make sure to try the enchiladas suizas. Enjoy it once and you’ll become a regular.

**by ddg410, 8:21am, May 11, 2009**

**Now Serving Crab Legs with Dinner Every Night, Monday-Sunday!**

**All-you-can-eat Japanese • Chinese • Seafood • Italian**

**3rd Lunch $5.99 Dinner (includes drink)**

**Buy 1 Dinner Buffet at $7.99, 2nd Buffet is $3.99 Buy 1 Dinner Buffet at $9.99, 2nd Buffet is $5.99 Expires 6/18/09. One coupon per couple.**

**Claremont location only. Friday Night/Saturday/Sunday Dinner Price. Crab legs served all day Saturday and Sunday. Over 150 dishes alternated daily!**

**VIP Oriental Buffet**

5541 Claremont Mesa Blvd. • 858-571-8473 (In Madison Square plaza just west of the 805) | Open Sun-Thurs. 11 am-9 pm Fri. & Sat. 11 am-9:30 pm

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— N.W.
While the mainstream has wound down to its summer speed of one blockbuster per week, the alternative cinema has been spewing out counterprogramming aplenty, some of it by big fish.

The Limits of Control is Jim Jarmusch, Mr. Absurd. In form a thriller, it feels more like an endurance test. A stone-faced and tight-mouthed mercenary (Isaach De Bankolé) receives last-minute instructions, in Spanish through an English interpreter, at the airport for a hugger-mugger mission in Spain: “Use your imagination and your skills. Everything is subjective” and “The universe has no center and no edges. Reality is arbitrary.” In a repetitive series of prearranged encounters—a telltale order of two espressos in separate cups, an icebreak- ing watchword of “You don’t speak Spanish, right?”, an exchange of matching matchbooks, a chewing and swallowing of a slip of paper inscribed with indecipherable letters and numbers—he moves from Madrid to Seville to the hinterland, changes suits from metallic blue to brown to gray, receives further instructions along the way: “Wait three days until you see the bread. The guitar will find you.” Something so far-fetched, so encoded, so self-indulgent, is not apt to stir much curiosity or hope of satisfaction. The approaching end, if we keep in mind the promised appearance of Bill Murray, is apt to stir despair. Yet even though the course of action is far from riveting or involving, it’s still followable and watchable, largely because Jarmusch (working with Wong Kar-wai’s cameraman, Christopher Doyle) demonstrates an eye for line and plane, and intermittently because of the phantom nude with a gun and a pair of Buddy Holly glasses (“Do you like my ass?”), made-to-order for the cover of a paperback potboiler. Aiming not for forward propulsion but for circumstantial fill-in, the film could teach a lesson or two to conventional thrillers, lessons in noticing the surroundings, soaking them up, settling into them. (“Sometimes,” observes one of the protagonist’s mysterious contacts, a white-wigged, cowboy-hatted Tilda Swinton, “I like in films when people just sit there, not saying anything.” Words to the wise.) Then again it could, conversely, take a lesson or two from conventional thrillers. When the ultimate target of the mission wonders along with the viewer how the hired gun penetrated the fortifications and attained the inner sanctum, it won’t do for him to say, “I used my imagination.”

The Song of Sparrows is Majid Majidi. The Iranian director of Children of Heaven and The Color of Paradise and others, a card-carrying animist, needs no lessons in attentiveness to, aliveness to, the surrounding world. The opening shots of domestic ostriches from the neck up, the pursuit of an escaped ostrich by ten men on foot, a solitary pursuer patrolling the hills in a homemade costume as an ostrich decoy—all of that, besides being fresh material on screen, amounts to a master course. The scene soon shifts to the big city, Tehran, where the Little Man protagonist, shopping for a new hear-
ing aid for his daughter, falls into a new line of work as a motorbike cab-
by, with a new set of sights to take in. (E.g., the assorted salvage strapped onto the back of his bike to be carted home at the end of a day: an antenna, a window frame, a mini-fridge.) The film, an oppressive depiction of hand-to-mouth existence, gets within arm’s reach of the sentimentality of De Sica-style humanism, but the unlovable-ness of the driven, desperate, humorless, high-handed patriarchal hero repels a full embrace.

The Girlfriend Experience is Steven Soderbergh, the second or third film of his so far this year, depending on whether you count the two-part Che as one film or two. The title describes the services offered by a high-end Manhattan escort played by a sleepy porn star, Sasha Grey, in her aboveground debut. (Never heard of her, myself.) These subterranean credentials should not lead you to expect any special degree of explicitness in the sexual activity, of which there is next to none. There is, meanwhile, a parade of clients and business associates and, for purposes of some superficial first-person narration, a recurring journalistic interviewer; and there’s a good deal of talk of economic angst against a backdrop of the 2008 presidential election; and there’s a bit of discord in the relationship with a nonpaying boyfriend, a pretty-boy personal trainer at a workout gym. It’s all quite banal and clinical, a potentially interesting and challenging choice that fails to reach or approach its potential. The sum is a digital doodle an hour and a quarter in length, gleamingly photographed, vapidly improvised, pointlessly nonlinear, parsimoniously informative.

The blockbuster de la semaine breaks the summer streak of prequel, prequel. It could easily have kept it going. Although the Dan Brown novel of Angels and Demons was indeed written before The Da Vinci Code, the screen adaptation of it (directed again by Ron Howard) takes care to situate itself afterwards with a reference or two to the returning hero’s “recent involve-

ment with, shall we say, Church mys-
teries” and his consequent strained relations with the Vatican. Which one came first scarcely matters. It’s just another day in the life of a Harvard symbologist (Tom Hanks again, with a hair trim), spearheading, by virtue of his scholarly tome on the secret society of the Illuminati, a beat-the-clock investigation into the kidnapping of four cardinals in line for the vacant papacy, the one-by-one, hour-by-hour murder of them in spectacular fashion in far-flung corners of Rome, and, for the pièce de résistance, the scheduled midnight demolition of Vatican City. Sport-

ingly, the mastermind behind this dia-
bolical plan has thought to provide cryptic clues to the Path of Illumina-
tion, leading from murder site to mur-
der site to bomb site. In one madcap

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**SASHA GREY’S PERFORMANCE IS TOTALLY CAPTIVATING**

and Soderbergh makes her prettiness devastating—

Riss McCammon, ESQUIRE

“I WASN’T BORED FOR A SECOND. It smacks of right-now vérité, is smartly written and very well-made.”

Jeffrey Wells, HOLLYWOOD ELSEWHERE

“I GOT MY MONEY’S WORTH. An elegant piece. Once more Soderbergh demonstrates he’s a silky smooth craftsman.”

John P. McCarthy, BOXOFFICE

“IT’S A HALL OF MIRRORS. Sasha Grey isn’t the first porn actress to go straight, but she may be the first to allegorize her own situation.”

J. Hoberman, VILLAGE VOICE

“SCINTILLATING! IT STRONGLY RECALLS THE GODARD FILMS OF THE 1960’s.”

Scott Foundas, LA WEEKLY

“SASHA GREY ISN’T THE FIRST PORN ACTRESS TO GO STRAIGHT, BUT SHE MAY BE THE FIRST TO ALLEGORIZE HER OWN SITUATION.”

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Pamela Promenade
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5700 East Adams Ave (619-238-2340)

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ES Fundador Parkway
El Cajon
1800 Parkway Plaza
(619-489-4366)

The Great Discovery (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 1:30, 4:05, 7:00, 10:05) 12:10 Sat.-Sun.

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7500 East Adams Ave (619-489-0286)

Rio Vista
4800 B Street (619-271-3333)
The Somnambulist (PG) Fri. (11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30) 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:20, 12:20, 2:20) 4:00 Sun.

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15

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7801 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

Monsters vs. Aliens
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San Diego Wild Animal Park
1200 Wildlife Way, Zoo Drive (858-654-4646)

LA COSTA
La Costa
6911 College Avenue

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 1:30, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00) 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:10, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10)

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NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain 14
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (877-799-6644)
Angels and Demons (PG-13); Dance Flick (PG); Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13); Hannah Montana: The Movie (PG); 17 Again (PG-13); Star Trek (PG-13); Terminator Salvation (PG-13); X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13)

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Angels and Demons (PG-13) Fri. (9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 12:45, 1:05, 1:25, 3:35, 4:35) 5:10, 7:40, 8:10, 11:20 Sat. - Sun. (9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 12:45, 1:05, 1:25, 3:35, 4:35), 5:10, 7:40, 8:10, 11:20 Sun. (10:40, 12:55, 3:15), 5:25, 7:45, 10:05; Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13) Fri. (11:35, 2:40) 4:35, 9:45; Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) (11:30, 2:40) Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:40, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30); Obessed (PG-13) Fri. (4:45) 10:45 Sat. - Sun. (4:45, 10:45) 17 Again (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (11:00 a.m.) Star Trek (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (9:30, 11:00 Fr., 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:30, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30, 10:00, 10:30) Terminator Salvation (PG-13) Fri. (10:20, 11:00, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00) X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) Fri. (9:45, 11:45, 1:05, 2:35), 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (9:45, 11:45, 1:05, 2:35)

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NOW PLAYING

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evening of running around the Eternal City, with the erudite hero dispensing little lectures on art and history on the fly, there is perforce no time for leisurely sightseeing in the Jarmusch manner, soaking up, settling in, despite the obvious lures of several three-star Michelin tourist destinations. Perhaps the built-in benefit of its earlier position in the bibliography of Dan Brown is that the plot can’t top The Da Vinci Code in nonsensicality and grandiosity. To cancel that, it does try. And try and try.

M OVIE L ISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for new underwear. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.


■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN) DCHA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 22; OCEAN RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14

The Brothers Bloom — Ryan Johnson’s caper comedy starring Adrien Brody, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel Weisz, and Rinko Kikuchi. (HILLCREST CINEMAS) LA JOLLA 12. FROM 5/22

Crank — High Voltage — Jason Statham, his slender heart, his beat-the-clock recovery effi, chummed with a spastic camera, warping lenses, sophomoric smut, stupidly-acting. With Amy Smart, Bai Ling, Collin Gunans, Jr., and Dwight Yoakam, directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor. 2009.

■ HORTON PLAZA 14

Dance Flick — Musical spood directed by Damien Dante Wayans, starring Shoshana Bush and Damon Wayans, Jr.

■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN) DCHA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14. FROM 5/22

Earth — The circle of life, all around the globe, arctic 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 harsh realities, but sometimes it’s just paradoxe.” Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield. 2009.

■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN) FASHION VALLEY 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14.

Every Little Step — A natural for a documentary-auditions for a Broadway revival of A Chorus Line, a process that mirrors the original show, provides a privileged peek behind the curtain, introduces and reveals the nu- meral 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, as much as before they can come together one of them gets bumped off. Thoughts then turn to revenge. Shallows: just the right depth for the juvenile target audience. “(Are we cool?) “Yeah, we’re cool.” With John Ortiz, Las Alonso, and Gal Gadot, directed by Justin Lin. 2009.

■ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

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, barreled 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, as much as before they can come together one of them gets bumped off. Thoughts then turn to revenge. Shallows: just the right depth for the juvenile target audience. “(Are we cool?) “Yeah, we’re cool.” With John Ortiz, Las Alonso, and Gal Gadot, directed by Justin Lin. 2009.

■ (HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 5/22; KEN, THROUGH 5/22)

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past — Dickson’s Christmas Carol rewritten as a sex comedy, balding goblins less water. The girl-juggling glamour photographer, a seriously dimmy Matthew McConaughey, learns overnight that he is, and always was, a one- woman man. Jennifer Garner is the high-achieving hard-headed hostrice who has been cooling her heels for the heel. With Michael Douglas, Beckin Meyer, Lacey Chabert, Robert Forster, and Anne Archer, directed by Mark Waters. 2009.

■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN, DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Gigantic — Orthodox American indie, a bag of mixed nuts, oversized: the likable Paul Dano, the take-me-or-leave-me Zooey Deschanel, John Goodman, Ed Asner, Jane Alexander. The image is so pale, it appears almost to be behind a white veil. Directed by Matt Aslin. 2009.

■ (HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 5/22; KEN, THROUGH 5/22)

Gomorrah — Worm’s-eye view of the Neapolitan underworld: obscure relationships and operations; occasional slaughter, broad expanses of banality. The unfamiliar actors and the vérité-camera create a plausi- ble impression that it’s all really happening, whether or not you can make much sense of it. Based on the nonfiction best-seller by Roberto Saviano; directed by Matteo Gar-rone. 2008.

■ (LA PALOMA, FROM 5/22)

Hannah Montana: The Movie — Starring 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, aka Hannah Montana), daughter of a down-home Tennesseean, Robby 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-frosted as it is, the film sheds no credible light on the actual existence of Hannah/Mi- ley, 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 Chel- som. 2009.

■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

I Love You, Man — A guy comedy with an original angle. A woman’s man with a well-developed feminine side suddenly feels the lack of a male comrade when the time comes to pick a best man, belatedly casting about for a buddy to cultivate. The lapses in taste — no, the rage, steady assaults on taste, the projectile vomit, the fart commen- tary, and so forth — lower expectations.

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early on. But the personable Paul Rudd in the pivotal role has plenty of opportunity to show off his gifts, particularly in his forced efforts to be a guy’s guy, more particularly the urge to be witty running way when inanely or inarticulately tongue-
efforts to be a guy’s guy, more particularly the pivotal role has plenty of opportunity to
early on. But the personable Paul Rudd in the pivotal role has plenty of opportunity to
early on. But the personable Paul Rudd in the pivotal role has plenty of opportunity to
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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 differential interest. Slickly done, nonetheless.

**HILLCREST CINEMA**

The Soloist — A Los Angeles Times columnist (Steve Lopez by byline) finding a story on a homeless schizophrenia classical musician, and making something of it, is quite different from a team of filmmakers finding the same story predigitized. What they chiefly make of it is a couple of outsized performances by Robert Downey, Jr., and Jamie Foxx. Director Joe Wright devises a nice subjective effect when the collective’s solo part is joined in his mind’s ear by a full orchestra, downpouring the passing traffic in a free-way tunnel. But the accompanying birds soaring over the city are a bit much. As are the Jupiter-landing psychodelic lights accompanying a rehearsal of the L.A. Philharmonic. A sprinkling of flashbacks to How He Got Here adds little but filler. With Catherine Keener, Tom Holland, Lisa Gay Hamilton, John Benjamin Hickey. 2009.

**FLOWER HILL 4; GALSUMP 15**

The Song of Sparrows — Reviewed this issue. With Reza Najj, Maryam Akbari, Hamid Absaloum, Ahmad Alikhahi, directed by Majid Majidi.

★★★ (5/5, 22 THROUGH 28)

Star Trek — Enjoyable prequel, thirty years after the same-named debut of the series on the big screen. The chaotic and incom- pletely prequel might somewhat neutralize the emotional punch of the battle of Javits-Th囫囵 Kirk at the same moment as his father’s death, but the reintroduction of the old familiar characters — the assembly of the changeable crew for the maiden voyage of the U.S.S. Enterprise — can’t help but be fun for initiates. Chris Pine’s Kirk, sounding as though modelled on no weightier a proto-type than Christian Slater, starts out an obnoxious punk and fails to advance very far beyond that. Zachary Quinto’s Spock, on the other hand, has some big ears to fill and fills them fully, achieving that elusive goal of undramatic intensity. If it’s to say that the film, rather than stand on its own, benefits from the groundwork of its forerunners — if it safely and securely goes where others have gone before — it would also be fair to object that the speedy evolu-

tion of special effects since the last Star Trek outing, seven years previous, serves to tem-
er the “ensuing” adventures anticlimactic. Topping what came before — a petty enough creative impulse in the first place — is in effect topping what came “after.” That may not constitute disrepect, but it consti-
tuates disproportion. Director J. J. Abrams’s preference for the rambling Steadicam and the trembling closeup reveals him further to be a man of trend as opposed to a man of tradition. With its gigantic hands-of-

Fredly Krueger enemy spaceship, its Mad Max-y tattooed heathens, and its gratuitous CG monsters, the film is, by the standards of the franchise, skimp on ideas, apart from a bit of time-travel acrobaticity that enables Spock to be two places and two ages at once. Which is to say, enables Leonard Nimoy to play a part. Karl Urban, Anton Yelchin, Zoe Saldana, John Cho, Simon Pegg, Eric Bana. 2009.

**CAMERON MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 9; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARQUEEPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; SD RANCH 12; PALM PROMINENCE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWER 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; Santee Drive 9; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 5/21**

Watchmen — Continued escalation in the superhero genre, one or two steps above the Dark Knight. Adapted from “the most celebrated graphic novel of all time” (the escalation commence, even if the book is roughly akin to “the most cele-

rated reality-TV show” or “most cele-
bated MMA fighter”), it runs almost two hours and three-quarters, though “runs” really isn’t the word. The violence intermittently, but not relentlessly, reaches levels of post-Romans horror-film gore. (Zack Snyder, director, came to fame with his re-

make of Romero’s Dawn of the Dead!) The population of superheroes, without an ex-

act head count, seems to exceed that of the X-Men. And the fashionable “darkness” of the genre permeates all the way to a purgatorial heaven, or is it? (It’s not Aristotle’s.) There is a New Orleans sequence that features a set so badly overdressed as to be unintentionally hilarious. But although most of the film’s depiction of the Sistine Chapel makes you feel as though you are getting the opportunity to experience something

sorts). In this story, the Preferiti are kidnapped and the race is on around Rome to find them before they are all killed and a

herent prologue might somewhat smother the “ensuing” adventures anticlimactic. Topping what came before — a petty enough creative impulse in the first place — is in effect topping what came “after.” That may not constitute disrespect, but it constitutes disproportion. Director J. J. Abrams’s preference for the rambling Steadicam and the trembling closeup reveals him further to be a man of trend as opposed to a man of tradition. With its gigantic hands-of-

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Greed Machine

“Close the stores for six months...there would be from coast to coast a regular massacre.”

‘W’e invent ourselves,” Walter Franz tells his brother Vic, “to wipe out what we know.”

The title of Arthur Miller’s 1968 drama, The Price, points in various directions, none of them fixed. Ostensibly, it’s about the current value of pre-Depression furniture. The attic of a New York brownstone, about to be torn down, looks like a cluttered antique shop: a wicker bassinet, sturdy Spanish Jacobean table, old baseball gloves and bats, puffy chairs, even a stately harp. The myriad items, many hanging in clusters from the ceiling, read like a family’s biography—up to a point. There’s nothing new after 1929. That’s when Victor married Esther, divorced him. She took the children, and in time, he had a nervous breakdown. The brothers have been estranged since their father died 16 years ago.

The sibling opposition looks pat: the unsellish son sacrifices hopes and dreams; the greed-machine, who refused to loan his brother $500 for school, abandons familial responsibility and lights out for the lute. But, as Walter points out, each view is an invention, designed to bolster self-images and block the truth.

The furniture’s from “another world,” as is the appraiser, Gregory Solomon. The 89-year-old came from Russia in 1903. His last name’s a symbolic, fount of wisdom giveaway. The playwright stuffs him with author’s messages, including a great speech about our disposable economy: buying something permanent locks you in for life; whereas something new means the prospect of limitless, if evanescent, choices (“close the stores for six months...there would be from coast to coast a regular massacre”). When Solomon says “with furniture, you cannot be emotional;” he also means casting a cold, realistic eye on the past.

What actually happened becomes a three-person— if you count Esther, and she does—Rashomon. Through many a long scene, they wipe the grime from the lenses on their lives. And the more they see, the more a tidy resolution fades away.

Arthur Miller said that for each of his plays, he probably wrote at least 2000 pages. He also said, in 1979, that he only read snippets from books and grew impatient with overwritten prose: "the older I get, the more I wish to cut" them. I guess the older I get, the more I overwriten prose: “the

The Price, Arthur Miller’s 1968 drama, is being presented by the Old Globe Theatre’s "Classics Up Close" series. The play runs just under three hours (Miller originally intended it to be a shorter, seat-squirming. It didn’t help that Dominic Chianese, Andy Prosky in the Price

Directed by Richard Seer; cast: Andy Prosky, Leisa Mather, Dominic Chianese, James Sutorius; scenic design, Robin Sanford Roberts; costumes, Charlotte Devine; lighting, Chris Rynne; sound, Paul Peterson.

Playing through June 14; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623.
**THEATER LISTINGS**

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to materials given, 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. Check the box office.

The 16th Annual Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival

The ambience of the Lipinsky Theatre presents the 16th annual exploration of “Jewish culture through theater, dance, and visual arts.” The Festival takes place at various locations. For shows, days, and times, call the Rep at 619-541-1000. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 73 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, 619-541-1000. 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH JUNE 30.

**Bed and Sofa**

Polly Pen (music) and Laurence Klau-

fen (lyrics) turned a black-and-white silent Russian movie (1926) into musical, in which the charac-

ters sing right through it. Sonya is a home
dee Wake World War baby, who rose up to
care for her ailing mother, Moskow. Apartment 56. Sonya and her mother in law Ludmilla take the bed, Volodya the sofa – for a while. Then Ludmilla and Volodya fall in love – for a while. The story, which moves with sharp, Chekhovian twists, is also a political allegory about how revolutions, the men in Ludmilla’s life, “go round in circles.” In the exquisite Cygnet Theatre production, directed by Sam Murray, Jordan Miller (Sonya), and Lance Arthur Smith (Volodya) bring to life these very real characters.

**Chapter Two**

“Bed and Sofa” is a briskly paced show. Buckley’s a triple threat: people acknowledge failure, or mumble, or (especially the chorus) important lines: they talk to the floor, test: people acknowledge failure, remembers, and connects the characters. As Amanda, the controlling mother based on Mark (“Big Love”) Olsen’s drama, Robert Peters handles both sides with skill. Amanda, however, also had a smudge of the harpy, missing from this portrayal. As Tom, Sean Cox (also speaks, an over-the-top, ungleefully, call her approach that makes Will’s character more irritating than than. Though unsure about the degree of her “devotions,” Sarah Zimmerman locates Laura deep within herself, like a diving bell in a world of Hollywood celebrities, in-cluding a character that weaves into the glass closet. Exiled Polyxenes bring an army of Argives, to seven-gated Thebes, to battle his brother Issacoles, who worships tyranny as a god. Everyone, is a Greek chorus of Phoeanian woman on their way to Delphi, suffers as a result. What Eu-
ripides supplies, missing in the origi-

nals, are the psychology and motives behind the deification. Marianne McDonald’s translation features crisp, interlaced dialogue and ranks among her finest. And the Theatre, Inc. production, visually, lots, ranks among its. Actors in Middle Eastern dress perform before an an-
ci ent, concerts in the outside world have
tendered by Scud missiles. The acting, never as divided as the brothers. Fred Harlow commands the stage as Thetis and Oedipus, blind men who see clearly. Young Benjamin Stull, in a cameo as self-sacrificing Morro-
cois, provides refreshingly clear sentiments. But many in the cast tale important lines: they talk to the floor, or (especially the chorus) zip that it key information’s lost.

**Peter Pan**

California Center for the Arts hosts a production of the popular musical based on James M. Barrie’s tale of the boy who wouldn’t grow up. The cast is composed of 100 men, women, and children from across California. SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 1333 OLD GLOBE BOULEVARD, ENCORES, 702-734-4343. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MAY 31.

**The Price**

As part of its “Classics Up Close” series, the Old Globe Theatre stages Arthur Miller’s drama about how- ers trying to determine the value of their father’s legacy. Richard Seer directing. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1333 OLD GLOBE BOULEVARD, 619-239-0523. 8PM THURSDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MAY 31.

**Mapping the Hood**

Art at the Core: Building Commu-

nity presents a multimedia dance-
	
				the piece and stories of people of the sister communities City Heights and North Park. ARTS.OREDOS.COM. TENANT AVENUE THEATRE, 220 TENANT AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MAY 31.

**National Comedy Theatre**

Everyone, including a Greek chorus about interlocking subterfuge. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JUNE 21.

**Space for God**

InterMission Productions presents an original piece written and per-

fomed by pastor Steve Watts about the “hope and heart-break of a divine call.” LA MESA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 4503 PALM AVENUE, LA MESA. 619-643-4173. 7:30PM FRIDAY.

**Spider’s Web**

Cygnet 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, 1383 STRAND WAY, CORONADO, 619-423-4695. 8PM THURSDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH MAY 31.

**Suds: The Rocking ‘60s Musical Soap Opera**

West Street Theatre presents Melinda Gilb, Steve Gazdernos, and Bryan Scott W’s “then show”, originally created for the San Diego Rep and now hailed as the first “jakes musical.” Gazderenos and Javier Velasco directed. WEXLR RESORT THEATRE, 1660 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7465. 1:45PM & 4PM THURSDAYS, 1:45PM & 4PM SATURDAYS, 1:45PM & 4PM TUESDAYS, 1:45PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH JUNE 21.

**That Night School**

Community Actor Theatre reopens its refurbished space with this “amusing/menacing” comedy about interlocking subterfuge. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH STREET, COLLEGE AREA. 619-264- 3301. 8PM THURSDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JUNE 14.

**Weekend Comedy**

Broadway Theater presents Sam and Jared Bob’s comedy about double-book ing. Two couples mis-
takenly rent the same mountain cabin for the weekend. “one couple is staid and middle aged; the other, freewheeling and young.” BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROAD-

WAY, VISTA. 760-806-7005. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUN-

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