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$200 Off English Class*

English as a Second Language Program
ESL/TOEFL $200 a month
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Club Salsa

TUESDAYS
“Tropical Tuesdays”
Dedicated to Bachata & Merengue!
Bachata lessons @ 8:30 pm

NO COVER WEDNESDAYS
So Ca’s best Live Salsa bands & Djs.
No cover all night.
Best in Salsa & Merengue.
Live dance lessons @ 8:30 pm by Valerie.

SUNDAYS
Best DJs in Southern California
Dance lessons @ 8:30 pm
DJ @ 8:45 pm

555 Fourth Avenue
San Diego’s Gaslamp
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Perfection made visible…

COOL AS EVER

A Necessity of Luxury
• Finest Custom Designs Created on the Premises
• Engagement rings, Bridal Sets and All Fine Jewelry
• GIA Staff
• Buyers of Estates, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Jewelry, and Fine Watches

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AND VIEW OUR EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS, CUSTOM AND ESTATE JEWELRY FOR THAT SPECIAL VALENTINE GIFT!

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Body after BABY

Best Treatment for Cellulite and Body Shaping

$99 (Reg. Price $200)

First Treatment
1 area. Not to be combined with any other VelaShape offer. Area size is up to 8.5 x 11 inches. Expires 3/6/10.

*Optimum results with series of treatments. Results may vary.

9040 Friars Rd., Suite 500
Call us to schedule your FREE consultation:
1-888-220-9476
beautitudemedspa.com
M-F 10 am-7 pm, Sat. by appointment.
Conveniently located in Mission Valley, 2 blks. west of Costco.
All medical procedures and consultations performed by Dr. Chang, M.D.

See our complete ad in the Health and Beauty section.

$200 Off English Class*

English as a Second Language Program
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Conveniently located in Mission Valley, 2 blks. west of Costco.
All medical procedures and consultations performed by Dr. Chang, M.D.

See our complete ad in the Health and Beauty section.
Go BIG for only $15

MARDI GRAS

6 PM to MIDNIGHT
FAT TUESDAY
FEB 16, 2010

Entertainment Line-up

The E Street Dance-Off
Kruicial Element featuring Adriana
Dance Crews, breakdancers, & Hip-Hop beats

The Candy Factory
DJ Kiss * Roxanne Dawn * DJ Frances
All Female DJ’s and a street filled
with glamorous Eye Candy Go-go dancers

The Market Street Cirque
DJ Kiwi * DJ Turtlefuzz * DJ Wolfgang Von Cope
Zirk Ubu’s Aerial Acrobatics, Balancing Feats,
Fire Dancing, Contemporary Vaudeville,
Mystical Characters and Magical Puppetry

G Street Skate Fever
Freestyle Skating & Roller Disco featuring
Vegas Heat, Skate This, Venice Beach Skaters
DJ Matty A & DJ Joey Jimenez

Carnival Alley
An Array of Carnival games
benefiting local Charities

J Street Bayou Ballyhoo
Featuring Uplifting Gospel Performances
in our Louisiana Swamp!
Nervis Brothers * Voices of Praise
Bishop John W. Haynes & Change
* Eddie Baltip & Fulfillment*

Roving Performers
Watch for our spectacle of sight & sounds
throughout the event!
Chris Rubin Productions * Critical Brass Band
Capoeira Brazil * Super Sonic Samba School *
Third Coast Jazz Band * Middle Earth * The Platt Brothers

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS
Dinner Packages $30 - Includes Entry & Entree!
VIP Packages $40 - Deluxe VIP Benefits

923
Bandar Restaurant
Bare Back Grill
Bela Nightclub
Blue Point Coastal Cuisine
Brians 24 Restaurant Bar & Grill
Chianti Ristorante
Confidential Restaurant & Loft
Crock’s Restaurant
Dicks Last Resort
Double Deuce
Fred’s Mexican Cafe
Gaslamp Strip Club
Gaslamp Tavern
Greystone The Steakhouse
Henry’s Pub
Hooters Of Gaslamp
Jimmie Love’s
Jailhouse Joe’s
La Bocca
La Fiesta
Maloney’s Tavern
Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge
Nicky Rotten’s
Ocean Room
Osestra Watergrill
Osteria Panevino
Patricks II
Port Mediterranean Cafe
Red Circle
Red Pearl Kitchen
Rock Bottom Brewery
Rockin Baja Coastal Cantina
Sloppy Joey’s
Sin Nightclub
Stage Saloon
The Bitter End (Tipsy Crow)
The Field Irish Pub
The Grape Wine Bar
The Keating / Sway
The Lime Tequila Bar
The Marble Room
The Merk / Krust
Thin / Onyx
Trattoria La Strada
Urban Bar and Grill
Vin de Syrah
Voyer Lounge
Whiskey Girl
Xavier’s Bar & Grill

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SKYY

Go to www.gaslamp.org for advance ticket locations, additional deals and online details
Love is the journey, not the destination.
Get unlimited rides on MTS bus & Trolley with a $5 Day Pass!

www.sdmts.com
February 11, 2010

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The lobster is endless at Valley View Casino!

Enjoy all-you-can-eat lobster every night of the week at Valley View Casino!
Plus, indulge in over 30 feet of seafood, authentic cuisine from around the world and decadent desserts. And when you join the Players Club, your first buffet is free! So, come out of your shell and dig into some of ours.

FREE all-you-can-eat LOBSTER BUFFET!
when you join the Players Club

Offer is for new Players Club members. Please present coupon when joining the club. Membership is free! Valid for lunch or dinner; lobster served at dinner only. Not valid with any other dining offer. Management reserves all rights. Expires: 4/2/10

— See Classifieds

Come Out Of Your Shell!

Enjoy all-you-can-eat lobster every night of the week at Valley View Casino!

FREE all-you-can-eat LOBSTER BUFFET!
when you join the Players Club

Offer is for new Players Club members. Please present coupon when joining the club. Membership is free! Valid for lunch or dinner; lobster served at dinner only. Not valid with any other dining offer. Management reserves all rights. Expires: 4/2/10

San Diego Reader February 11, 2010
**VIKER** Car Audio Heaven announces an incredible promotion on top-of-the-line Viper car alarms. **VIKER**

Buy one of the fantastic Viper car alarms below and save up to $150 by receiving a gift card you can apply towards your purchase instantly.

### **VIKER** Car alarm
- Starter kill, lights flash, door protection, impact sensor with Warnaway and code-hopping technology. Limited lifetime warranty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchase price</th>
<th>Gift Card</th>
<th>You pay</th>
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<tr>
<td>$999</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$189</td>
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#### Installation charges not included.

### Why cut into your original headrest?

New 7” LCD monitors with headrest available in three colors: black, gray and tan.

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<th>Installation charges not included.</th>
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<td>$179</td>
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### JRZ Bass Super Sale!!!

- Thudding 300-watt 12” woofer & deep bass crystal-clear amp

<table>
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<th>Price</th>
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<td>$199</td>
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#### Installation charges not included.

### ITEM OF THE WEEK

- **AVH-P3100DVD**

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<th>Installation charges not included.</th>
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<tr>
<td>$349</td>
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### Double DIN Eclipse AM/FM/CD/MP3/WMA

- Front USB, front aux jack (3.5 mm), green or red backlight, centered of iPod (PC-008 optional)

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<th>Installation charges not included.</th>
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<td>$119</td>
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### Pioneer DEH 11E

- 200-watt AM/FM, detachable-face CD, iPod jack, and RCA output to add amplifier. Authorized Kenwood dealer.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>$69</td>
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### Installation charges not included.

### Eclipse In-dash stereo

- New for 2009 ~ Introducing a fantastic new in-dash navigation unit with a 7” touch screen color monitor, DVD, CD, MP3 with iPod Control (cable optional), Built-in Bluetooth for Hands-free calling. Navigation has turn-by-turn voice guidance, 12.3 million points of interest & icons for specific landmarks. Optional satellite radio, HD radio and rear-view camera, 6-channel 5v preamp outputs for connecting multiple amplifiers.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Was</th>
<th>Now</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1299</td>
<td>$999</td>
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#### Authorized Eclipse dealer.

### Kenwood Huge Blowout on a 200-watt AM/FM/CD Player with Front-Panel iPod Input

- Includes (4) 120-watt 6.5” Speakers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Save over 50% off MSRP</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>$149</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Authorized Kenwood dealer. Installation charges not included.

### Car Audio Heaven Announces a SUPER SALE on The World’s Speaker Technology Leaders

- Buy any set of Boston Acoustics or Infinity Components speakers & get the 2nd set of equal or lesser value FREE!

### Apple iPod Solutions

- iPod wired directly to your stereo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call for price!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Apple iPod Solutions will add sound directly to your radio. No noisy FM modulation. NC, Kenwood, Pioneer, Alpine, GM, Chrysler, Nissan, Ford, Honda, Mercury, VW, Toyota, Audi and Acura.

### Installation charges not included.

### Our Window Tint Department has tripled in size with outstanding quality. Rear 3 windows some cars

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<tr>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>$99</td>
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### There are shade limitations for this special

### Super Sale on a Remote Controlled Car Alarm


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<td>$99</td>
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### Rear-View Backup System with Rear-view Camera and Mirror with Screen

- Save $100 off MSRP

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### Automatically activates when you back up.

### AVH-P3100DVD


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<th>Installation charges not included.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$349</td>
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</table>

### The World’s Leader in Mobile Audio Technology Rewards Car Audio Heaven. We are celebrating by offering this unprecedented Ultimate Amp Package!

- Buy One **rockford fosgate** $500-1 Super Powerful Crystal Clear Mono Block 500 Watt Bass Amp For $269 and Get a **rockford fosgate** Crystal Clear 4 Channel 300-4-300 Watt amp for Half Off!!!!!

### Call for price!
Do You Have Pterygium? (¿Carnosidad?)

Pterygium (pronounced tur-IJ-ee-um) is a growth on the inner corner of the eye which could lead to irritation or astigmatism.

Our fast procedure can remove this growth with no sutures.

Dr. Yaghouti has been voted America’s Top Ophthalmologist by Consumer Research Council of America.

Need Contacts or Glasses?

We accept some insurances.

Routine Eye Exam

for Evaluation of:

- Cataract
- Corneal Diseases
- Glaucoma
- Dry Eye
- Other Conditions

We accept some insurances.

‘90 for new patients with no insurance.

Savings of ‘180. Does not include prescription for contacts or glasses. Expires 2/27/10.

One Week Only!

Free Designer Sunglasses (Up to $400 value) with All-Laser (blade-free) Custom Intralase iLASIK

Prada • Dolce & Gabbana • Fendi • Gucci • Bvlgari

BEST DEAL

$1799 OR $42.00* PER MONTH

PER EYE, ANY PRESCRIPTION. WITH COUPON.

Regularly $2850 per eye (approx. savings of $1050 per eye).

All-Laser (blade-free) Custom Intralase

$3500* PER MONTH

Regularly $2500 per eye (approx. savings of $1000 per eye) PER EYE

Based on financing both eyes.

One Week Only!

Sunglasses limited to $400 value for one single pair of sunglasses when both eyes are done. Limited to current inventory. No cash value. Some restrictions may apply. Call for details.

*Financing is based on 48 or 60 months at 13.9% interest per month, depending on total amount financed (OAC). All offers are for new patients only with no prior history of refractive surgery. Cannot be combined with any other offers and/or promotions. No cash value. Offer cannot be applied retroactively to prior procedures. Some restrictions may apply. Expires 2/27/10.

Down payment and processing fee required. Must be employed for past two years. Valid state-issued identification, major credit card and checking account in patient’s name required. Certain terms and conditions may apply. Call for details.

Payment Options

- Interest-Free Financing (Guaranteed Approval)*
- Some Insurances
- FLEX Spending Account
- Military and Law Enforcement Discounts

General Ophthalmology

Winner of 2009 Patients’ Choice Award by Consumer Research

San Diego Pro Football Player Shaun Phillips

“Having the doctors in the top 1% of the country in your own backyard – you can’t ask for anything better.” - Shaun Phillips, Pro Football Player

San Diego Reader February 11, 2010
Storage Delivered!  
As easy as 1, 2, 3

1 Have one or more Big Box storage units delivered to your apartment or house.

2 Load the Big Box at your convenience. Each measure 8’x5’x7’ (LxWxH) and can hold up to a room and a half.

3 The Big Box will be picked up for secure indoor storing. Free storage access available 7 days a week.

Schedule a Big Box delivery by calling 888-245-6974 or online at www.BigBox.com. Rates as low as $59 per month, backed by a low price guarantee!
A Town Left Dry

By Don Bauder

People need money and water. Just ask Borrego Springs, the San Diego County desert town of only 2600 year-round residents.

Through the years, it has endured failures of its major businesses, as entrepreneurs have run out of capital. Meanwhile, citizens have vehemently disagreed over a critical question: is the water supply adequate for Borrego’s long-term survival? If not, will new investors try to rescue the crown jewel real estate assets that were recently padlocked?

Early this year, two Borrego landmarks closed down for lack of capital and, many say, lack of business acumen. The Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa and its adjoining Montesoro Golf & Social Club basically closed up shop in the height of the tourist season, after warning for several months that the end was near if more investors wouldn’t step forward. Montesoro had been through bankruptcy twice under different ownership and the name Rams Hill. The ranch had been owned by Copley Press under the name Casa del Zorro. “It was losing $5 million a year; it was a charity case for David Copley,” says Gregory Perlman of Sherman Oaks–based GH Capital, who managed both operations for a group of investors. David Copley and his mother Helen wanted to keep it open for sentimental reasons; management wanted to dump it.

Montesoro is a planned community with 800 homes built or on the drawing boards and a championship golf course. The ranch has 44 rooms, 19 villas, a restaurant, and pool. The golf course is still open but will certainly be closed for five months in the summer, says Perlman. The clubhouse is locked up. The ranch is essentially shuttered. Seventy people have lost their jobs — a lot for a town the size of Borrego Springs. Montesoro defaulted on a $3900 loan from the Insurance Brokers and Agents Candidate PAC on December 31. The same day, he received $3900 from the Hartford Advocates Committee, Multi-Candidate Committee. The California Insurance Wholesalers Association kicked in $1000 on December 29. Other heavy hitters included $3900 from La Jolla’s Camino Landmarks closed down the summer, says Perlman.

Meanwhile, Allied executives have been busy writing checks to influential people. On December 1, Southern California area president James Ambroso, based in Poway, gave $250 to city councilman Kevin Faulconer, who is up for reelection this year, as did general managers Fred Ashford and Neil Mohr. Business development executive Dick Chase Jr. gave $150, and controller Richard Normand gave $100. Sales manager Scott Miller gave $25 on December 1. Back on January 22 of last year, Ambroso gave $270 to the just-elected councilwoman Sherri Lightner. Marketing director Johnnie Perkins chipped in $175. On January 30 it was division manager Steve Miasen, with $150. Ashford gave $100.

Nikki Clay and Stephanie Saathoff of the Clay Company, a lobbying firm registered as Allied representatives, gave Ben Hueso a total of $400 on October 9. Allied’s parent firm, Republic Services, gave the District Eight councilman’s state Assembly campaign $1500 on June 30. He got an additional $1000 on December 17.

According to a lobbying disclosure statement filed with the city clerk last month, both Clay and Saathoff engaged in fundraising activities on behalf of Kevin Faulconer, raising a total of $2550 at a “coffee event” they held for the Republican councilman on December 1 of last year. And between them, Clay and Saathoff reported giving a total of $330 to Todd Gloria and $400 to Sherri Lightner. Clay gave $200 to Tony Young.

Allied has not limited its support to individuals alone. In February, March, and June of last year, according to state filings, the company, through Republic’s political committee, gave a total of $10,300 to the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, a business-backed group campaigning to oustsource city services. President Lani Lutar frequently appears before the council and elsewhere on behalf of outsourcing. Allied’s Ambroso is a member of the group’s board of directors. And on December 25, the filing says, Republic gave $10,000 to the Sanders-linked San Diegans for Accountability at City Hall. That group is backing a November ballot measure to make permanent the City’s so-called strong mayor form of government.

Well insured Ex-assemblyman Juan Vargas, running in the Democratic primary for state senate, raised a total of $146,700 through the end of last year, recent filings show. Controversial for favoring the insurance industry during his time in the Assembly, Vargas, who went on to work as an influence peddler for Safeco of Seattle and later its successor company Liberty Mutual of Boston, picked up $3900 from the Insurance Brokers and Agents Candidate PAC on December 31. The same day, he received $3900 from the Hartford Advocates Committee, Multi-Candidate Committee. The California Insurance Wholesalers Association kicked in $1000 on December 29. Other heavy hitters included $3900 from La Jolla’s Camino Investments and the same from developer Bruce Tabb.

Wash and Waring Controversial La Jolla lawyer Jim Waring, who once represented the daughter of the late mobster Moe Dalitz and was later forced out as Mayor Jerry Sanders’s land-use honcho during Sunroad Enterprises’ over-height office-tower fiasco back in August 2007, gave $450 to the city council campaign of ex-Democratic assemblyman Howard Wayne.

Meanwhile, Aaron Feldman, the developer behind Sunroad, gave $800 to the state senate campaign of Juan Vargas in December.

— Matt Potter

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

By Moss Gropen

‘W’hen the people in power are completely senseless with regards to human values and their ideal is a sweatshop, you are screwed.’ That’s a man who identifies himself as Brian Meidell, talking about Rockstar San Diego, the local branch of the New York–based videogame behemoth. He’s not alone. Meidell’s blog comment — one of dozens — typifies the disillusion and anger that grip some of the video-game developers who toil on the slaughterhouse floor or in the tomato fields, the folks who make the video games face little exposure to biohazards or chemical toxins. But Rockstar San Diego employees — and their wives — claim that the atmosphere at the office is rather toxic.

It’s the distaff in this largely male enclave who took the initiative recently to air their husbands’ grievances. They’re preaching to an in–industry choir, using the forum of a gaming–community website, Gama–sutra.com. The “Wives of Rockstar San Diego,” as they prefer to be called, addressed a letter “to whomever it may concern,” posting it in the Rockstar Spouse’s Blog. The missive — perhaps best (if uncharitably) described as the proverbial rambling manifesto — is redundant and cryptic. Nonetheless, it is a provocative broadside at a company that, some contend, treats its employees “like slaves.” Apparently, a number of the 180 or so game developers — who take pains to distinguish themselves from the standard–issue corporate types who rule the roost — have been spending too much time at the office. They complain of 12– and even 14–hour days, working as their wives, say they were a content lot when Rockstar was still Angel Studios, the locally owned denizen of hard–core game builders led by CEO and namesake Diego Angel. But that was before the buyout, which resulted in the rebranding of Angel. According to a longtime former employee (who cautioned me against writing anything that might reveal his identity), when Angel and cofounder Michael Limber gave themselves a golden handshake in late 2002, “The entire culture changed.” The “ex–Rocker” (to use Gamasutra blog parlance) says that, in 2003, what had been a well–run company with a “family atmosphere” turned into a corporate mill — expected to be completed in October.

By T.B. Boudreau

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Comments

1. Try “Calle Articulo 123,” as it appears on the street signs.

   It is named after the 123rd article of the Mexican constitution, which includes the right to strike. Concerning pronunciation, it would be “Articulo uno dos tres.”

   By refriedgringo

   6:15 p.m., Feb 4

For Art’s Sake

Proposed Arts Center Denied Building Use

Chula Vista — Artists in the South Bay are facing extinction. Schools have eliminated art classes. There are no galleries or art events taking place. Yet there is a thriving community of artists who call the South Bay home. They are young and old and produce art that is full of life — but have nowhere to show it!

Recently, an organization named Trinidad Incorporated offered to clean up the building at 3525 Main Street — vacant for over eight years — in exchange for two years’ use of the property for a multiservice community center. Services would include a community arts center, a teen–fathers program, and headquarters for a mobile health clinics network.

Voit Real Estate Services holds the rights to the building. When told of the
San Diego
Reader
February 11, 2010

Little or no money down, affordable payments.
Criminal/DUI Attorney
Beat any price. Problems, returns, etc. 619-234-8471.
Foldenauer Law, 619-564-8877. Visa/MC/Amex.

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Global Legal Resources, LLP. Call 888-846-8901.
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A town left dry
continued from page 6

on water-bond payments, and an affiliate of the Borrego Water District has initiated foreclosure proceedings.

Beginning in 2004, Perlman began recruiting speculators to buy and resuscitate the facility that was renamed Montecitos. One of the major early investors was Iranian Jewish immigrant Ezri Namvar, a Los Angeles real estate
swinger who several years ago was said to be worth $2.43 billion. But in December of 2008, he and his Namco Cap-
ital were forced into bank-
ruptcy. According to the Los Angeles Business Journal, civil suits charge Namvar with running a Ponzi scheme, and fed-
eral investigators are probing the matter.

The Borrego Springs spread
is listed as a creditor in both
Namvar’s and Namco’s bank-
ruptcies, and Perlman is named
as the primary investor. In 2006, Perlman boasted to the Union-Tribune that Namco was a partner in Montecitos.

“Namco is a family-owned
opportunity fund with $4 bil-
lion in assets. Between the
two of us, there’s a ton of cap-
it,” said Perlman.

About three years ago, Namco’s interest in Borrego was bought by Philadelphia’s Lubert-Adler. It pulled the plug this year. The various partners had paid $10 mil-
lion for Montecitos and pumped $15 million into it and in 2007 had bought the ranch for $4.5 million and put $10 million into it. “Lubert-Adler lost $30 million, Namco lost $15 million, and I lost $5 or $6 million,” says Perlman. Banks and other entities lost the rest. At the end, the ranch was losing $200,000 and Montecitos $250,000 a month.

Many Borrego citizens blame Perlman. “He acts like a rich kid with attention deficit disorder,” says Mark Jorgensen, retired superintendent of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which surrounds the town. “He jumped on one thing after another and never finished it.”

For example, the partners bought a grocery store downtown with the idea of making it into a modern market “but let it go to ruin,” says Jor-
gensen. The investors bull-
dozed a 12-foot-wide, nearly
two-mile road through the
park to be used for off-road
vehicles. The state sued and
negotiations are ongoing.

The new owners “raised the rate on golf membership” and didn’t honor previous memberships, says Tom Gor-
ton, former columnist for the Borrego Sun. Therefore, many residents quit and joined a nearby country club. Resi-
dents formerly could use the
restaurant at any time; the
new owners required reserva-
tions. “Taco Tuesdays” and jazz festivals that welcomed the locals were canceled.

“Shutting out the local
community was a huge mis-
take,” says Lane Sharmann, a
member of one of the town’s founding families. “They created
a lot of bad will” and couldn’t replace locals they drove away with affluent out-
siders who could afford the
prices they were charging.

Perlman and colleagues
bought a $3 million home with a
guesthouse and plane hangar on 80 acres. “They bought
properties willy-nilly,” says Dennis Dickinson, a retiree. “Most people assumed that sooner or later they would go broke.” Perlman knows he has
problems but says most of the
townsmen appreciated his
group’s efforts.

Now the existing facilities, plus vast acreage set aside for future development, are all for sale as “an unpriced offering,” according to material
distributed by Marcus & Mil-
litch, which has the exclu-
sive listing. But there are prob-
ing: the market for resort hotels and golf courses is mis-
erable, and water woes could scare off buyers. Last year, 139.5 golf courses closed in the U.S. and only 49.5 opened,
according to the National Golf
Foundation.

Chris Karamitsos, co-founder of the National Golf and Resort Properties Group within Marcus & Mil-
litch, hopes that somebody will buy both Montecitos and the ranch as a package. “There is over $120 million of infra-
structure between the two,” he says. GH Capital and its partners “didn’t market well to an upscale audience,” he says. “They ended up not hav-
ing the resources to do that.

You can create an aura of exclusivity for the property, but that has to be combined with driving traffic to the place.” But the capital pulled out. Any buyer will need patience. “You won’t turn it around and have a huge profit the first year.”

A golf course needs water. The water and electric bill for the Montecitos course is close to a million dollars a year, says Perlman. There are two oppos-
ing camps in Borrego, as there are in other locales: real estate
people say there is lots of water, and environmentalists say there isn’t. Mesquite shrubs, which have extremely deep
roots, are dying, notes Jor-
gensen. One cause is the drop in the water table. Another is the drought.

The water table is drop-
ning between two and three
feet a year, says Dickinson. Water is being drawn at almost five times the rate it is recharged. He suggests that a court appoint a water mas-
ter who would apportion usage. Now, most of the water is used by growers and golf courses.

Sharman thinks water could be apportioned equitably through an ordinance, and the water district should look for outside sources, such as piping water in.

Rich Williamson, head of the water district, says there are 50 to 100 years of water left in the aquifer. He gets that
number from a staff person of the U.S. Geological Survey, which is doing a study. “Pessimism about water is extremely premature,” he says. But Dickinson thinks there will be trouble in 30 years.

“The basin is severely over-
drafted,” says John Peterson, who was the county’s ground-water geologist for 22 years and now has his own firm. Some wells are going dry. “For the most part, we have not been able to identify any addi-
tional sources of water as the ground level continues to fall.”

“Water in Borrego is an economic issue,” says Peterson. “If your water bill went up to $1000 a month, you would use less water.” As the price of water rises, “It won’t be economical for fruit growers. That changes the economic dynamics of the valley.”

And as the price goes up, maintaining a golf course might get quite expensive. Somebody buying Monte-
soro and the ranch will have to ponder that, he says.

Sweat like a rockstar
continued from page 7

had unlawfully mischaracter-
ized some employees as “exempt” — thus denying them overtime pay. Despite a

settlement reported to be in
the $2 million to $3 million
range, developers say that viola-
tions persist. Rockstar game developers, and their unoffi-
cial quasi-union, the Interna-
tional Game Developers Association, term it a “quali-
ity-of-life issue.”

The association, founded in 1995, calls itself “the largest non-profit membership organ-
ization serving individuals
that create video games.” According to the “mission” statement on the association’s website, the group attempts to advocate “on issues that affect the
developer community.”

On Wednesday January 13, the association issued a press release stating that “the IGDA finds the practice of undis-
closed and constant overtime to be deceptive, exploitative, and ultimately harmful not only to developers but to their continued on page 12
Sweat like a rockstar
continued from page 11

final product and the industry as a whole.”

I spoke with International Game Developers Association director Joshua Caulfield, who told me that the majority of San Diego Rockstar game-crafters are members; however, many local Rockstar employees are less enthused about the prospects of meaningful change via the association’s efforts. To start, it’s not actually a union; although it may “advocate” on behalf of game developers, members complain that the group has no teeth. Without the force of a collective-bargaining agreement or litigation, they grouse, disgruntled workers will be subject to the whims of management — by, they claim, “don’t give a shit” attitude. I asked a current Rockstar developer who cautiously — and anonymously — agreed to chat with me via email, “Just how bad are the hours at Rockstar San Diego?” He replied, “Game companies are generally very loose about their hours; Rockstar is actually the most strict I’ve seen. At most companies, you should be in by 11 a.m. or so; right now, we’re supposed to be in at 9:30 a.m. In real life, however, most people come in by 10 a.m., some at 10:30.” He also told me that, until 2009, the hours at Rockstar San Diego had been “surprisingly good…much better than any other company I’d worked at before that.” He noted, however, that, during the past year, as Rockstar has approached completion of the current project, things have deteriorated. “It slowly got worse — at first, we were asked to stay until 8:00 p.m.; Saturday work was supposed to be temporary but it’s now mandatory. Personally, I’m working 10 a.m.–11:00 p.m. these days, but I’m one of the people who stay the longest. Typically, the office starts clearing out at 9:00 p.m. Saturdays are about 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.”

In these economic times, it’s likely that few Americans would lose sleep over long hours by employees who (by many standards) are well compensated. Indeed, one former Rockstar employee — who left the company, as well as the industry, in 2004 — says that by the time he completed his decade-plus tenure at the studio he was making $150,000 and that many of his coworkers took in $80,000 to $100,000 annually. Another current developer says that he receives a salary of $120,000, plus bonuses, while still others receive company stock.

Given the compensation, one might ask, why the unhappiness? After all, according to many blog posters, creating video games is a dream job for many developers, an opportunity to get paid for computer geekiness. And, of course, there’s the slumping economy to consider; as many point out, it’s an employer’s market, especially for positions that pay an industry-wide average of more than $70,000 per year.

Despite the pay (which, for some developers, has actually increased) a chorus of voices says there’s more to it than money. The developers complain that Rockstar management — by, they claim, forcing unreasonable hours and assuming an arch-corporate “don’t give a shit” attitude about its employees — has drained the creative folks of creativity and enthusiasm. However, when it comes to sussing out the root cause (if one exists) for the management-labor disconnect, there’s by no means unanimity among local Rockstar developers. If there’s anything close to a consensus regarding the work environment at Rockstar, it’s that things changed dramatically after the 2002 buyout.

Some of the employees assign primary blame to the head honchos, the corporate big shots, such as Strauss Zelnick, whose perspective is pure Wall Street. A number of developers quip that the folks in charge “have never played a video game in their lives” and are “left brainers.” But there’s nothing to indicate that they’re tried to alienate developers; after all, without designers, there are no video-game studios, and without studios, no product.

Rockstar Games is a wholly owned subsidiary of Take-Two Interactive Software, a publicly traded, billion-dollar company that, according to its December 2009 financial disclosures, was in the red in 2009. It would be easy enough to focus on the media tycoons at the top, the guys with the lucrative stock options and bonuses. But even the most ire of the developers over at Faraday Avenue in Carlsbad are hesitant to single out the Madison Avenue execs who run Take-Two, and by extension Rockstar — it’s not that simple. If anything, complain the game builders with whom I spoke, it’s the local managers who’ve made their lives a living hell; the moguls in New York may be “remote and neglectful,” but the Carlsbad straw bosses are “downright evil.”

In an attempt to get management’s perspective, I placed calls to both the parent company and the San Diego office. First up was the chairman of Take-Two, Strauss Zelnick, whom several Rock-
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Sweat like a rockstar continued from page 12

star San Diego employees have described as “reasonable.” I got a prompt return call from Alan Lewis, their top flack, but he didn’t tell me much, just a version of the standard “no comment.” When I pressed Lewis about the sweatshop allegations, he replied, robotically, again and again, “It is our corporate policy — we don’t comment on any rumors or speculation.” When I asked him if he was sure he didn’t want to say something that might place his media behemoth in a better light, he said, “No, but thanks for reaching out to us.”

I called Rockstar San Diego, requesting to speak to the general manager (or whatever a video-game studio boss is called), but after multiple attempts — messages left — no one ever called back. According to an employee who calls himself “Captain Anonymous,” it’s a workplace that might as well be in Pyongyang, North Korea; he told me, “Employees are being surveilled, and the last person to speak anonymously whose identity was presumed (not proven) was fired. They are not able to speak freely at the office, not even on their cell phones, and e-mails are being watched. It’s in some ways worse than what is being reported so far. Please don’t attempt to locate me personally.”

While it’s tough to determine the scope of the problem at Rockstar San Diego, and tougher still to finger the culprits, it’s clearly not all fun and games at the console these days. Whoever’s to blame, it’s difficult to ignore the ironically blithe puffery put out by local management: “We’re hiring talented people who are as dedicated to fun as we are. Come work and play in the sun at our beautiful facility only 5 minutes from the surf!”

Does the sun shine in Carlsbad after midnight?

---

The cameras are budged at $263,000, and are said to be able to detect smuggling operations during fog and rainstorm conditions.

Of late, smugglers have been making their move during tempestuous, low-visibility weather, when their boats are more difficult to detect. A 34-year-old Guatemalan and an 18-year-old Mexican woman recently drowned when the boat they were traveling in capsized off Torrey Pines.

Source: Diario San Diego
By T.B. Beaudeau
Saturday, Feb. 6

See the Heat

New Thermal Imaging Cameras at Border
Imperial Beach — Recent attempts to smuggle drugs and illegals into San Diego via the Pacific Ocean have prompted the installation of thermal-imaging cameras that have the capability of scanning a distance of ten miles.

The cameras are budgeted at $263,000, and are said to be able to detect smuggling operations during fog and rainstorm conditions.

Battle for the Boulevard

Group Opposes Affordable Housing Project
University Heights — On the agenda for the University Heights Community Association’s February 4 meeting was a vote to support or oppose a 175-unit mixed-use affordable rental housing project for the north side of El Cajon Boulevard in between Alabama and Florida streets. The building would set aside 20 units to house young adults with mental-health issues.

Seconds after the president of the association, Greg Sorini, introduced the item, a motion came from a middle-aged woman in the back of the room recommending that the organization oppose the project due to oversaturation of affordable housing units in the area.

Dave Gatzke, a senior project manager for the developer, Community Housing Works, took the floor to say that they had made repeated offers to discuss the project with concerned neighbors. “All of our efforts have been rebuffed by the board,” added Gatzke.

The following 30 minutes were filled with one resident after another expressing distrust of the developer, saying that redeveloping the area should be the focus, not turning the dragoon into a “mental-health mecca” and a place where at-risk youth are exposed to the prostitutes and drugs dealers who walk the boulevard at night.

“This is going to be a battle,” said one man who also opposed the project. “Why [is Community Housing Works] so insistent on putting this here? There’s land everywhere.”

The item went to a vote. It was unanimous, 30 to 0, all opposed. As the permit process continues, the community association’s continued on page 16
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<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will your exam, surgery and follow-up care be provided by the same doctor?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do they use the new “Iris Registration Tracking Device” for a safer, more effective procedure?</td>
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Driver Flees Crashed BMW, Leaves Passenger

La Jolla — On February 3 at approximately 11:00 p.m., a white BMW was driven down an embankment and overturned. The driver ran from the scene, leaving a woman trapped in the passenger seat.

The car was traveling west on Chalcedony Street and crashed through a wall, descending 100 feet before landing next to a utility pole at the intersection of Academy and where Chalcedony resumes. Remnants of the brick wall fell onto Academy Street.

San Diego police and emergency services freed the woman and put her on a stretcher while interrogating onlookers on the scene.

Residents say that the recent break-ins are similar to a series of burglaries that occurred in 2008, when there were reports of over a dozen robberies. Stolen items included laptops, cell phones, and iPods.

By Nathaniel Uy
Saturday, Feb. 6

Sour Situation in Lemon Grove
City Attempting to Seize Strip Mall

Lemon Grove — There’s a tug-of-war going on in Lemon Grove. Clutching onto the other side of the rope is the city of Lemon Grove; at one side of the rope is the owners rejected them.

Grove Development Agency offers to buy the properties because they don’t want it to be the first thing people see when coming into Lemon Grove,” said D’Anna. He says that the redevelopment agency has never designated the area as a blighted area and as a result are using the free-way off-ramp proposal as the basis for acquiring the properties.

They want this property because they don’t want it to be the first thing people see when coming into Lemon Grove,” said D’Anna. He says that the redevelopment agency has never designated the area as a blighted area and as a result are using the free-way off-ramp proposal as the basis for acquiring the properties.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, Feb. 4

Gain of Control
Radio-Controlled Planes OK’d in Parks

Carlsbad — Last year, the City of Carlsbad prohibited the use of radio-controlled airplanes in city parks and restricted their use in a beach area west of Carlsbad Boulevard.

Since June 2009, local plane hobbyists have been trying to get the city coun-
occupied!
the hooked-up car was Sarita's, two or three store-
up. I parked in front of the silver BMW was hooked reverse, and just like that,
was pinch...pinch a car.

a perturbed crab looking
the claws of which pro-
American steel with a low-
Thursday, Feb. 4

Pinched
Tower Truck Repo’s Car —
and Occupants
Lakeside — While stopped
at the 67/Mapleview inter-
section on my way to
San Tita’s Taco Shop in Lake-
side, a truck caught my
eye. A repo truck. You
side, a truck caught my
eye. A repo truck. You

“I predict that this will
not last long. The loss in
will hurt the
city of Tijuana much
more than an attempt to
clean up its reputa-
tion (an absurdity in
itself). First, the bars
will begin to drink in the
streets after hours and that
new law does
more harm than good.
Second, the city will miss
the revenue almost
immediately. Quietly,
things will go back to
the way they’ve always
been.

By refriedgringo
4:43 p.m., Feb 2

Sell It to the Jury
sd County Court
Lounges Now Have WiFi
San Diego — In an effort to
make reporting for jury
duty more enjoyable, the
San Diego Superior Court
has implemented a pro-
gram that allows jurors to
access wireless internet in
the court’s jury lounge at
no charge.

According to a news
release, court staff has cre-
ated WiFi “hotspots” at
four jury lounges located
downtown San Diego,
Chula Vista, El Cajon, and
Vista. Jurors with a valid
juror’s badge number and
a court-issued password

can access the internet. The
WiFi program began
the week of January 25.

By Craig Vansant
Tuesday, Feb. 2

Comments
1. The only thing that has
changed is that the bars
in Tijuana that previ-
ously paid extra money
to the city in order to
remain open longer will
no longer enjoy that lux-
ury. At least, tempor-
arily. If a bar wanted to
remain open until, say,
five in the morning, they
would pay the city for
that privilege. If they
wanted to remain open
for 24 hours, then it
would cost even more.

By Eron Armour
Wednesday, Feb. 3

Tijuana, Refined
New Law Limits Late-
Night Bar Hours
Tijuana — City government
has mandated that the sale
of alcohol in Tijuana will
now be limited. The local
business organization
Cómité Empresarial y Tur-
ístico Mexicano salutes
the limited hours as a way
of demonstrating the city’s
commitment to changing
its image from the any-
things-goes town to a city
of more refined behavior.

Convenience stores will
have off-sale liquor avail-
able for purchase between
10 a.m. and midnight.
Liquor stores, restaurant
bars, and tourist bars (i.e.,
strip clubs and bordello
bars) must shut down their
sales at 2 a.m. and may
not commence again until
10 a.m. Café cantantes
(defined as bars offering
singing/dancing entertain-
ment and perhaps karaoke)
may not sell hooch after
3 a.m.

In the past, TJ bars were
known to stay open 24
hours a day; some estab-
lishment owners paid spe-
cial fees to the city for the
privilege of remaining open
after hours. Now, scofflaws
will be fined and ultimately
closed down if they violate
the new stipulations.

The recent shooting of
a Mexican soccer star at an
after-hours bar in Mexico
City has left an unsavory
impression of such estab-
lishments, an impression
Tijuana does not want to
foster.

By T.B. Beaudens
Tuesday, Feb. 2

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San Diego Reader February 11, 2010
Who did the inciting? As with any incident involving the use of force by police, it depends on who you ask.

“I’m a bureaucrat myself,” pronounces Jantz — almost brightly. Neither imperious nor pompous, he says that along with a handful of undisclosed kindred politicos — he started SD Rostra to provide a locally-focused “center to right” political forum. He explains, “Rostra is an offshoot of [website] Red County. When they started to do more national stuff, they weren’t as conducive to local issues. I felt that we needed a site that emphasized San Diego.” Jantz, while hardly a household name among the rank-and-file, is a longtime fixture in local Republican circles, an insider with connections up the proverbial GOP “yin-yang.” Since 2004, he’s been the chief executive officer of the Grossmont Healthcare District; before that, he served three terms in the La Mesa City Council. All the while, Jantz, who sits on the board of directors of the San Diego Taxpayers’ Association — a “citizens’ watchdog” group — has hoisted the banner of fiscal conservatism.

I queried the veteran ‘Diego politico about the San Diego Unified article: Does he feel the same way about other bureaucrats, e.g., health-care administrators? Would he be receptive to an 8 percent cut in his $160K annual salary? Jantz danced — “The issue hasn’t come up; it’s for the policy-makers to decide.” He was also quick to state that “rego” — whoever that is — speaks “only for himself. He’s one of about 30 or 40 regular bloggers, including local politicians, who’d rather express their opinions anonymously.”

“How Many Cops Does It Take to Get a Naked Man Out of the Water?”

That’s the reaction of a poster on the OB Rag website, who added, “I bet Southeast San Diego wishes they could get this much manpower when there is a shooting in their neighborhood.” Indeed — how many cops does it take to “secure” the beach from a skinny-dipper? That was one of the questions posed by the OB Rag’s coverage of a recent Taser take-down by the San Diego Police Department. On January 30, the online Rag headline read, “Breaking news on Newport, naked man nearly incites riot.” Putting aside the awkward grammar, one might also ask: Was it the nude dude — or the men in blue (black, actually) — who did the inciting? As with any incident involving the use of force by the police, it depends on who you ask.

According to the Rag, the man waded into the “surfing only” section next to the Ocean Beach pier, whereupon he received a mixed reaction (catcalls and cheers) from folks lolling about the tide pools as well as from OB’s contingent of folks hangin’ on the boardwalk. After a brief — and one would assume chilling — immersion, the fellow was then greeted by lifeguards and police, who forcibly “detained” him by wrestling him to the ground. This, in turn, apparently riled up a handful of spectators who, the Rag said, began to shout epithets at the police — who then reacted by rushing a sizeable squad to the scene. With Johnny Law’s pod having been swelled by reinforce-
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From OBRag.org

5000 sirens screaming all around here, and I looked out my window to see if a plane had gone down off the beach. It was all over one silly, tripped-out streaker. "Or something. I couldn’t believe it when I found out it was riding my bike on Cable when a cop car passed me going about 65... I counted 17 cop cars. [1] said yes, there is a comedy god. This has to be the worst over-reaction ever. I thank SD’s finest gang for a great comedy bit that will be up on You-Tube." (Nate Hipple was not available for comment.)

Requiem for a Bookseller

Perhaps he was just reiterating a eulogy to those already in the know, but Arthur Salm, columnist for the online San Diego News Network, recently penned a simpatico send-off for the books of the late Wahrenbrock’s. As local habitues of the musty, dusty (and much-loved) downtown used-book seller know, the cramped little maze of a place went under last summer; Wahrenbrock’s demise had been feared by San Diego bibliophiles after longtime owner Chuck Valverde died in 2008. Still, the unceremonious farewell to the goods themselves — in the form of an ongoing liquidation sale — has been, according to Salm, a melancholy, unsettling thing.

Salm, a familiar voice at the San Diego Union-Tribune until resigning in April 2008, lamented, “When the doors slammed shut last summer, it was surprising (there was no warning) and odd (there was no going-out-of-business sale.) Then, suddenly, fliers announced a can’t pass up liquidation sale: all books $1. Friday (January 29) was the first day of the sale. At 9:55 a.m., about three dozen people were waiting in line outside 726 Broadway. ‘Recounting his own fondness for the place, its peccadilloes and its denizens, Salm misses the quirkiness of the proprietors, whom he characterized as “knowledgeable-to-the-point-where-it-got-weird Wahrenbrock’s folk.”
LETTERS

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

Compound Stalker

Have you read about a stalker lately? I have ("Mysterious Danish Group Builds Exotic Compound on Baja Coast," Cover Story, February 4). Mr. Waterman is by definition a stalker. Come on! Attempting to bribe a Mexican with beer to gain entrance to private property? Feeling suspicious when a Mexican doesn't accept an offer of beer while working? What an unbelievable story of intrusion and bigotry. Mr. Waterman is exactly the kind of person that you don't want for a neighbor and is exactly the type of person I hate to see in Baja. Mr. Waterman, if you have nothing better to do, stay home. Do us all a favor and stop publishing this trash.

Paul Findly
via email

Critical List

Mr. Bauder continues to present reasons why it is not reasonable for the City of San Diego to subsidize the Chargers with a new stadium, all the while elected officials and civic leaders persist in promoting the concept ("Football First, Water Last," "City Lights," February 4). In my opinion, Mayor Sanders is acting in an irresponsible manner with this. But water supply, as raised by Mr. Bauder, is only the top of the list of critical issues facing our city and region.

Here is my list of significant problems that deserve much higher priority than new stadiums or enlarged convention facilities:
1. fresh water supply
2. adequate sewage treatment
3. aging infrastructure for water and sewer lines
4. solid waste disposal
5. local street and road repair

Pro football may be covered on the sports page, but it is a business. As a taxpayer, I resent supporting such a private, profitable enterprise, particularly when so many of our public facilities are deteriorating so badly.

Tim via email

Chargers Win 174-114

Don Bauder's "Football First, Water Last" article ("City Lights," February 4) should be etched in stone and placed in front of City Hall. He hit it on the button. Mayor Sanders' 174 words about water shortages (state of the city speech) is the epitome of San Diego politics.

In my opinion, the mayor's priorities are blurred by pressure from developers who care nothing about the long-term health of our region. This scenario is similar to the investment bankers who nearly brought down the U.S. economy. They also cared about short-term benefits.

As stated in Don's article, it's the job of the mayor and councilmembers to maintain the city's infrastructure, not to tell us what football team to support. If private citizens decide to send money to professional athletes and their owners who earn millions of dollars, I have a suggestion. Tear down the stadium. Sell part of the property to developers, and use the proceeds to develop a park and drive-in theater. Charger games can be shown at the drive-in theater on Sundays, and people could participate in tailgating. The drive-in theater can also be used for swap meets and a parking lot at other times.

I believe that this scenario will generate income for the City, as opposed to losing money as we do now. I suggest that everyone read Don's article in the February 4 edition of the Reader.

Ronald Harris
via email

Afraid Of Pundits

Re "Global Warming Is Crap!" (Cover Story, January 28).

Finally, content in the Reader that I give a crap about.

Katie Denton
via email

At Last

Re "Global Warming Is Crap!" (Cover Story, January 28).

The article's opening discussion gave me great concern that man causing global warming does exist and it will only worsen if left unchecked. I have often been fearful of the possible consequences after being influenced by theistic hunters who promote this theory.

Once I read the article's latter section presenting the cognition of Steve Wampler, and reinforced by Jeff the lawyer's aphorism (Jeff whose last name was apparently left anonymous) that global warming does not exist, I became inspired to accentuate the positive. To exemplify, I am on a fixed retirement income. Following their advice, euphemistically speaking, I will no longer have to include intestinal control products such as lactaid and Beano in my budget.

For a while I lived in shame, believing I was contributing to global warming. Thanks, fellows, for putting this subject in proper perspective and indirectly assisting me in curtailing unnecessary expenses.

Any unbelieving activists out there negating the fact that red meat causes high cho-

continued on page 60
**Thirty-Five Years Ago**
The Introduction Agency was founded in 1973. Their motto is "Dates for every SINGLE one."

The Introduction Agency does not use a computer. They use what they call an "entirely new method." We could not find out what this method was.

— "FOR OUR MATCHLESS FRIENDS."
Jacqueline Burn and Margo Woods, February 13, 1975

**Thirty Years Ago**
Here's how it went at one recent soiree sponsored by the Gift Exchange, this year's new, improved, updated, get-rich-quick-and-mellow chain-letter scam:

New players merely do two things: they pay 50 dollars to purchase a list of ten names (the tenth name belongs to the seller of the document) and they give a "gift" 50 dollars to the person named at the top of the list. Then the new player then retypes the list, deleting the first recipient from the top, adding his own name to the bottom. He finds two friends, selling one list to each for 50 dollars, thus recouping his 100-dollar investment. Then he waits for his name to advance to the top of the list — a position that should net him $50,140.

— CITY LIGHTS, "EASY STREET MADE EASIER."
Jeanette De Wyze, February 14, 1980

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**
While enjoying a recent dance concert at the Spreckels Theater, we wondered: How do the ceiling light bulbs get changed?

[A]n intrepid worker ascends the stairs to the wooden catwalks hidden away between the suspended ceiling and the beams, looking for bulbs that no longer glow. If one or two bulbs are burned out, it's not worth the effort.

— STRAIGHT FROM THE HP, Matthew Alice,
February 14, 1985

**Twenty Years Ago**
Camp Pendleton is Southern California's biggest and most valuable piece of undeveloped land — a 195,000-square-mile island of open space where bison and bobcats coexist with bazooka-carrying infantrymen.

But as Bate's Camp Pendleton Preservation Act moves slowly through Congress, state transportation planners are making progress on a six-lane expressway that would cut through the base's northwestern corner. Named the Foothill Transportation Corridor, it would begin at the intersection of I-5 and Cristianitos Road...and head northeast into Orange County.

— CITY LIGHTS, "FOR A FEW GOOD LANES."
Paul Krueger, February 15, 1990

**Fifteen Years Ago**
I don't know ANYTHING about the O.J. trial, I don't CARE about the O.J. trial, I'm not even CONCERNED that the trial will be fair (’cause how could it be!), and the only thing all this O.J. biz has done for MY homelife is to strengthen my desire, fortify my resolve to get the fuck out of L.A.

— "BIGGEST TWEAK SINCE THE IRAQ WAR."
Richard Meltzer, February 9, 1995

**Ten Years Ago**
Vicente Fox Quesada. Over six feet tall — and some will tell you, the sexiest candidate for the leadership of Mexico, since, well, Emiliano Zapata.

The cowboy boots and the engraved belt buckle signal his accessibility. And when he targets the drug trade, the roar of the crowd becomes greatest.

“The [present government] talks about the lack of safety in Baja California. Narcotrafficking and organized crime are federal crimes. Those are the federal government’s [responsibility]. This is an affair they have not resolved because they are part of the problem.”

— CITY LIGHTS, "FOX POPULI."
Bill Manson,
February 10, 2000

**Five Years Ago**
The woman I planned to marry was accused of first-degree murder. She’d (uncharacteristically) taken part in a home robbery in which someone had ended up being killed. Someone else had already been convicted of wielding the murder weapon and sentenced to life without parole. Dee was brought to trial afterward, where it was established she hadn’t been spattered with blood and her fingerprints hadn’t been found on the weapon or near the murder scene. She had, however, stolen belongings from another room.

— "WHEN YOUR LOVE IS LOCKED UP."
Jay Allen Sanford, February 10, 2005

For more stories by these authors, go to sdreader.com.
By Patrick Daugherty

Catch Up

Mark Martin won pole position for Daytona 500

Bedtime, Super Bowl Sunday, marks the conclusion of the sports year for committed NFL fans. On Monday morning, the still engorged NFL fan arises known it is over. He picks up the morning paper, looks for NFL them and knows how to market herself.

But here’s something you might not know — there were six other women in that race. Can you name one? What’s up with the America’s Cup? I can’t think of another sport that has ripped itself into fish bait the way the America’s Cup has. Do you know that America’s Cup race is happening now? Hard to keep track of the race in the muck of two-and-a-half years’ worth of lawsuits. This is what happens when it gets personal between (according to Forbes Magazine) the 4th richest man in the world and the 52nd richest man in the world.

The 4th richest (Larry Ellison) has spent at least 400 million of his dollars over ten years trying to win the Cup. Yet, it was the 52nd richest person in the world (Ernesto Bertarelli) who won the America’s Cup in 2003 and defended it successfully in 2007. Not fair.

The 4th richest man in the world has filed at least nine lawsuits against the 52nd richest man in the world. The latest one, I think, was heard in the New York Supreme Court three weeks ago. Fourth Richest claimed 52nd Richest has an illegal boat because its sails were not constructed in the land-locked country of Switzerland, home of the defending yacht club. The 52nd richest replied that a proper interpretation of the Cup’s governing document would reveal that only the “yacht or vessel” had to be constructed in the country of the club holding the Cup and that sails could be constructed anywhere.

No American television network — not Versus or Spike or the CW or Telemundo or Ion, CMT, MTV, or QVC — is televising the America’s Cup. The Cup has only been on ESPN360.com. For a buck, I can watch the America’s Cup race on my computer...still. But here’s something you might not know — there were six other women in that race. Can you name one?

What’s up with the America’s Cup? I can’t think of another sport that has ripped itself into fish bait the way the America’s Cup has. Do you know that America’s Cup race is happening now? Hard to keep track of the race in the muck of two-and-a-half years’ worth of lawsuits. This is what happens when it gets personal between (according to Forbes Magazine) the 4th richest man in the world and the 52nd richest man in the world.

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No American television network — not Versus or Spike or the CW or Telemundo or Ion, CMT, MTV, or QVC — is televising the event. However, we can watch a live stream at ESPN360.com.

Come on, 4th richest guy!
By Anthony Gentile

Compton Centennial sends No. 1 Hoover back to drawing board
Posted February 7, 2010
When it comes to playing on the same level as state playoff-caliber teams, Hoover still has some work to do. In a game Saturday night that served as a measuring stick for the state playoffs, the Cardinals lost 80-68 at home to talented, athletic Centennial (Compton).

“Right now, they’re the better basketball team,” said Hoover head coach Ollie Goulston.

For Hoover (19-5), the loss was their first since January 2, snapping an eight-game winning streak.

No. 7 Eastlake tightens grip with win at Hilltop
Posted February 4, 2010
Having lost their last five meetings against Bishop’s, it would have been easy for Francis Parker to accept a sixth when they were down 10 late in the third quarter on Wednesday night. Instead, the Lancers flipped the script, grinding out a 56-52 win over the 10th-ranked Knights.

“It took everybody’s best effort,” said Francis Parker guard Deon Randall.

Randall made three free throws in the final 22 seconds to preserve the victory for Francis Parker. “Last year, they beat us three straight times,” Randall said, “so I wasn’t going to let that happen, and our team wasn’t going to let that happen to us again.”

El Camino upends No. 9 Poway to stay perfect in league
Posted February 3, 2010
After a rocky preseason, El Camino may be hitting their stride at the right time. The Wildcats knocked off No. 9 Poway 66-59 Tuesday night at home to finish the first round of Palomar League play undefeated.

El Camino Guard Chris Gorman led the Wildcats with 20 points, and forward Preston Butler scored 13 of his 14 points after halftime.

Poway was propelled by center Sam Beeler’s game-high 24 points. Since winning eight in a row, the Titans have lost two straight.

Francis Parker ends futility with narrow win over No. 10 Bishop’s
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COMMENTS
El Camino is “The U” of North County basketball, no matter who is playing or coaching on that team they have a unique swagger about themselves. It’s probably one of the reasons they upset Etiwanda last year.

By Broncosdynasty24, February 4, 2010
That’s a good observation. When you go into their gym, you definitely know that you are at El Camino — they have a sneaky home court advantage.

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Faking it

by Barbarella

Politeness is the art of choosing among one’s real thoughts. — Abel Stevens

How can we invite her and not invite him?” I asked David.

“You can’t,” David answered. “You need to decide how important it is for you to have her at the party and realize that he is the price you will pay for her presence. It’s a package deal.”

I took a moment to run through the cost-benefit analysis. Karen was a guaranteed good time. She had just no problem getting along with most people, but this dating was as inflammatory as pepper in the eye. I have friendship in the first place. But this new guy she’d been sparkly, which was one of the many reasons I sought her come off as pedantic; and she was funny. A definite ‘H

Because I hadn’t been up front about my opinion — because I’d said, “Yeah, she’s cool, feel free to bring her over” — I was stuck.

My friend Brian hooked up with a chick who squandered her opportunity to make a good first impression by getting plastered and bellicerent. I’d usually have no problem telling Brian what I think about one of his romances, but the following week, he confided to me that he was really into this girl. None of his romances lasted long, so I figured I’d fake it until he reached the part where he grew bored. After a few months, it became clear I might be waiting a long time. Because I hadn’t been up front about my opinion — because I’d said, “Yeah, she’s cool, feel free to bring her over” — I was stuck having to keep up the pretense.

My usual method with friends who go through relationships faster than a box of chocolates is to remain respectful and supportive. I stick to “He’s sweet,” until I’m probed for more information, at which point I search my mind for favorable adjectives that are also honest. I’m not the one dating the person, so my opinion doesn’t really matter.

When a friend seeks my “opinion,” she’s likely fishing for approval, so that’s what I give. This is usually in that beginning stage, when she is insecure about her selection. If a person is secure in her choices, other people’s opinions are inconsequential. For example, I don’t care what anyone else thinks about David. He’s my partner and my best friend, and when it comes to our relationship, the only opinions at play are those David and I have of each other.

Only when a friend breaks up with her guy are negative sentiments accepted, even appreciated. Even so, I’ve learned to be careful before releasing all those repressed opinions. After my friend Corinne split with a beau I’d found particularly off-putting, I mentioned (over a sympathetic glass of wine) that I never liked the guy. There was a twinge of the betrayed in her voice when she asked, “Why didn’t you tell me that before?”

“Because, he was making you happy,” I explained. “And that’s more important than having you know I thought he was a tool. Which, by the way, is something we both agree on now.” I reframed from sharing another truth — that while Corinne was dating the human repellent, both were knocked off the list for intimate dinner parties — not just by me, but by all of our mutual friends. This was one of those rare cases in which it seemed nobody but Corinne liked the guy, and even for her, infatuation soon expired.

I know I am not as forgiving or accepting as some of my more open-armed friends, but I make no apologies when it comes to choosing with whom I spend time, which is life’s greatest commodity. The hours allotted to each of us on this rock are limited. I don’t see the sense in squandering those hours with people I don’t like.

On the other hand, a little irritation or enervation is worth it when it comes to maintaining the friendships I cherish. If the only options are to fake it or risk making a friendship fragile, I usually choose to fake it in the hope that, years from now, the final tally of the balance sheet will indicate a net profit in terms of friendship.

“It’s a good thing that everyone likes you,” David said with a wry smile.

“Well, if there are friends of friends who think I’m the insufferable one, or friends of mine who put up with you to maintain a friendship with me, I think I prefer not knowing about it,” I said. Then, throwing that wry smile right back at him, I added, “Besides, how could anyone not like me?”

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Love Story

The stucco-and-tile façade of the Chee Chee bar glares blackly out onto Broadway; inside, the stale air is tinged purple. A half-dozen men hunch over the bar; four of them are drinking from 24-oz. tallboys of Pabst Blue Ribbon. The bartender has stepped away from his post; that might be him studying the jukebox on the back wall, or it might not. He doesn’t have to worry much about his neglected post; “urgent” is not the watchword here. “Grouchy” might be a better call, gauging from the loudest man at the bar. “You know the old saying, ‘Women and children first?’” he asks the man next to him. “Children, I get. I don’t know about women.” It seems that love, sweet love, has struck again.

One neighborhood over, at Tango Wine Company in Little Italy, the lighting is better, the mood is more upbeat, and the crowd is decidedly more feminine. Tango regularly hosts “PMS Wednesdays” — an opportunity for women (and men too, I guess) to “sit back and enjoy a fantastic night of Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate.” The shop sells ladies’ tees bearing saucy texts like “women taste better” and “wine rack.” And it sells wine, grouped into such whimsical categories as

continued on page 28

interesting and stimulating. Unfortunately, it ended like a bad script.”
I stop in during their California vs. Argentina Friday night tasting, order a Prosecco, and take note of Vampire Weekend's cheerful song “Oxford Comma” on the sound system. Then I head for the back corner, where five women have scooched in close on a butter-soft sectional to share a bottle of Two Angels Divinity (a red Rhone blend). “Does anybody want to talk about her first love?” I ask. The ladies turn as one toward Sofia: a woman expertly made up and put together in a short tweed dress, a shorter brown leather jacket, dark tights, and sharp heels. “She was rated one of the hottest women in Boston,” boasts one of her friends. Long before Boston took note, however, Sofia grew up in ’70s Montreal in what might gently be described as a strict Sicilian household. “I wasn’t allowed to go to movies or parties,” she says without rancor. “You stayed at home until you got married. You know how most parents want their kids to be doctors? When I told my parents I wanted to be a doctor, they held a family reunion and decided that I couldn’t.” This was not, interestingly, because their brand of traditionalism forbade a woman’s venturing into the workplace. “They were happy for me to be a secretary or anything else, just not a doctor.” Why not a doctor? “Because I would have to see naked men, and then no one would marry me. And in order to date, I had to get engaged. It was like The Godfather — you know, with the family following you as you walked.”

Eventually, anyway. There was a year at the outset where she dated a young man in secret, without the benefit of engagement. “He and I were at the university, and there was the library where people studied — where the Asians hung out — and the library where people had fun — where all the Italians and everybody else would hang out. I had a bunch of Italian friends, and they were in there playing poker, and I went in to say hello. And there was this non-Italian guy, just staring at me. I felt uncomfortable, so I walked away, and he kept staring at me all the way down to the next level. I thought he was one of these bad boys.”

Apparently, the thought was not entirely unattractive. “That was around Valentine’s Day. The morning after Valentine’s, I received a dozen red roses from some other person who liked me, and I was bringing a rose to a girlfriend of mine who had received no roses. It was one of those beautiful wintry days in Canada with big snowflakes, and I was wearing a fur hat like the ones in Dr. Zhivago, and I’m taking the subway to univer-
sity, and he [the guy from the library] walks into my subway car. He said, ‘I like that red rose. You must be a really lucky girl.’ I had never seen him on my subway car before. We struck up a conversation. ‘That led to coffee, and that led to plans for a Saturday evening date — Sofia’s first in all her 18 years. ‘So Saturday, I’m living at home and waiting for him to call, and he calls at five o’clock. The big thing in Canada on a Saturday night — it’s hockey night. The date is to go to a girl’s house: you watch the hockey game, you smooch, and you don’t spend any money.’ That wasn’t an option for Sofia’s suitor. ‘So he said, ‘Okay, I guess we can meet on the subway and go downtown.’ “But when they finally met up, “He said, ‘There’s one small problem. I spent all my money drinking last night with the boys.’ So I had to pay!”

Amazingly, this did not prove to be a deal breaker. ‘There was something genuine about him — and I so much wanted that date. I wanted to get out of the house. I was supposed to be studying at the library, so I wasn’t going home.”

She liked the bad-boy persona (“It was a façade; he was good at heart”); he liked the way she looked and that she was as driven as he was. After a year, Sofia told him, “I’ve got to tell my parents. We have to get engaged. His parents were freaking out — they wanted him to be a doctor, and he was getting engaged to this 19-year-old Sicilian. His mom was afraid it would…slow things down. I told his mother, ‘Don’t worry. I want to be a doctor, too.’ So she took a leap of faith. We had an official engagement party, and then we stayed engaged through college. We went to medical school together and training — from Montreal to Boston to San Diego, and finally back to Montreal. It was something like a ten-year engagement, but it worked very well for us.
We were soul mates; we grew up together. It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun — we didn’t have a home, we didn’t have kids, so we could almost be kids ourselves. And we could travel for our education.”

Traveling also revealed a soft spot in her parents’ old-school worldview. “We lived together after we left home. My parents didn’t know — well, they pretended they didn’t know. They would never ask, but it was kind of understood. I think that in some ways, they were happy — I was in these different places, and they knew somebody was taking care of me. My mom would call, and he’d answer the phone, and she’d say, ‘Hi, honey, give me Sofia.’ ”

Their time in San Diego proved seductive. “He loved the beach — running on the beach. That was one of the reasons we came back and started practicing here.” But the freewheeling long engagement was followed by a painfully abbreviated marriage. “When my daughter was two and my son was one, he passed away from acute viral pneumonia.”

That was in 1990. “I’m sorry that the kids never knew their dad,” she says. “I can tell them what a great guy he was, but they never knew him. It’s hard when you have someone that special in your life. Other people that come into your life sense it. But most people don’t. I think, feel competition with it. A lot of men, to their credit, are more like, ‘Wow, that’s cool that you had that kind of relationship.’ I did marry again, and that was great, even though it ended in divorce. It lasted 16 years.”

* * *

“What are you writing, again?” asks Sam.

He closes his newspaper (I’m pretty sure I see Anne Frank’s name in the title), takes off his suitably chunky glasses, and leans back in his rattan chair. He’s not drinking anything at the moment, but he is sitting in the cool, quiet darkness outside Jai, the bar/restaurant that provides preshow cheer for the La Jolla Playhouse audience. The tanned face below his short, graying hair is not without creases, but the skin between them is in excellent shape, almost shiny in its smoothness. It’s not a huge surprise to find that he is an actor, in town to see his fellows perform in the world-premiere run of the musical Bonnie and Clyde.

“I’m going to bars and asking people about their first loves,” I answer.

“Have you ever seen Sexual Perversity in Chicago? David Mamet did the same thing. He went around to different bars, and he taped conversations, and he wrote a script using that. The movie version was called About Last Night.” Sexual Perversity in Chicago: Joan says to Deborah:

“It’s a puzzle. Our efforts at coming to
where her mother happened to be working, and we started chatting, and she said, ’You should really meet my daughter.’ Then, by the luck of the draw, we ended up getting cast as husband and wife in Close of Play by Simon Gray.’

She was already a minor star; he was ‘kind of the goofy kid from the prairies’ who tripped into theater. “My background is working with kids, using drama and creative drama as a therapeutic tool with kids who have been abused. My brother had been peripherally involved in a community theater group, and this woman I was seeing said, ’Let’s go to this audition.’ I got a part and she didn’t. And then, with relative ease, it just became a regular thing. I had been exposed to some really good theater when I was young, and I found it quite seductive.”

But Sam’s sober background in social psychology was no match for love’s happy onslaught. “The transformation thing starts to happen when you start getting cozy on the couch during rehearsals, practicing lines. It happens easily — you’re involved in some romantic scene, saying these words which are posed to go! I was completely smitten. There’s a great line that Blanche has in Streetcar about her lover: the light went on, and then, when he blew his brains out, the light went off. It was just like that — the spotlight was on for that whole time, three and a half or four years. It was growing up, and all the excitement of acting and being in London and Paris, just really great and fun and interesting and stimulating. like, ’Always believe people when they tell you something.’ There were times when Emily said, ’I don’t know if I can do this’ or ’It’s too complicated’ or ’I’m not

Unfortunately, it ended like a bad script.”

Before the end, there was talk of living together and of marriage. And then Sam went to see Emily in Agatha Christie’s play Black Coffee. Watching her with the man who turned out to be her lover, “I thought, ’There’s something more going on here than what’s onstage.’ She deceived me for a long time.”

The two were back on this continent by this point. Wounded, Sam headed west, putting all of North America between them. But in the years since — Sam is 54 now — “we’ve been able to reestablish a friendship.” Recently, they attended (of all things) a performance of David Mamet’s Speed-the-Plow.

Looking back for wisdom, he says, “It’s kind of an Oprah thing, though it was years later when I heard Oprah say it. She said something very good at being in a relationship; I make mistakes all the time.’” Rather than saying, ’No, no, no — we can do this,’ I should have listened to what she said. People will tell you who they are. It’s more about paying attention than falling, deliciously and romantically.”

Now, he recognizes clues. “I was in a Dutch series, opposite a Dutch hottie. She was married, with kids, and right off the bat we had a conversation about transferance. How we’re not going to fall in love, how we’re going to be careful with each other. I didn’t want to be responsible for wrecking her marriage.”

(Sam and Emily’s names have been changed.)

* * *

It’s just three ladies and I in the sprawling, wooden confines of Fannie’s in Spring Valley, and one of those ladies, Jillybean, is the
Concerned about possible Diabetes and currently have High Blood Pressure?

Eligible participants for this study must:
• Have high blood pressure  • Be at risk for diabetes

If you are at risk of diabetes:
Some risk factors for diabetes include:
• Elevated triglyceride levels  • Elevated cholesterol levels
• Elevated blood pressure  • Elevated blood sugar levels
• Family member with diabetes  • Obesity and/or low levels of physical activity

We are conducting a research study with medications that have been approved by the FDA, for the treatment of high blood pressure.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medication and doctor visits at no charge.

For more information call:
1-888-365-3203

Coughing, Shortness of Breath, Wheezing, Years of Smoking

A worldwide research study is now underway to test an investigational treatment for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), also known as smoker's cough, chronic bronchitis or emphysema.

You may be eligible to participate in this study if you:
• Are 40 years of age or older
• Have a diagnosis of COPD
• Are a current smoker or were a smoker in the past

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants will receive study medication and will be monitored by a medical team including the study physician.

Ask your doctor if this study is right for you.

For more information, call:
1-888-365-3203

Do you have type 2 diabetes? Are you currently taking Lantus®, Levemir®, Humulin®N or Novolin®N?

Has your doctor told you your blood sugar level is not adequately controlled?

Medical researchers are studying an investigational oral medication to see if it can help improve blood sugar levels.

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:
• Be 18 years of age, and
• Have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and
• Be currently taking either Lantus®, Levemir®, Humulin®N or Novolin®N with or without metformin and/or a sulfonylurea and your dose has been unchanged for the last several weeks.

Qualified participants will receive all study-related medical evaluations and study medication at no cost. You may also receive reimbursement for time and travel.

For additional information please call:
1-888-365-3203

ARE YOU HEALTHY?

Synergy Clinical Research is looking for men and women to participate in a clinical research study involving an investigational medication.

To qualify for this study you must be:
• Age 18 to 45
• Male or female
• Non-smoking
• Willing to make overnight stays

All study-related procedures and study medication will be provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated up to $2000 for time and travel.

Please call:
1-888-365-3203

Do you have pain from chronic pancreatitis?

Sanofi Aventis is leading a research study using an investigational drug to see if it reduces pain from chronic pancreatitis.

sanofi aventis
• Chronic pancreatitis pain moderate to severe
• 18-80 years old
• Single infusion of study drug or placebo

1-888-365-3203

MAJOR DEPRESSION

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

You must be:
• 18-65 years of age
• Currently diagnosed with Depression
• Symptoms greater than 2 months

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug or inactive placebo
• Compensation for time and travel

For more information call:
1-888-365-3203

1908 Sweetwater Rd., National City, CA 91950
www.synergysandiego.com
Do you have toenail fungus?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of an investigational, topical medication in the treatment of onychomycosis, also known as toenail fungus.

**We need participants:**
- 18-70 years of age
- With toenail fungus on at least one big toe

**Qualified participants will receive:**
- Examinations by a Board-Certified Dermatologist and study medication at no cost
- Compensation for time and travel

**No health insurance required.**

**THERAPEUTICS CLINICAL RESEARCH**

619-512-DERM (3376)
www.therapeuticsresearch.com
9025 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

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**Afraid to show your feet?**

Do you have toenail fungus?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is starting several new INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT studies.

Call now to see whether you may be eligible to participate.

760-806-9200

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

Do you suffer from Schizophrenia?

Excell Research is starting several new INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT studies.

Excell Research is a leading provider of research studies for psychiatric and neurological disorders. We are currently enrolling participants for several new studies.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in one of our studies, please contact us for more information. Our team of experienced researchers and medical professionals will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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For more information, please visit our website at www.excellresearch.com or call us at 760-806-9200.
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) 836-8350.

Have you been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and are currently Feeling Depressed?

If so, and you are between the ages of 18 and 65 and currently taking medication for your bipolar symptoms you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for bipolar disorder.

Qualified participants will receive:
- No-cost study-related investigational medication and study-related medical care
- No-cost study-related medical evaluations
- Compensation for your time in the study

Call 858-ARTEMIS (278-3647) today to see if you qualify for this research study. Confidentiality is strictly honored.

If this sounds like you or a loved one, please contact us now about our medical research study of an investigational medication to treat the symptoms of depression.

Qualified participants must be:
- At least 18 years of age
- Currently suffering from the symptoms of depression

Those who qualify will receive all study-related care and study medication at no cost.

TO SEE IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE MAY PRE-QUALIFY, PLEASE CALL 1-888-807-8023 OR VISIT Ifeelblue.com

CLINICAL RESEARCH
SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER

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

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To learn more, call the Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital Clinical Research Center at (858) 836-8350.
“You know what’s really sad?” she says. “It wasn’t my marriage.”

Tanya’s first love was a girl. “I was 16 and spent ten years with her. After 30, I began to like men. I have a man. I have a really tall, six-foot-four man.”

Heather finishes her remembering. “Honestly?” she begins. “The one, true, honest-to-God complete and utter love of my life I met right here. I was sitting there” — midway along the bar — “at the time, talking to some people. He walks in the door — and again, this is me, just saying what I think — and I’m, like, ‘I am going to f*ck him tonight.’ Seriously, that was my first reaction to seeing him. And that is the only time ever in my existence in coming into this bar — and Lord knows, I come here a lot — that I have ever looked at a guy that walked in the door and thought that.”

“Heather!” exclaims Tanya, as if shocked by the manifest falsehood of the claim.

Heather holds her ground. “No, I’ve never thought that before.”

“What about Brian?”

“Brian who?”

“Sunday Brian!” adds Jillybean.

“Oh, that Brian,” nods Heather. “You’ve got to remember, I’ve known a couple of different Brians. You want to see ‘Brian’ in my phonebook? I’ve got, like, five. No, not the first time I ever met Sunday Brian. And that motherf*cker doesn’t come in here anymore. He still lives with his ex-wife — it’s a very strange relationship. He stopped coming in once before for, like, three or four months, when he quit drinking for a while.”

But getting back to One True Love. “So he goes and plays this stupid golf game that we used to have in the back of the bar, [plays] for hours and hours.” While he was playing, Heather shifted away from her group, closer to the end of the bar. “I wasn’t talking to anybody anymore, but he thought I was with the guy I had been talking to. He was thinking of leaving. He was standing there” — against the wall at the
San Diego Reader
February 11, 2010

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Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841 • mccresearch.com

Researchers are evaluating an investigational medication to see if it effectively treats irritable Bowel Syndrome with Constipation (IBS-C) in men and women. You may qualify for a research study if you experience any of the following symptoms:

✔ Abdominal pain or discomfort
✔ Bloating and/or straining
✔ Have fewer than 3 bowel movements per week

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

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

A 16-week clinical research study is underway to evaluate a marketed oral medication taken daily for urgent, frequent nighttime urinations in men and women over 18 years of age. Getting up numerous times at night causes interrupted sleep and subsequent tiredness. If you have been getting up multiple times nightly for at least 3 months, you may have nocturia, or frequent nighttime urination.

To possibly qualify to participate:
• Men or women, 18 years or older and experiencing overactive bladder symptoms with frequency and urgency, especially at night, for at least three months

Qualified participants may receive:
• Study-related examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
• Study-related labs and EKG at no cost
• Study-related medication or placebo (an inactive look-alike pill) at no cost
• Compensation for time and travel

Medical Center for Clinical Research
(619) 521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com

Going, Going, Going Too Often at Night

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• Compensation for time and travel

Medical Center for Clinical Research
(619) 521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com

Menopausal women...

Where has the love gone?

A 6-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate naturally menopausal women of any age who are bothered by a decrease in their sexual desire since entering menopause. An investigational medication for hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) in postmenopausal women will be evaluated.

To possibly qualify for the study you must be:
1) a healthy, naturally postmenopausal woman
2) presently on or off hormones
3) in a heterosexual relationship for at least 1 year
4) bothered by your decreased sexual desire, which you have experienced for at least 6 months

Qualifying participants receive at no cost, study-related:
1) consultation and examination by a board-certified OB-GYN
2) labs, EKG, Pap smears, and study drug
3) compensation for time and travel

Interested, call: Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841
www.mccresearch.com

Menstrual Migraine Headaches

Wishing your period would never come?

A medical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for women 18-34 years of age with regular periods who have migraine headaches associated with their periods, in at least 2 out of the last 3 cycles. Periods are tough enough without adding a migraine headache.

To possibly qualify:
• Females, 18-34 years, with regular periods
• Have had migraine headache associated with 2 of your last 3 periods
• Can be using medication at present to treat migraine headaches at a stable dose for at least 2 months

Participants may receive at no cost:
• Study-related examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
• All study-related medications, labs, and Pap smear
• Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call: Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841
www.mccresearch.com

Menstrual Migraine Headaches

Wishing your period would never come?

A medical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for women 18-34 years of age with regular periods who have migraine headaches associated with their periods, in at least 2 out of the last 3 cycles. Periods are tough enough without adding a migraine headache.

To possibly qualify:
• Females, 18-34 years, with regular periods
• Have had migraine headache associated with 2 of your last 3 periods
• Can be using medication at present to treat migraine headaches at a stable dose for at least 2 months

Participants may receive at no cost:
• Study-related examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
• All study-related medications, labs, and Pap smear
• Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call: Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841
www.mccresearch.com
end of the bar — “and I kept looking at him. He was really shy. He'd look at me, look away, look at me, look away. Finally, I stared at him, and probably one of the most adorable things I’ve ever seen in my life: he stood there and started checking over his shoulders. He was standing against the wall — who the hell did he think was behind him? It was the longest one-night stand of my life — we lived together for three years.” It’s a great finishing line, and she delivers it like a pro.

And? “And then he went back to his wife. She was moving away, to Wyoming, and she was taking the kids. And he was too much of a pussy to fight to keep her here. So that’s where they are now. He and I still talk regularly. He’s miserable. And it’s probably only a matter of time before he shows up on my doorstep.”

“Guys are assholes,” complains Tanya. “They’re useless.”

“They serve a purpose,” counters Heather.

“He’s waiting until his kids are old enough,” suggests Jillybean. “And then he’ll start enjoying his life.”

“His youngest is ten,” agrees Heather. “And I would take him back in a heartbeat. He understood me. We had so much in common. Everything clicked; from the very first moment, everything was right there.”

Tanya is unmoved. “You would take him back in a heartbeat? I’m sorry, but I don’t get that.” (When she heard that One True Love went back to his wife, she crowed, “You can only run forward, baby. You can’t run backwards. Sorry, it never f**king works.”)

“I don’t get it either,” says Heather.

---

**Hepatitis C Research Study**

If you suffer from chronic Hepatitis C you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational drug for Hepatitis C.

You may be eligible if you have:
- Chronic infection with Hepatitis C genotype 1
- Never been on prescription therapy for Hepatitis C
- Otherwise good health

If you qualify, you may receive study-related medical examinations, lab tests, and compensation for time and travel.

For more information, contact eStudySite toll-free at:
1-877-500-eStudy
(1-877-500-3788)
info@eStudySite.com

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**COUGHING, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, WHEEZING, YEARS OF SMOKING**

eStudySite is participating in a world-wide research study to test an investigational treatment for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD, also known as smoker’s cough, chronic bronchitis or emphysema.

You may be eligible to participate in this study if you:
- Are 40 years of age or older
- Have a diagnosis of COPD
- Are a current smoker or were a smoker in the past

Compensation for time and travel may be available.

For more information please contact eStudySite toll free at:
1-877-500-eStudy
(1-877-500-3788)
“But that’s how I feel about him. And you know I’m not sappy,” she booms, “where are the f*cking dudes in this bar tonight?”

“Guys are assholes,” complains Tanya. “They’re useless.”

“They serve a purpose,” counters Heather.

“Buy a dildo,” says Tanya. “Buy the Rabbit, that spins around.”

“I have one of those, and it’s not the same, thank you very much.”

Heather grants that men “lie and cheat” but goes on to say, “I’d be lying if I said I was any better. I’m not cut out for relationships.”

“One thing about you, you’re honest,” praises Tanya. “Why be in a f*cking relationship if you want to go f*ck around? If you want to f*ck around and be with everybody, then f*cking do it. Don’t be in a f*cking relationship and f*ck everybody up.”

“Goddam, where’s your blood pressure, girlfriend?” cautions Jillybean.
“Anyway, that is seriously my story,” says Heather.

Wesley is perched on a barstool at the very back of Number One 5th Avenue’s back patio, drinking a vodka and soda, no fruit. He’s wearing an old Padres ball cap in an effort to stay vaguely incognito — tonight, he’s out to decompress more than socialize. “I don’t even have my phone,” he assures me, patting his jeans pocket. People are strange when you’re a stranger… — ‘People Are Strange,’ the Doors (I swear, every song mentioned herein played on the jukebox while we talked.)

The patio is a little bit tiki, a little bit theater (Rear Window is playing on the projector screen behind Wesley’s head), a little bit neighborhood joint (pool tables outdoors!). Most of the crowd is a bit younger than Wesley, who at 57 has crinkly, puppy-dog eyes. These days, he says, “I’ve chosen to be single. I chose it a good ten years ago. My friends are, like, ‘How do you choose to be single?’ I say, ‘It’s just as difficult as it is to want to be married.’ There are benefits to both. I’ve been really fortunate — I’ve had two great guys in my life. Now, I don’t have to have that person in my life to be happy. I have circles of friends, lots of people in my life that love me. My dad said, ‘You don’t want to be old and alone.’ I said, ‘I will never be alone. You’re only old and alone when you shut people out of your life.’”

‘Life is a mystery, everyone must stand alone… — ‘Like a Prayer,’ Madonna

The first of those two great guys was David. “He was from Newport Beach, a very strong, independent...
Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can’t concentrate? These are symptoms of depression!

If you, or someone you know, is:
- Between the ages of 45 and 90
- Experiencing memory loss? Unable to organize or plan? Forgetting simple tasks?
- In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our research study! If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive an investigational study medication. You will also receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

Do you want to quit smoking?
Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you will ever do because:
- You are likely to live longer
- Quitting smoking will lower your chance of having a heart attack, stroke, or cancer
- The people you live with, especially your children, will be healthier
- You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a clinical trial on an investigational vaccine that may help participants quit smoking and maintain smoking cessation. To qualify for this research study, you must be between the ages of 18 and 65 years and smoke an average of 10 cigarettes per day. If you qualify for participation, all research medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to you. You will receive smoking cessation counseling to help you succeed in your effort to stop smoking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

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Want to Quit?
If you are otherwise healthy and at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for confidential treatment in a research study. You will be compensated for your travel time.

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For information and confidential screening, call: (800) 495-0001

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Infants & Toddlers are needed for an investigational Vaccine research study for RSV and Parainfluenza Virus.
Please call for more information
888-250-9925
Compensation for time and travel.

Could a daily investigational medication break the cycle?
Participants will receive, at no charge, study-related:
- Physical Exams
- Laboratory Tests
- Study Medication
All participants will be monitored by a medical team and the study doctor.

All information is strictly confidential
To learn more, please call:
NCCR
North County Clinical Research
760-639-4378

Have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia and currently taking medication?
Are you:
- Male or female between the ages of 18-55?
- Currently taking a stable dose of medication?
- Currently in a stable living situation?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may receive study medication to be used in addition to the schizophrenia medication you are currently taking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

Could a daily investigational medication break the cycle?
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- Physical Exams
- Laboratory Tests
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All information is strictly confidential
To learn more, please call:
NCCR
North County Clinical Research
760-639-4378

Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can’t concentrate? These are symptoms of depression!

If you, or someone you know, is:
- Between the ages of 18 and 55
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode
- In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible to participate in a research study for an investigational drug for depression. You will also receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits all at no charge. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study-related consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may be reimbursed for participation.

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

Do you want to quit smoking?
Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you will ever do because:
- You are likely to live longer
- Quitting smoking will lower your chance of having a heart attack, stroke, or cancer
- The people you live with, especially your children, will be healthier
- You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a clinical trial on an investigational drug for depression. You will also receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study-related consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

Forgetting simple tasks? Memory fading? Can’t seem to complete projects?

If you or someone you know is:
- Male or female • Between the ages of 45 and 90
- Experiencing memory loss? Unable to organize or plan? Forgetting simple tasks?
- In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our research study! If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive an investigational study medication. You will also receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits all at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com
personality. He actually sued his parents for emancipation when he was 14 and won. I don’t really like guys younger than me, but he was a very mature person. I was 32; David was 21. I was walking out of a beer bar up in Orange County, and he was walking in. I told my friends, ‘I have to go back in. There’s someone I need to meet.’ I went back in, and we ran into each other — he said, ‘I was coming out to catch you!’ I think we had a beer, and then I said, ‘Do you want to get a hamburger?’ He laughed — I had a Corvette, and I took him to White Castle in Garden Grove (we called it Garbage Grove). He said, ‘I can’t believe you drive a ’vette and you took me here!’ We went back to the bar, had another drink, and he said, ‘Why don’t you come back to my place?’ I said, ‘Okay, but I really want to ride your bike’ — he rode in on a 500 Honda. And he said, ‘Oh, God, I’d really love to drive your car.’ So that took place, and we were together until he died. Seven years. He died of AIDS, and I took care of him up to his death."

"We were together until he died. Seven years — he died of AIDS, and I took care of him up to his death."

Look around, everywhere you turn is heartache… — "Vogue, " Madonna

But first, there were those seven years. "We actually moved to Texas — Dallas. One time, I said, ‘We need a new car. You can’t drive my ’vette all the time, because I don’t want to ride your bike all the time. I have a friend who’s a car dealer.’ He said, ‘Tell him we need a six cylinder. To pull our boat.’"

Chronic Low Back Pain?

VA/UCSD is conducting a research study using telephone-based treatments for low back pain problems.

We are looking for:
- Men and women
- Ages 21 and up
- In good health except for low back pain

Benefits:
- Back pain assessment
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- Lab testing
- Up to $260 compensation for participation

For more information, please call:
Back Pain Research Office
858-642-3830
Principal Investigator: J.H. Atkinson, M.D.
San Diego VA Healthcare System/UC San Diego

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

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If you are 65 years or older, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study for insomnia. Qualified participants will receive investigational study medication, study-related care and receive up to $500 for time and travel. The study involves 11 office visits and asks that you track your sleep at home by using an electronic sleep diary. Please note there are risks associated with any medication (investigational or otherwise). The study team will discuss with you the potential benefits and risks that may be associated with participation on this clinical study.

If you are not getting a good night’s sleep, give us a call today.

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Bad cramps... …with your period?

Are you suffering moderate to severe cramping pain in your lower abdomen or headaches during your period? Tried numerous remedies without success? A clinical research study is underway to evaluate the effects of a new oral drug on moderate to severe menstrual cramps.

To possibly qualify for the study:
1) 18-50-year-old females (including smokers 35 years or younger)
2) Regular cycles between 25-35 days
3) Must have moderate to severe cramps and/or headaches with your period

Participants may receive at no cost:
1) Study-related examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
2) Study-related Pap smear and labs
3) All study medication at no cost
4) Compensation for your time and travel

MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
619-521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com

Bad cramps... …with your period?

Have You Been Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes?

If so, Profil Institute for Clinical Research is currently conducting a research study of an investigational oral medication for Type 2 Diabetes.

In order to qualify you must be:
• Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes
• Between 18 to 65 years old
• Treating condition without insulin
• If female, postmenopausal or surgically sterile

If so, please contact us today about our research study of an investigational bipolar depression medication.

Qualified participants must:
• Be 18 to 65 years of age
• Have had a manic, hypomanic or mixed episode of bipolar disorder
• Have suffered from a depressive episode for at least the past four weeks

Qualified participants receive:
• All study-related care and study medication at no cost
• Compensation for time and travel

To learn more, please call toll-free
1-866-428-9499
or visit

For more information, call Profil toll-free today +1 (866) 245-4719.
“I said, ‘We don’t have a boat.’

“He said, ‘Oh, we’re going to have a boat.’
And when we lived in Dallas, we had a 20-foot Sea Ray with a Chevy Suburban. Never have a partner that doesn’t see the future. And Wesley?

“I kept him going — I energized his dreams. I could take things that he wanted to do, things he hadn’t done, and say, ‘We can work that out.’ I had a pilot’s license, so we’d go flying. Different things.”

I want to hold ’em like they do in Texas, please… — “Poker Face,” Lady Gaga

Wesley brought David’s ashes back to Newport Beach, but he didn’t move back to California — not yet. “I didn’t want to escape it; I didn’t want to be running away from whatever I had to deal with. My life was there. So I went through the whole closure process. And I met Evan and his dysfunctional family — he had gotten out of the military and was working in Dallas as a nurse. It was almost the same circumstances — love at first sight,” and with another guy 11 years his junior. “He already had a diagnosis of AIDS, and it was, like, ‘Do I really want to get into this situation again?’ Because it took a toll on me the first time. But I fell in love, so I did.”

“...When you take me by the hand/ Tell me I’m your loving man…That’s the way, uh-huh, uh-huh, I like it… — “That’s the Way (I Like It),” KC and the Sunshine Band

Evan had spent part of his military time in San Diego, and the two came out to visit. “We were, like, ‘Why are we living in Texas?’ So we went back to Texas, quit our jobs, and moved out here. He was an RN, and I was underwriting mortgages.” But Wesley’s company went south, and “I qualified for a government thing to do anything I wanted. Evan started showing symptoms, and I decided to go into nursing to take care of him. He said, ‘Don’t do that for me.’ But I said, ‘So what? I’ll do something else after you’re gone.’ So I worked at San Diego Hospice, and that’s where he died. We were together for four years. He’s never left me. I still...
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San Diego Reader February 11, 2010

have dreams with him. I have dreams with Evan. I have dreams with my mother — she passed away several years ago.

But lovers always come/ And lovers always go… — “November Rain,” Guns N’ Roses

“My doctor says, ‘You’ve got a bad track record.’ But the whole thing about life — when I was in my late 20s, I saw a rash of deaths, which is unnatural. I was 18 when my best friend got killed in a motorcycle accident. I remember to this day my father saying to me, ‘You’ve just grown up. It’s part of life. It’s what happens. You’ll see a lot of people in your life die.’ But I didn’t know then that I would see whole circles of friends die. You can’t believe age where people my age are dying of natural causes. I should be shocked when I hear about it. I should be more overwhelmed. But….

“When I was in my 20s, wisdom escaped me,” concludes Wesley. “I am, like, super-intelligent, but I did not have wisdom. And I was always told by my father, ‘When you get older, your knowledge and your experiences will create wisdom — as long as you put them together correctly.’ You take your experience, and you want to make other peoples’ lives better.”

“I don’t mind if you don’t mind, ’cause I don’t shine if you don’t shine… — “Read My Mind,” the Killers

“I have a really good story,” says April of her

“I was 14, he was 17,” begins April. “We met at swim at Granite Hills High School.”

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first love. “He’s my husband.”

April is out with her friend Kristy, underground in the Gaslamp at Syrah. Even on a Wednesday, there is a buzz about the place — crowds of dressed-up young folk, thumping music, curious seating arrangements under the grapevine chandeliers.

Both women are drinking very cold Sauvignon Blanc and nibbling from a cheese plank bearing Humboldt Fog, Stilton, and the rest of the usual suspects, accompanied by a smear of honey.

They seem an unlikely pair — April is dressed in layers of semi-dressy black; her blonde hair is styled. Kristy is wearing a plaid shirt over a tank top; her hair is also blonde, but it hangs straight down, except for a swath tucked behind one ear. But it’s clear from their conversation that they share a history.

“I was 14, he was 17,” begins April. “We met at swim at Granite Hills High School. He was totally trying to pick up on me; I think he liked my booty. I was a freshman, and he was a senior. I liked his humor.”

But not all of it.

“My dad came to swim to pick me up one day, and he was looking down into the pool area, trying to find me. My dad is an architect, a very clean-cut guy. Kevin said, ‘Look at that guy — he’s so gay! Look at him checking out all the kids!’ I said, ‘That’s my dad! Good luck getting my phone number.’ ”

Still, get it he did, and the two eventually started dating. “Once,” recalls April, “I was in the car with my mom, and we were behind his car. I said, ‘Oh, that’s my boyfriend in front of us!’ He has this bumper sticker that said, ‘I’m A Vagitarian,’ and my mom read it out loud. I’m, like, ‘What’s that? Vegetarian? Vagitarian? I don’t know.’ ”

Mom wasn’t too worried. “It wasn’t, like, serious. We only dated for two months, and then he broke up with me and went to college.” Or, at least, it wasn’t serious on his end. “He totally broke my heart. I wrote in my journal, ‘He’s the love of my life. I am going to marry this

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San Diego Reader February 11, 2010
This and that. I ended up becoming totally obsessed with him, stalking him. I even slept outside of his house. He went to Grossmont and then to UCSD, and he was living at home for part of the time. I was 15, so I wasn’t old enough to party yet, so I would be with my friends and they would ask, ‘What do you want to do?’ on a Saturday night. I’d say, ‘Oh, let’s go drive by Garretson!’ It was fun. A year later, we’d be going to see if he was having a party — he would always have parties at his house.”

It was at a party that they hooked up a year later. “He was introducing me as his wife. I went home and wrote in my journal, ‘I can’t believe he introduced me as his wife!’ ” They even dated for a couple of weeks around her cousin’s wedding. “But I ended up breaking up with him.”

And that was that — for five years. “Then he called me, out of the blue. I used to live in Alpine, and he had to go to El Centro for work. He was driving through Alpine, and he thought of me. He called, and I remembered his phone number, so when I picked up, I said, ‘Kevin?’ He said, ‘How did you know who it was?’ I said, ‘I knew your number.’ ”

April held him off for a couple of weeks, then let him take her to Morton’s. “I knew we were going to get married. Two weeks later, we went to dinner with my parents, and I saw my best friend there. She took me into the bathroom and said, ‘Oh, my gosh! You guys are so perfect! You’re going to marry him!’ Three months later, we were engaged, and now we’re here.”

And now Kevin knows the story from April’s side — he’s read the journal. “I wrote everything in my journal, every single thing. He would text me, and I would copy the text, letter for letter. All the details about what we did sexually. Now, he reads it and he’s, like, ‘Seriously? This is kind of creepy!’ ”
of a turnoff. You know, when someone’s so into you? You’re, like, ‘Why do they like me so much? What is wrong with this person?’”

Remarkably, Kristy’s story also begins in high school and ends in marriage. “We were 16 and 17, both juniors. He transferred over from Helix to El Capitan. I was, like, ‘Oh, my gosh, this guy is so hot, I need to know who this person is.’ He was big and strong and good looking, and he was different from everybody else. He wore different clothing — like Adidas — and he looked good in what he had on and didn’t care what people thought. That made him more attractive to me. And he played baseball. My family is a really big baseball family.”

They became friends. Then, before senior year, “He asked me to the prom. I said, ‘No, you don’t know where you’re going to be in a year. You might be dating somebody, and I don’t want to commit to that.’ I set him up with my best friend, and he set me up with his best friend, and we all went to the movies together. But I ended up getting kind of jealous — thinking, ‘Why is he with her?’ even though I set them up. Then they ended up breaking up, and he started dating this other girl I was friends with for six or seven months of our senior year. I was so upset.”

He even took the other girl to the prom — but... “Here’s the tricky part. By that point, they had broken up, and we were dating, and it was like a secret. I made him go to the prom with her because I felt bad; it was right before prom, and I didn’t want to hurt her feelings. So, I went with one of my friends, and he and I kept trying to meet up and sneak off together. We ended up kind of getting caught by our dates, but they didn’t think anything of it.”

They graduated, “and he got drafted by the Angels. I thought, ‘If I don’t start dating this guy, he’s not going to come back for me. He’s going to meet some chick on the road. I’ve got to get serious.’ So he went away, and we started dating. We’ve been together ever since. We got married in 2003.”

Before the marriage, “I stayed here, but I put my career plans on hold” while he toiled in the minors. “We went through a lot of struggles,” says Kristy. “He got hurt and had Tommy John surgery on

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**San Diego Reader**
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Page 51
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While there is no money in minor-league baseball, there are plenty of women. “The girls are ruthless.”

The girls are ruthless. They don’t care — they’ll go after anything if they have a chance to get out of the towns they’re in. They have this mind-set — ‘I could do better than her, and he’s going to take me with him.’ These are horrible small towns — I’d probably be doing the same thing.”

If you’re going to be the girl back home, “You phone when I called, and she answered it. He still sticks to that story. But he was calling me all night long that night, and I was not answering the phone. It didn’t take

While there is no money in minor-league baseball, there are plenty of women. “The girls are ruthless.”

I didn’t know how to handle it. He was in Arizona for almost two years; he would drive home every weekend, but I was not so appreciative of it at the time. It was tough being apart for so long.”

It was tough, in part, because while there is no money in minor-league baseball, there are plenty of women. “The girls are ruthless. They don’t care — they’ll go after anything if they have a chance to get out of the towns they’re in. They have this mind-set — ‘I could do better than her, and he’s going to take me with him.’ These are horrible small towns — I’d probably be doing the same thing.”

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If you’re going to be the girl back home, “You phone when I called, and she answered it. He still sticks to that story. But he was calling me all night long that night, and I was not answering the phone. It didn’t take
look at me like I was the biggest bitch in the world, just because I was his girlfriend. I was sitting right next to him once in a bar, while the bartender was telling him how much she wanted to be with him, what she wanted to do to him. Girls are hard.”

He started his baseball career as a high draft pick in 2000; by 2007 he had made it to Double-A ball. That’s when “he decided he didn’t want to try to come back from his injury. He wanted to come back here and be like a family. Now, he coaches a traveling team for 14-year-olds, and I’m in nursing school. We have a little dog and a little place. We’re together and we’re doing good.”

“I’ve never been in love with anybody,” protests the slight gentleman at the bar in the US Grant Hotel’s renovated Grant Grill. (Later, someone tells me he’s a Somali prince.) He takes my elbow. “This is the man you want to talk to.”

He leads me over to Diego, his home for the past 21 years. “There is no more perfect place in the world,” he assures me. Something to do with the weather and the absence of bugs.

Besides the prince, Tony is here drinking with Tracy, who designs custom handbags that run $250–$1000. Tony works in Rosarito, sits on the local CFO Roundtable, does charity work on behalf of foster children, and enjoys his life. “On Sunday, I’m going to be 65,” he says, seeming pleased at the prospect. “Luckily, I’ve got a good head of hair, the ladies love my English accent, and I have a beautiful lady in my life who is a college professor — beautiful and brainy. We’re going to the University Club for my birthday dinner tomorrow night. We have the perfect relationship, because she has her place in Rancho Bernardo and I have my home downtown, and we meet on
I think that’s the key to success in relationships — not actually being involved all week long. Marriage is for bringing up children, and we’re in our 60s, so we’re not looking to procreate.”

Four times down the aisle was enough. “I’ve been divorced four times, and I still own my house,” he says, grinning. “I’ve got a very good accountant. I’ve married some of the prettiest women in San Diego. I love pretty women.”

Tony’s first love, however, was not among those four pretty women he married. “She was my first girlfriend. My friend was dating her girlfriend and set me up on a blind date. We went to a movie, and then we went for three and a half or four years after that. I was 18 when we started, and I think I was 18 months younger than she was. I was still in school, but I told her I was young, obviously not mature. I was growing up in London, and I was dating too many other girls. We broke up just before I turned 21. The only thing I probably took away from that is, I lost the love of my life. She went out with another guy and had five children. Her mother told me — it broke my heart. I always thought I was going to go back to her. But I never saw her after that.”

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Now it is time to return home, bathe the horse, eat dinner with my wife, maybe watch a movie or sit outside to look at the stars. In order to get home, I must ride on my neighbor’s narrow driveway, which goes down a hill, through a dry creek bottom, and then up a short hill on the other side.

Because of the hills, creek bottom, and surrounding trees, I cannot see from one end of the driveway to the other. As I near the creek bottom, I hear the roar of motorcycles approaching — on a collision course.

I ride my horse as far off the road as possible and await the arrival of the dirt bikes.

The first one comes through the dry creek and accelerates up the other side before he sees me and my horse. The young motorcyclist is on one of those smaller bikes and regaled in full, brightly colored motocross gear. The horse whirls and tries to escape the whine of the two-cycle engine and flash of colors. I yell at the driver to slow down. The motorcyclist looks in my direction and continues without slowing.

Before the first driver is 50 yards
down the drive, a second bike comes through the creek. Same deal. He only notices me when I yell at him to slow down. The horse’s sense of panic escalates. When I yell at the second motorcyclist to slow down, he merely looks away and races on to catch his buddy.

Before the sound of the second bike fades, I hear a third motorcycle coming, harder and faster than the first two. I can tell from the deeper pitch of the approaching engine that this is a much bigger bike, and the driver is using that extra horsepower to catch the previous drivers. I become more passionate about getting the driver to slow down while struggling to control the horse.

I begin yelling sooner and louder to make my presence known. As anticipated, this third dirt bike is larger, noisier than the first two, and the rider is older. The horse is fighting the bit and trying to make a break to escape the terrorizing whine of motorcycle engines and sight of streaking color.

The third driver finally looks in the direction of me and my panicked horse, salutes us with one-half of a peace sign, cracks his throttle open, and roars after the two younger motorcyclists.

I guess this is when my brain stopped working.

After gaining control of my horse, I turn the frantic 1300-pound beast in the direction of the escaping motorcycles to pursue our tormentors. Given the horse’s panicked state of mind, it was not difficult to spur him to a full gallop. We start to chase that rude, inconsiderate driver of the third dirt bike who doesn’t understand that a peace sign requires two fingers, not just the middle one.

As my wife eloquently reminds me, I am doing what men do best. Acting without thinking. My blood is boiling, and I am riding like the wind. In my mind I see myself as the good guy chasing the bad guy. I am the proud Native American pursuing the noble buffalo in order to feed my village. I am a man protecting my turf.

Was I just trying to scare this rude, inconsiderate motorcyclist by giving chase for a minute or two? Or did I really want to catch him to explain the rules of the trail and proper etiquette between motorcycles and horses? These were questions asked by my wife much later.

In a split second I am galloping up the driveway and onto the dirt trail in pursuit of my prey. Two hundred yards down the trail, it curves sharply to the left. As I round the curve I discover a dirt bike hung up on a rut in the trail, its helmeted driver standing beside the fallen bike.

At the same moment that I see the motorcycle
The dumb animal does the intelligent thing and makes a quick left to avoid trampling the obstacles in his path. My body proves the laws of physics are still in effect. In other words, when the horse went left, despite all of my tremendous riding skills to stay in the saddle, my body keeps going forward, and I leave the saddle — landing on the ground with all the grace and poise of a sack of potatoes falling off the back of a truck.

Even with this unimpressive arrival, I am still ready to seize this opportunity to explain in a calm and fatherly manner the rules of riding motorcycles in the presence of horses to this teenager. I climb stiffly to my feet and turn to face my antagonist. The motorcyclist removes his helmet and starts toward me. The immature teen has become a fortysomething adult male. “What the f*** you think you are doing, yelling at my kids? You f***ing chasing us?”

My brain finally engages. Time for the ego to take a reality check. It becomes apparent that to continue with my original plan of teaching this guy a lesson could cause an escalation of the situation into one with limited options for a peaceful outcome.

In an attempt to find a way out of this increasingly uncomfortable situation, I respond to the profane, half-a-peace-sign-waving adult motorcyclist by saying, "It is not worth the argument. I’m going home.”

Now, where is the horse? Unencumbered by a rider on his back, the horse decides to complete his mission of getting away from the noise of dirt bikes and yelling men. Utilizing the best deductive reasoning of a horse, he wanders off into the head-high brush for 20 feet until he can no longer go forward.

So, I follow him into the brush. Fighting the horse’s panic, big feet, and the close quarters, I work my way around to the horse’s head to get the reins and lead him out of the brush to the trail. The two younger riders have returned, looking for Dad, as the horse and I emerge from the brush. Climbing back into the saddle, I offer a parting shot: “Ride carefully, and please remember that we are all trespassing.” I slowly ride home.

Dismounting at home, a sharp pain shoots through my right foot when I step down from the saddle. From the patio, my wife watches me limp as I put away the saddle, bathe the horse, and put him up. "What happened to you?" she asks.

“Get me a beer, a bag of ice, and 800 mg of ibuprofen, and I’ll tell you the story.”

A couple of beers later, while allowing me to retain as much of my male ego as possible, she convinces me that it is time to go to the emergency room. Four hours later I have crutches, a cast, a broken foot, and strict instruction not to put any weight on the foot for ten weeks.

Two adult males and a horse. The only one of the three that acted they way he is supposed to act was the horse. Who got hurt? Not the horse. Who acted stupid? It wasn’t the horse. Maybe if men acted more like horses, the world would be a safer and more peaceful place.

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LETTERS continued from page 20

A Christmas Tree! A Dove!

Regarding the “stringer” story titled “Suspicious Sky Light” (January 21) by Julie Methot, who wrote of her unusual experience, Tuesday, January 19, shortly after nightfall I was looking out my kitchen window toward the clear sky. The stars were shining, and a small aircraft seemed to be headed for Montgomery Field (to the southeast). Toward the northeast was a very bright white light, higher than the aircraft but not as high in the sky as the stars. It was not moving and stayed for a while.

I took a pair of opera glasses outside, started to adjust the closeness, first a vertical green line appeared, more adjustment, and to my amazement a green Christmas tree with some red around the top left. Next used a pair of binoculars, and there was a white dove of peace.

Waited about an hour and, using the binoculars again, the

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green Christmas tree was back. Using the different power it went from the green line to the tree and with all the power way up saw a white ball with white lines of lights going through it.

I could not think of any one I knew with a telescope, and I was really feeling silly about this. But I went out about 900 p.m., and the light had moved to over my roof just like the moon or sun would move.

G.M. Thomas
North Claremont

Ms. Thing
Re “I Never Thought I’d Become a Welfare Queen” (Cover Story, January 7).

This lady made me so mad with her judgmental opinion about everyone and everything. Who gives a rip what her education is when she has no manners or when, apparently, the rest of the people who are there haven’t had the opportunity for the education. Ms. Queen seems to be making the most of letting her degree define her. It is not the area where she can get a good job, but it has only been a year. She is one of those people. What a jerk.

Name Withheld
Via email

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

Cover Story
Published Feb. 3
By refriedgringo 3:24 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010
Microsoft Word Document

Mexico’s lack of interest in or suspicion of the compound should not surprise anyone familiar with Mexican government. Are the people running the compound, bad guys? No, not in the classic sense, they don’t seem to be interested in killing people or running drugs. Are they a threat to the National security of Mexico? Not likely. Do they contribute anything? Certainly. People are being paid, from the land owners to the security guards to the local stores.

No one in Mexico is going to care much about getting to the bottom of the activities there.

The best part of this story is the interaction with the locals. Mexico is a rumor mill. It thrives on rumor. All of these locals with their various ideas of what goes on in that compound! And none of them care a hoot about finding out the truth about it. Speculation is more fun.

I will speculate that Tvd has no influence in Mexico. The reason that the guard didn’t take you up on your offer for a cold beer was the cameras. If you want to find out what the guard knows about the complex, go drinking with him after work. But he probably won’t know much. He probably doesn’t care, he would rather speculate.

But that, in a nutshell, is the real beauty of Mexico.

By Tighelander 3:51 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

One point this story misses is that San Diego also has these “Donation Boxes”. They are red and go by the name of “USAgain”. I checked these out a few years ago when they spouted around town, and even got a small community paper to run a story.

By SanDiegoParrothead 3:56 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010
Cool article.

Looked for it on Google maps but couldn’t find it (I did find Santo Tomas and Punta San Jose)

Is it down by Rancho Boca de San Jose?

Can you provide a google map link?

By mariannamaver 8:59 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010
Thank you for writing this article! It’s a rare account of firsthand experience with the Teacher’s Group in Mexico — and gives us further insight into the Puglas compound!

In 1984, I was hired as on as a staff teacher at a school for wards of the State of Virginia operated by the Teacher’s Group (they mostly recruited and “indoctrinated” volunteers, but two of us were hired because the State required teachers to have degrees from American colleges — we had no idea...in fact were mislead, what about the group was “all about.”) — One of the “perks” promised us as employees was the promise of travel to Mexico in the
winter and Denmark in the summer... by the time myself and the other teacher showed up to work, there’d be trouble at the schoo — a young student had been raped by a group of older students while the TG staff was distracted with TG work — the State pulled their travel privileges... however, when the TG traveled to Mexico, they had gone to Baja, so their roots there go back at least to 1983. You certainly described the “attitude” of TG members to a “t!” Cold, perfunctory, emotionless, pragmatic, and probably exhausted — this is one of the cult-like aspects of the group... fun and enjoyment are not values in TG philosophy... hard, driven, serious work, 24/7, devotion and commitment to the (nebulous) cause of the group is the value... Thanks, also for mentioning Tyvind Alert, owned and operated by British Journalist Michael Durham and Danish journalist Frede Jakobsen. The two, with backing from a group of other volunteers, have been very determined in keeping the story of Tyvind in the public eye, internationally, for at least 10 years, now, via their website, www.tyvindalert.com. And I agree with Tighelander — don’t put your clothes in those USAgain clothing collection boxes... you’re just feeding the wealth of this strange cult... they don’t need any more money... give your used clothing to a legitimate non-profit that will put the proceeds to some good.

**Best Buys**

**Published Feb. 3**

By Monfort 9:02 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

As a homeowner or property manager always make sure that the mold remediation company you hire is licensed and bonded. Get references from trusted sources, like friends and/or the Better Business Bureau. Don’t be afraid to ask for credentials, both for the company and the workers.

Workers have to be individually licensed by the way, not licensed as a group. If there are trainees or apprentices, make sure they are always supervised by one of the licensed workers.

Check their license validation with the state department of consumer affairs. While on the DCA website check the company and individuals for complaints. The BBB website will have a complaints section also.

Water extraction experts need to be checked out also before signing on the dotted line even if, and especially when, it’s an emergency. Don’t be taken advantage of.

**Movie Review**

**Published Feb. 3**

By shizzifinn 10:49 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

Glad I wasn’t planning on seeing Edge of Darkness... the Edge seems like it would be significantly dullest for moviegoers who bring along the foreknowledge communicated in this review. Was it really necessary to mention the Geiger counter? And the warm recollection of Mystic River reminds me of how lame the ending of that movie was. “Hey, turns out there was another murderer that same night, just took us awhile to find the body!” Weak weak week. The very definition of deus ex machina.

By SantaBarbarian 1:59 p.m., Feb. 4, 2010

Good grief, another reader bitching about critics “revealing” too many details about a movie. Put it to music, shizzifinn

I appreciate Duncan or any critic who gives specifics about what exactly they liked and why they did so. Besides, that’s why critiques are called RE-views.

As for your beef about the brilliant Mystic River,
you’d know all about “weak.” Get a clue before posting here again with your irrelevant observations.

By Shizzyfinn 3:55 p.m., Feb. 4, 2010

Wowers, what happened to you today, SB? Find something other than butter on your popcorn?

I’m entitled to my opinion, friend. And I think reviewers can convey that they appreciate a suspense thriller’s a-ha moments without spoiling one of those a-ha moments in a throwaway reference that also divulges a key part of the plot’s development.

I also stand by my Mystic River opinion. I thought the movie was cool up until the end, which struck me as contrived and unbelievable.

Perhaps I can buy that, in the most amazing of coincidences, the Tim Robbins character happened to murder a child molester at exactly the same time that his mobster buddy’s daughter was killed in the same town - and then that same week or so later, just after the murder of the child molester had exacted revenge on Tim Robbins.

But what struck me as utterly ridiculous is that Tim Robbins, knowing what had happened and how it reflected on him, wouldn’t have tried to fill in what happened before it was too late. I guess it’s hard to put oneself in the shoes of Tim’s character, but if I found myself dressed to music.

My secret I like getting

Bolding does not help the fact that this is still a mangled sentence.

Colon, anyone? ;)

By McGrant 3:30 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

High-end fashion is stupid, and is designed for the gullible and those that can least afford it. Anyone that spends thousands on an ugly hand bag every year should be shot on sight.

By PistolPete 4:02 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

I agree with you both.

By unoriginal 1:45 a.m., Feb. 4, 2010

A huge hobo bag like that just makes it easier for a pick-pocket to go through it without the woman noticing anything might be missing. So

please be careful when you go out into crowds with one of those things on your arm.

Off the Cuff

(“What keeps you up at night?”)

Published Feb. 3

By SDaniels 3:18 p.m., Feb. 3, 2010

Intense pain.

By CuddleFish 4:59 a.m., Feb. 5, 2010

Another boring question.

By Daniels excluded, of course. She couldn’t be boring if she tried.)

By ticikult 8:51 a.m., Feb. 5, 2010

Insomnia. Insomnia is what keeps me up at night.

By shizzyfinn 9 a.m., Feb. 5, 2010

Ah, Cuddlemaa — I mean Cuddlefish. For someone who hates the Reader, you sure spend a lot of time on these pages. Almost like you have a reason for plastering the place with negativity. What’s your agenda?

By CuddleFish 12:47 p.m., Feb. 5, 2010

LOL I don’t hate the Reader! Whatever in the world gave you that idea? I am a longtime reader, a sometime contributor, an objective observer, and I hope that whatever suggestions I offer will help the paper improve.

The Reader is free to (and has) dismiss whatever concerns and contributions I have written about. The Fish has no hidden agenda. They know it. :)

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Thursday | 11

**THE ART OF THE CIRCUS!**
Circus Vargas raises its new big top for performances around the county with a show that “bridges the gap between old tradition and modern innovation.” Prior to each show, the audience is invited into the center ring for a crash course in circus skills such as juggling, feather balancing, and hula-hooping. See SPECIAL, page 71.

**TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**
Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, the leading French investigating magistrate in charge of counterterrorism affairs, visits the Thomas Jefferson School of Law to discuss the war against terrorism. Listen and learn about one of the biggest concerns of this new century. See LECTURES, page 76.

Friday | 12

**MELT AWAY STRESS**
“Dr. Funshine,” aka Caroline Meeks, M.D., leads a free laughter yoga class. First, a video presentation, followed by laughter exercises and laughter meditation. No yoga mats or special clothing required, but don't forget to bring your smile. See SPECIAL, page 71.

Saturday | 13

**WILD!**
More than 150 wildfowl and fish artists and carvers will take part in the 2010 California Open Wildlife Art Festival competition, held at the NTC Promenade. Fine-art exhibits, a carving competition, vendors, antique decoys, appraisals, and more. See SPECIAL, page 71.

Sunday | 14

**KOI SHOW**
The lustrous, colorful fish return to Del Mar as the Koi Club of San Diego hosts its 23rd annual koi show. Come see displays of prize-winning koi, and you can even buy your own flashy fish. Vendors will be on hand with information on ponds, filtration, koi food, and health products. See SPECIAL, page 70.

**PASSION AND ROMANCE**
This Valentine’s Day, catch a show about the ultimate star-crossed lovers when San Diego Ballet Company presents Romeo and Juliet with a cast of 18, including dancers Abby Avery and Carlo Di Dio as the love-struck pair. See DANCE, page 72.

Monday | 15

**BEAUTIFY A COMMUNITY TREASURE**
Join hands with others in your community to spruce up one of San Diego’s prized parks for the Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service (rescheduled from January 18 due to rain). All are welcome to help with clearing brush, mulching, and planting, beginning behind the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. See OUTDOORS, page 68.

Tuesday | 16

**QIGONG PRESENTATION**
We are entering the year of the tiger! State-certified qigong instructor Fay McGrew discusses the ancient Chinese health practice of self-healing, Chinese medicine, and tai chi, in celebration of the Chinese New Year. See LECTURES, page 76.

Wednesday | 17

**START HAVING FUN**
Learn how to dance the night away in this six-week introductory social-dancing class at Dance Motions. The focus is on tango, salsa, waltz, cha-cha, foxtrot, and swing — all the basics you need to start busting some moves. See DANCE, page 72.
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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Liechtenstein
By Bryant Le
Liechtenstein...have you heard of it? Tourists often overlook this small country for all of its neighbors. Slightly larger than Manhattan and a bit smaller than Washington, DC, this micro-country is only 15 miles in length and 4 miles in width.

This tiny nation lies between the Rhine River and the Austrian Alps and shares borders with Switzerland and Austria. Its stunning mountain ranges, lush forests, and rugged cliffs make it spectacular for hiking, cycling, fishing, and sightseeing. In the winter, these same mountains and valleys offer first-class skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, and sledding for all ages.

Liechtenstein is most memorable for its scenic countryside dotted with pretty villages and chapels. About its people — they're friendly, peaceful, and down-to-earth.

The Vaduz Castle, perched on a hilltop, offers plenty of history and wonderful tales. If you’re into skiing, make sure to spend at least a day at the Malbun ski resort. Also, treat yourself to Liechtenstein’s fine wineries for a romantic afternoon or evening of wine-tasting. The National Museum (Liechtensteinisches Landesmuseum) and Postage Stamp Museum (Briefmarkenmuseum) are also fun to visit.

North Pole, Alaska
By Jan Austin
This 4.1-square-mile city that lies 14 miles south of Fairbanks transports you back to childhood. At the Santa Claus House (101 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, Alaska), live reindeer wait outside for you to visit and pet. Inside, the big guy in the red suit makes time for everyone who comes to see him.

Built in 1949 by Con and Nellie Miller, the Santa Claus House remains in the Miller family and is home to “the world’s largest Santa,” which towers at 42 feet tall. (Photo is from my first visit there in 1959 when they were at their

continued on page 68

Other Adventures
Minda: Super sumptuous spa day by the Agung River in Ubud Village, Bali
Kanara: This is a picture I took in Costa Rica.
Pyg: This picture was taken atop a mountain at Skagway, Alaska. The area was only accessible by helicopter and shows a river cutting through a glacier on the mountain.
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**San Diego Reader February 11, 2010 47**
Lupines, whose spiky, purple (sometimes yellow) flower clusters adorn grassy areas and disturbed patches of soil, are beginning to pop up all over San Diego County. If desert rainfall cooperates, you’ll spot lupines along the sandy washes or in roadside gullies where water temporarily collects. Coastal lupines should be in full flower by late March. Higher-elevation lupines will be blooming in the mountain areas in May and early June. The generic name Lupinus, meaning “wolf,” was given these plants in the belief that they robbled the soil of nutrients. Actually the reverse is true: Their ability to fix nitrogen through root nodules helps them survive on poor soils and may, in fact, enrich the soil around them.

The Frost-Nipped Legacies of the past winter’s cold spells might not be hard to spot in February, especially in the inland areas where overnight lows dipped to below-freezing. Look for brown lawns, half-dead-looking avocado trees, and wilted ornamental plants like poinsettias. One common frost-sensitive native plant, the laurel sumac, is responsive of the reach of cold air. Laurel sumac is often the largest and most conspicuous plant growing within the coastal sage-scrub type of vegetation native to San Diego’s undisturbed canyon hillsides. Wherever freezing-cold air has sunk into low-lying canyons and basins, laurel sumac bushes tell the story by appearing brown and withered a few weeks later.

The Waxing Crescent Moon returns to prominence in the evening sky on Monday, February 15. Look in the western sky after 6pm to see the moon’s sunlit limb curled upward on both sides forming a perfect smile. The moon’s first appearance during the current lunar cycle, though, may actually occur on the previous evening, which happens to be Valentine’s Day. If the skies are very clear, and you observe from an elevated location, and you look right over the west horizon around 20 to 30 minutes after the sun sets, you may spot a most exquisitely thin and delicate crescent moon. You might consider this rare and beautiful sight as perfect timing for anything from a stolen kiss to a full-blower marriage proposal.

Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest planets, pass within one-half degree of each other on the evening of Tuesday, February 16. They’ll be barely visible just above the west horizon, some 20 or 30 minutes after the sun sets, assuming the skies are very clear. Binoculars will probably be necessary to see them. Much easier to spot on the same night will be a bright-smiling crescent moon high up in the western sky.

Beautify a Community Treasure Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service promises work clearing and hauling brush, mulching, planting, starting behind Hall of Champions. All are welcome. Bring lunch for picnic at noon. Rescheduled from January 18 due to rain. 619-297-4366. Monday, February 15, 9am; free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way (BALBOA PARK).

Birding Wannabes Beckoned! San Diego Audubon Society’s 2010 introductory birding course led by Phil Pryde is designed for beginners, those with no formal training in classroom or field ornithology. Gain basic skills, information needed to enjoy hobby of bird identification. Topics include selection of field guides and binoculars, basics of field identification of birds, community, SD area species, attracting backyard birds, more. Convenes February 13, 20, March 13, 27; field trips on February 27 and March 20. 858-273-7800. Saturday, February 13, 9am; $85-$105. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMONT).

Birding the Lagoon Audubon Society bird watchers head out with an espresso from Santa’s Coffee Cache while you browse.

You can mail your holiday cards here, and your friends will receive them with a postmark from North Pole, Alaska.

A lodging option is Hotel North Pole on North Santa Claus Lane (877-488-4801). Original location on Santa Claus Lane.)

The shop offers a plethora of Christmas-themed items. Keep toasty warm with an espresso from Santa’s Coffee Cache while you browse.

To get there, exit the I-80 freeway at Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills. Drive north two miles to Sesnon Boulevard. Go left (west) and continue 0.6 mile to the parking lot for O’Melveny Park on the right.

Start your hike on the Grassland Trail, west of the park office. The trail darts up a narrow, almost barren ridge dividing two parallel ravines. Native California walnut trees dot the bottoms of these ravines. Chances are pretty good you’ll spot a deer or a coyote or perhaps a roadrunner flitting across your path.

Keep straight where a nature trail joins on the left. After plenty of huffing and puffing due to the elevation gain, you’ll reach a wide fire road. Turn right and continue climbing, on loopy curves, toward Mission Point, the park’s high point. Nearing the summit you’ll pass a knoll topped by a cluster of live-oak trees.

A small, stone monument atop Mission Point’s shadowless summit memorializes physician Mario De Campos, a lover of the local mountains. Down below, the San Fernando Valley spreads seemingly endlessly. At a point in the valley three miles southeast, you’ll spot the newer Los Angeles Reservoir as well as the dry bed of its predecessor, the Van Norman Reservoir, whose dam very nearly failed during the 1973 Sylmar earthenquake.

For a look at the more-agreeable and verdant north slopes of the Santa Susanas, walk farther north about 0.3 mile to where the road begins its descent into the Santa Clarita Woodlands area. There, you can get a glimpse of canyon country dotted with live oak, valley oak, walnut, and big-coned Douglas-fir trees. Why the big difference in vegetation? Simply the slope aspect, whereby the south-facing slopes bake in year-round sun, while the north-facing slopes experience far more shade and far less evaporation of moisture.

On your return to the O’Melveny Park entrance, descend below Mission Point using the road you followed uphill. This time, take the Mission Point Trail to the left, which will take you down, sometimes steeply, into Bee Canyon. Once you reach the canyon floor, turn right (downstream) and hike the remaining short distance out to the picnic grounds and your starting point.

Assuming you have time and energy to spare, you can extend your hiking distance by returning to the main park entrance, exchange, the sculptures were donated to the city by the artist Gustav Vigeland. Vigeland, who studied at the National Academy of Art in Oslo, Norway, was inspired by the works of Thor Heyerdahl. The museum, but a meeting place where discussions and reflections geared toward conflict resolution occur.

Win $25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.
Wayne Harmon to visit site with different types of habitats for birds. Area is rich with waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, woodland birds. 858-282-8687. Saturday, February 13, 8am; free. San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve — Rio Sisos Avenue trailhead, North Rio Sisos Avenue at Solana Point Circle. (SOLANA BEACH)

Discover Magnificent Beauty! Nature walks led by trained naturalist. “Marvel at the reawakening vegetation throughout the reserve and be enchanted by fabulous flowers along the trail.” 760-436-3944. Saturdays, 10am; free. San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. (CARPINTERIA)

Hawkwatch 2010 Visit Ramona’s grasslands to witness resident and winter migration of hawks, falcons, eagles during out flying by trained biologist during Saturday through February. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9am; through Saturday, February 27; free. Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. (RAMONA)

More Walk, Less Talk Naturalists Simone Green and Barbara VanHorne lead fast-paced, four-mile hike. 760-839-4680. Saturday, February 13, 8:30am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Restore Wildlife Habitat Help San Diego Flyway Cities Coalition transform canyon into an urban refuge for wildlife and people by planting native shrubs, trees in a degraded section of canyon. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, hat, Gloves, tools, water, snacks provided. Registration: 858-273-7800 x101. Saturdays, 9am; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMORD)

Tidepoolsing at Hospital Point Winter is an excellent time to explore local tide pools because lower tides reveal wider beaches and pools teeming with native marine life. Learn about ocean critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts tidepoolsing led by aquarium naturalist. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Saturday, February 13, 2pm; $12. 2 and up. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Vernal Pools and Wildflowers! Tour one of SD’s newest nature preserves with Diana Gordon; learn about rare Southern maritime chaparral, vernal pool life cycles. Look for wildflowers. Wear footwear suitable for wet/muddy conditions. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 13, 9am; free. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Where the Heck Is McGinty Mountain? Join San Diego Natural History Museum Camneers on hike up small mountain south of El Cajon boasting 1400-foot elevation gains/loss. Plants endemic to this island of gabbro soil are of special interest. Two options: short hike to South Ridge is about two miles round trip; hike to summit is about five miles round trip, lasts 4-5 hours.

To reach trailhead from San Diego, take Route 94 east, turn left on Lyons Valley Rd., drive for about eight-tenths of a mile, then turn left at Jamul Drive and continue for less than one-half mile to entrance. Park in small turnout; lot on right. 619-255-0171. Sunday, February 14, 9am; free. McGinty Mountain Preserve, Jamul Drive at Lyons Valley Road. (AMOQ)

SPECIAL

“Aeronautical Impossibilities of 9/11” San Diegans for 9/11 Truth convene to hear students Steve Fahnery (City College) and Aaron Brown (Linda Vista) detail
plans "to recognize the major membership milestone achieved by Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth." Also on tap: video of conversation with Congresswoman Susan Davis (CA-53), Dwain Deets (retired NASA engineer), Dave Gapp (retired Air Force Colonel), others to discuss new scientific evidence that underlines the official account of September 11, 2001; 619-222-2120. Sunday, February 14, 6:30pm; free; Joyce Beers Community Center, 4065 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)


“Scripps Institution of Oceanography’s Gray Whale Season Returns! Outings hosted by Birch Aquarium at La Jolla, 619-550-3333. Saturday, February 13, 9am; food, health products. 619-222-9825. Sunday, February 14, 9am; free; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“Double Points!楼层 Libr ary Literacy Services bene- fit from annual Scrabble-Thon. Registration is $20 for teams of four; $35 for individuals. Registration deadline: February 5. 760-570-4413. Saturday, February 13, 9am; free; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“Mardi Gras party with carnaval theme. 619-327-3675. Thursday, February 18, 6:30pm; $35.75 and up. Home & Soul Wellness Day Spa, 229 E Main Street. (EL CAJON)

“Color Confidence” Selecting the “right” paint color for a project can be daunting. Take in color design class led by an interior designer, receive one Perfect Palette sampler. 858-715-0495. Saturday, February 13, 11am; free; Dunn-Edwards Paint — Kearny Mesa, 7347 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

“Fold It to Fit” by Christine Stevens and local liquids can help people of Haiti. All ages. No experience necessary. Bring a drum; instruments also provided. Proceeds go to America Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. Suggested donation: $10. 760-703-0921. Saturday, February 13, 11am; free; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir, San Diego Community Concert, 202 C Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“Garden Club Book” Multimedia artist Lise Berti teaches paint, transfer, collage paper, and stamp techniques. Have a unique journal. Bring images to photo- copy, “loved embellishments,” brushes, scissors, 619-677-5060. Wednesday, February 17, 10:30am; $65.16 and up. Stamp Addict, 7151 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Create a Silver Cuff Bracelet” Artist Anne Wolf divulges how “to texture Sterling silver sheet while you create a finished cuff bracelet.” Emphasis is on use of texture tools and hammering to create unique surfaces, basics of finishing. Materials fee: $20. Registration: 619-223-0058, Sunday, February 14, 1pm; $50-58.16 and up. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 De- catur Rd., studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

“Dancingshoes” were slowly, inevitably spinning toward my forehead. That El Zapato, black, smoking with righteousness, but her aim, the way I knew that even if I ran out the kitchen door, down the back stairs and leapt the fence, when I glanced over my shoulder El Zapato, prototype of the man about town, would be there, its primitive but infallible radar honed in on my back. Not the shoe for suicidal anger of come out of hiding or I’ll throw myself out the window. Not the shoe for carpet-reweling. Hitler anger — the throwing herself down, taking an edge of rug between her teeth anger. But the shoe for everyday justice she could unlace, whip off and throw faster than Paladin draws his gun, shoe that could hurt me down like the Texas Rangers, even if it took years, even if she died while she throwing her shoe, even if she managed to throw it from the ramparts of heaven, the way she threw it from a third story window, but I stood half a block away, laughing at her with my friends, thinking, it could never hit me from this far, until I stood suddenly alone, abandoned by my cowardly friends, alone in the frozen cross-eyed knowledge that El Zapato, black, smoking with rightousness, was slowly, inevitably spinning toward my forehead.

— Richard Garcia

For several years Richard Garcia was poet-in-resi- dence at the Long Beach Museum of Art and at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles where he conducted poetry and art workshops for hospitalized chil- dren. He has won many awards for his poetry including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He currently lives in South Carolina and teaches in the Antioch University MFA program and at the College of Charleston. “El Zapato” is from his collection Rancho Notorious, published by BOA Editions Ltd. & is reprinted by permission.

“Tibetan food and live music. 619-442-9880. Saturday, February 13, 7pm; $25-$75. 21 and up. 4th&8, 345 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

noon; free. Rigpa Meditation Center, 710 13th Street #314. (DOWNTOWN)

Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp Celebrate Fat Tuesday with party promising dance crews, beads, live music, carnival action, giant puppets and silent walkers, parades (7:30, 10pm). 619-233-5227. Tuesday, February 16, 6pm; $15-$20. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

Melt Away Stress! Laughter yoga class led by Dr. Funshine, a.k.a. Caroline Meeks, M.D. Expect video presentation followed by laughter exercises, laughter meditation. No yoga mats or special clothing required. 619-573-1396. Friday, February 12, 4pm; free. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Middle-Eastern Drum and Belly-Dance Class Doumbe drumming class for all levels taught by Frank Lazzaro (6-7pm), followed by tribal belly-dance class taught by Sabrina Fox with live drumming (7-8pm). $12 per class. 760-703-1487. Mondays, 6pm; $12. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Rooftop Yoga Yoga One leads vinyasa flow mixed-level classes for hotel guests (free) and public ($15 per class). 619-544-0164. Thursdays, 5:30pm; Fridays, 9am; Sundays, 5:30pm; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 5:30pm; Wednesdays, 9am; free-$15. Porto Vista Hotel & Suites, 1835 Columbia Street. (LITTLE ITALY)


Tales from the Campfire Be prepared to share, listen to tales of rockhounding adventures when Palomar Gem and Mineral Club meets. Heard stories you want to repeat 760-743-0809. Wednesday, February 17, 7pm; free. Redwood Terrace — Dittus Hall, 710 West 13th Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Tet Lunar New Year Start the lunar new year with a bang when Little Saigon Foundation hosts festivities with lion dances, martial arts performances, firecrackers, live entertainment, more. 858-717-7725. Sunday, February 14, 10am; free. Hoover High School, 4474 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

The Art of the Circus! Circus Vargas raises its new big top for performances around county. Circus “bridges the gap between old tradition and modern innovation.” Prior to each show, audience is invited into center ring for crash course in circus skills such as juggling, feather balancing, and hula hooping. Tickets: 877-468-3861. Thursday, February 11, 7:30pm; Friday, February 12, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 13, 1:30pm, 4:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, February 14, 1:30pm, 4:30pm and 7:30pm; Monday, February 15, 3pm and 7pm; $15-$55. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

What’s the Federal Reserve? P&R Discussion Group focuses on how federal reserve works. 619-370-1027. Thursday, February 11, 7pm; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Who Is Dr. Funshine? Caroline Meeks M.D. leads laughter yoga classes on third Wednesday of each month. No floor exercises. Donations welcome. 858-483-5100. Wednesday, February 17, 2pm; free. LiveWell San Diego, 4425 Bannock Avenue. (CLAREMONT)

Wild! More than 150 wildfowl and fish artists and carvers take part in 2010 California Open Wildlife Art Festival competition including fine art exhibits, carving competition, vendors, antique decoys, appraisals, 619-421-1034. Saturday, February 13, 9:30am; Sunday, February 14, 9am; free-$5. NTC Promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

DANCE

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**FILM**

**The Gospel of Mark as Told by Mark** Screening of DVD by David M. Rhoads, professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. "Experience the power of the Bible as oral tradition." Bring dish to share during potluck before program. 619-464-1519. Sunday, February 14, 6pm; free. United Church of Christ of La Mesa, 5940 Kelton Avenue. (LA MESA)

**Blades of Glory** Will Ferrell and Jon Heder star in this new comedy, screening for cinema social. Dive-In theatre combines "eclectic film choices," food, drink, light conversation at hotel's poolside lounge and theater located outdoors. Early arrival suggested. Reservations: 619-226-6100. Wednesday, February 17, 7pm; free; Pearl Hotel, 1410 Rosecrans Street. (POINT LOMA)

**Steel Magnolias** FilmOut San Diego presents this 1989 flick starring Shirley Maclaine, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Dabney Coleman, and Robert Duvall. (NORTH PARK)

**Baby and Me Movie** San Diego Jewish Film Festival includes screening of Adam’s Wall, set in Montreal’s Mile End, "the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Canada, where a Jewish teen and a Lebanese girl fall in love." Parents with children under one year of age invited to pack diaper bag; bring stroller. 619-362-1348. Monday, February 15, 11am; free- $7; Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

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**FILM**

**Find Your Sweetheart** Valentine’s Day tango class for singles promises "entertaining introductory Argentine class and mixer... focusing on nonverbal communication and connection." No previous dance experience required. Fee includes chocolates, strawberries, rose for ladies, tango demonstration. 858-350-9447. Sunday, February 14, 5pm; $25, 18 and up. Whirl Ballroom, 2670 Via de la Valé, (DEL MAR)

**“My Funny Valentine” Swing Dance** Take your sweetheart Lindy, East Coast, jitterbug, swing dancing. "Tuck turns" workshop, guest DJ, Valentine’s games, food. Three dance classes (8-9pm); dance from 9pm-midnight. 619-291-3775. Thursday, February 12, 8pm; $8-$15. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (HEARNY MESA)

**Dancing at the Dukakis Center for Social Ecology**

2-for-1 on Faculty and Staff Tuition. $10 off $100 donation. 619-565-9575. Friday, February 12, 8pm; Salsanowassup.com. Salsa party for beginners/intermediates (7:30pm); salsa lesson for intermediate/advanced dancers (8:15pm); (7:30pm); salsa lesson for beginners/intermediates (8:30pm). Free for first-time visitors. $5 tickets include lesson, partner. $10 off $100 donation. 619-917-1721. Saturday, February 13, 8:30-10pm. Starlight Dance Studio, 6506 El Cajon Boulevard. (HEARNY MESA)

**Ragtime Valentine Tea Dance** Waltz & Such hosts event beginning with ragtime dance lessons (10:30am-1:15pm). Eleven-piece Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra provides tunes for dancing, with Waltzes promised “every third dance.” $10 tickets encourage. 619-583-9575. Saturday, February 13, 10:30am and 2pm; $9-$15. Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

**Valentine Argentine Tango — For Couples** Dance the Argentinian tango after workshop. Admission includes chocolates, a red rose, more. No dance experience necessary. Reservations: 858-451-3775. Saturday, February 13, 4pm; $50-$55. Dance Motions, 12120 Alta Carmel Court, Suite 410D. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**Valentine Argentine Tango — For Singles** No dance partner or experience necessary during workshop, concluding with participants dancing Argentine tango. Admission fee includes red rose, chocolates, more. 858-451-3775. Saturday, February 13, 4pm; $25. Dance Motions, 12120 Alta Carmel Court, Suite 410D. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**Valentine’s Day Dance** Terri Akin and Ellie Konikshetz call to live music by Ryan Sandburg (piano) and Todd Martin (Flute) during dance hosted by San Diego English Country Dancers. 858-676-9731. Sunday February 14, 6pm; $8. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**Vivid and Colorful** Samahan presents 15th annual concert of Philippine dances and music, choreographed by Ruby Pearl B. Chiong. Program showcases Ilonggorowas, Binanawan, Timikitang dances; Southern Philippine tribal dances; a new version of the Sagayan, a war dance of the Maguindanaons and Maranaos of Mindanao. Dances of the Tbolitribe. 619-444-7528. Saturday, February 13, 8pm; Sunday, February 14, 2pm; $12-$24; Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

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FOOD & DRINK

“Beer U: Strong Ales” Enjoy “huge malty brews” join “resident beer geek and blabbermouth” Ken Wright for discussion of brewing techniques, historical development, collaring tips, more. 760-751-6999 Tuesday, February 16, 7pm; $20. 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 199 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)


“Chinese New Year Cooking” Vegan San Diego Club hosts class on how to cook healthy Chinese dishes such as gluten saute, veggie tofu, more, during vegan cooking seminar. Advance reservations: 619-358-9081. Thursday, February 11, 6:30pm; $50. 21 and up. Venusimo Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

All About the Ocean Chef Matt Gordon of Urban Solace leads class. Registration: 858-578-2665. Wednesday, February 17, 6pm; $49. Cooking With Class, 8290 Miramar Road. (MIRAMAR)

Bliss and Bubbly Evening hosted by Warwick’s includes cocktail presentation by food and wine writer Maria Hunt, who will also share stories about champagne and romance. Chef Isabel Cruz follows with appetizers, dinner. Desserts presented by chocolateier Susie Norris. Dinner package includes autographed copy of Norris’s Chocolate Bliss, Hunt’s Bubbly Bar (one set per couple). Tickets: $150 per couple. Reservations: 858-705-3987. Sunday, February 14, 3pm; free. Loving Hut, 1905 El Camino Parkway. (CARLSBAD)

Days of Chocolate and Wine Hotel Del’s ENO focuses on “fine wines, rare cheeses, and gourmet chocolates” with “tastings to tantalize your palate” led by wine director Ted Glennon. Reservations: 619-522-8546. Friday, February 12, 4pm; Saturday, February 13, 4pm; Sunday, February 14, 4pm; $35. 21 and up. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Harvest Moon Soup, Anyone? Learn to cook simple, healthy vegan dishes such as Valentine’s Day Chef Kitchen Experience Participants take limoncino to Suzie’s Farm, “where they are growing a batch of special vegies just for Jiss and this occasion,” Guests harvest vegetables, then head to Hillcrest farmers’ market to select rest of menu’s ingredients. Participants return to Jiss kitchen for hands-on (or hands-off) cooking experience, replete with champagne, and three-course meal with wine or cocktail. Reservations: 619-531-8744. Sunday, February 14, 10am; $120. Jiss, 616 J Street. (DOWNTOWN)


Chu Chu the Dragon Millie Patterson’s Weaver’s Tales present story of a thieving dragon who steals a precious pearl from Mother Chin; which of her brave
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600-473-1240. Friday, February 12, 7pm; free. Kooky’s Ice Cream and Coffee, 2175 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

**Gospel Concert**

Christ Temple Apostolic Church of El Cajon in performance celebrating Black History Month. 619-588-3703.
Sunday, February 14, 2pm; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

**Health-Care Reform?** Updates on health-care reform at state and national levels provided by Sylvia Sterman (director of county’s League of Women Voters)
**San Diego Reader**  
February 11, 2010  
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Payday Poem Slam Bring at least three-minute works and get ready to cash. Prizes arrayed. Poets, judges enter free; $3 suggested donation for audi- ence. Poets sign up by 7pm (in person). 619-641-6123. Friday, February 12, 7pm. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

**Lectures**

- **Dialogues Over Dessert** Professor Hasia Diner of New York University chronicles “American Jews and the Myth of Silence After the Holocaust.” 858-534-4551. Wednesday, February 17, 7:30pm; free. UCSD Faculty Club, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

- **Introduction to Permaculture** Permaculture is described as “a sustainable design system based on ecological principles” promoting “mutually beneficial relationships.” During four-day course, learn about home-scale permaculture gardening, attracting beneficial in- sects, water catchment systems, polycultures, planting guilds, food forests from Julia Dashe. Classes continue February 18, 25, Febru- ary 20 (9am-noon). Required reservations: 760-436-3036 x206. Thursday, February 11, 7pm; $80-$100. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCIN- NAS)

- **Paris and the Louvre** Tour guide Jacques Thompson — who describes the Louvre as a “mon- ster, but one he has tamed” — shares his passion for the mu- seum and Paris during talk. Bring pen, paper as “there will be a quiz.” Questions: jacqueslou- vre@gmail.com. Monday, February 15, 7:30pm; $10. Saint An- drew’s-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1050 Thomas Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

- **Proper Pruning Practices** Learn “need-to-know basics” for pruning both trees and shrubs and use the garden as a lab to analyze living samples. Certified arborist Leah Rottke leads class. Registr- ation: 619-660-0614 x10. Saturday, February 13, 10:30am; $20-$30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, RANCHO SAN DIEGO

- **Really Reliable Recall** Frustrated your poop won’t “come when called”? Remedy problem during workshop. Registration: 619-299-7012 x2704. Saturday, February 13, 9am; $35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

- **The Jews of Cuba** Barry Schneider plans lecture. 858-268-3674. Friday, February 12, 7:30pm; free. Congregation Dor Hadash, 4858 Ronson Court. (HEARNE MESA)


- **Trans-Atlantic Cooperation in the Fight against Terrorism** Judge Jean-Louis Bruguierre, the leading French investigating magis- trate in charge of counterterrorism affairs, takes stock of fight against terrorism. Gain an appreciation of risks posed by one of major issues of the 21st Century. Reservations: 858-550-0144. Friday, February 12, 6:30pm; free-$10. Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 2121 San Diego Av- enue. (MISSION HILLS)

- **Qigong Presentation** State-certified qigong instructor Fay Mc- Gregor discusses ancient Chinese health practice of self-healing, Chi- nese medicine, and tai chi, in an Ar- tlan A and B student center, in celebration of Chinese New Year. 760-757-2121 x6477. Tuesday, Feb- ruary 16, noon; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCENSIDE)

- **Add a Branch to Your Family Tree** Learn “Research Strategies for the Family Historian,” and look at land and probate research, dur- ing San Diego Genealogical Soci- ety monthly meeting. 858-279- 7347. Saturday, February 13, noon; free. Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church, 8350 Lake Murray Boule- vard. (SAN CARLOS)

- **Avoid Legal Issues** A criminal defense attorney divulges “how to avoid the most common mistakes when interacting with law enforce- ment” regarding medical marijuana. Practice encounters that may occur with law enforcement. 858-864- 8787. Saturday, February 13, 1pm; $99. 18 and up. Instant Impress, 9808 Waples Street. (MIRA MESA)

- **Behind the Scenes! Artists from Nabucco participate in Artists’ Round Table — offering look at music, characters, behind-the- scenes work — hosted by San Diego Opera in Beverly Sills Salon of Civic Theatre. RSVP: 619-232-476 x248. Thursday, February 11, 5:30pm; free. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

- **Emerging Modes of Aging** Professor Sarah Lamb of Brandeis University chronicles “Aging, Per- sonhood, and Ambivalent Moderni- nities in India and Abroad” in Eleanor Roosevelt College admin- istration building room 115. How are “middle-class older Indians and their communities reconfiguring aging as they confront...processes they associate with ‘modern,’ ‘Western, and ‘global’ living?” Regis- tration: 858-822-5297. Wednes- day, February 17, 3pm; free. Uni- versity of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

- **Get to Know Nabucco** Nicolas Relevé, San Diego Opera director of education, discusses Verdi’s “first masterpiece” for “Conver- sations on Faith and Freedom” se- ries. Relevé will explore origins and meaning of exile as portrayed in the opera through musical ex- ercits, discussions. 858-451-1200. Tuesday, February 16, 7pm. free. Temple Adat Shalom, 13905 Pomerado Road. (LA JOLLA)

- **How to Get Koi** Koi lectures for visitors to learn about koi, be- come acquainted with garden’s new koi. Included in regular ad- mission. 619-232-2721. Tuesday, February 16, 10am. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

- **Improve Your Well-Being!** Acupuncturist Daniel Haan plans presentation on acupuncture; learn of traditional Chinese med- ical techniques and tips on im- proving overall health. Workshop scheduled in Artlan A and B of Student Center, in celebration of Chinese New Year. 760-757-2121 x6477. Wednesday, February 17, noon; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCENSIDE)

- **Sogetsu School Ikebana** Learn basics of Sogetsu-style Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) from Yumi Rakers. Materials list upon required advance registra- tion. Fee: $15 per session, or $40 for four sessions. Registration: 619- 232-1271. Tuesdays, 9:30am. through Tuesday, February 23. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

**Working Out of Poverty** Women’s Empowerment Interna- tional representative discusses micro-loan programs to impov- erished women in Mexico, Hon- duras, Africa; as well as business assistance programs for female refugees living in SD. Donation. 619-491-9664. Thursday, February 11, 7pm. First Unitarian Univer- salist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST)

**Eco-Friendly Whale Watching** Guided kayak tours “get very close to the whales without large boats and crowds of people to startle the whales or spoil the experience.” Tours include La Jolla’s sea caves. Participants may encounter sea lions, dolphins, whales, and other wildlife. Sightings not guar- anteed. Wetsuits included in fee. Reservations: 858-459-1114. Thursdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Fridays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Sat- urdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Sun- days, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Mon- days, 10:30am and 1:30pm; through Monday, February 15, 6:50-$110. La Jolla Kayak, 2199 Avenida de la Playa. (LA JOLLA)

- **Eiffel Forest Bicycle Ride** San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders head out for scenic 70-mile adven- ture, 8:45am. free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

- **Gravity-Defying Fun** Harlem Globetrotters bring their thoroughly entertaining antics and highly skill- ful basket-wielding to center court. Tick- etmaster (800-745-3000). Friday, February 12, 7pm; $24-$149. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIRAMAR DISTRICT)

- **Jersey/Shorts Ride** Cruise along Highway 52 with San Diego Bicy- cle Touring Society riders for “deals on bike clothes” (bring cash). Meet...

Running Clinic in the Park Exercise physiologist/coach Dr. Jason Karp leads clinics, workouts in park for runners of all abilities. “Learn how to run smart and then experience the workouts.” Different clinic and workout each week. 619-546-8386. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, March 8; $10. Nobel Athletic Fields and Recreation Center, 8810 Judicial Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

San Diego Half Marathon The 42nd annual event includes 5k run/walk, with scenic course through Rancho Santa Fe. 619-298-7400. Sunday, February 14, 8am; $37-$50. San Dieguito County Park, 1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Time for Tackle? The San Diego Sting, a team in the Women’s Football Alliance, is recruiting players for Sting, a team in the Women’s Football Alliance, is recruiting players for San Diego. Players are taught and coached by former professional coaches and players. “Practicing and working on defense is the key. I’m looking for girls who want to play, not just fill a space.” Player tryouts are February 14; $50. Noble Athletic Fields and Recreation Center, 8810 Judicial Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Valentine’s Day Duathlon Walk on the beach won’t cut it! Compete alongside your honey during three-mile run, 12-mile bike ride along coast. Required reservations: 760-635-0851. Sunday, February 14, 8am; $30. EZLA at the Sanctuary, 230 Birmingham Drive. (CARLSBAD)

MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum Spring exhibitions include Seth Augustine’s “Chimerica Dreetality,” described as a “visually dynamic installation reflecting” of the artist’s experiences in China. Installations urge viewers to consider perceptions of both countries by highlighting issues of public health, government power and control, illegal immigration, tourism, blurring of public and private spheres. “Material Matters’” showcases works by 23 members of Allied Craftsmen. Each artist demonstrates innovative techniques, designs incorporating wood, clay, wire, fabric, metal, glass, silver, other materials. Wire, twine, thread, ribbon are manipulated in Anne Mudge’s exhibition, “Chance & Circumstance.” The forms “remind us of the beauty and complexity found in nature while simultaneously reflecting the potential of the human mind to produce equally compelling and intricate structures.” All three open Saturday, February 13 and close Sunday, July 4. 340 North Escondido Blvd., 760-839-4120. (CARLSBAD)

Embarcadero Urban Trees 6 Public art exhibition of 31 “urban trees” along North Embarcadero on Harbor Drive (between cruise ship terminal and Hawthorn Street). Artists were supplied with a 12-foot-tall pole placed in a concrete planter to serve as tree’s base; artists alter the pole by attaching materials to create their sculptures. 619-686-6200. Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11am, 1pm) and Sundays (noon, 2pm). 6200 Flying Lion Carrillo Lane, 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Mingei International Museum North County “Rite and Ritual: Ceremonial Art Across the Cultures” focuses on beauty of objects used for special familial, tribal, community events in traditional cultures such as birth, childhood, initiation, marriage, death, and festivals and in various religious expressions among the world’s peoples. Closes Saturday, October 16. 454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown “Tara Donovan’ features sculptures and installations from past decade. Show traces “ambitious, process of this young artist,” who takes mass quantities of a single everyday item (tape, plastic cups, straws, pins, toothpicks, buttons) and “assembles them in different ways.” Closes Sunday, February 28. 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd., 651-544-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of History “200 Years of Art,” continuing through March, showcases a century of artwork by San Diego artists. “Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego” features “literally walk on San Diego;” a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1900s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society’s collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building, 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

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“Oh, Oysters, come and walk with us!” the Walrus did beseech. “A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk, along the briny beach.” — Lewis Carroll

Aagh, Valentine’s Day coming again — probably the worst night of the year for dinner out (just as Mother’s Day is the worst day for brunch) — huge crowds, exhausted chefs and servers, quality slippage, all that. I like to keep it simple and sexy with oysters (typically, at home, bought from Blue Waters) — raw on the half-shell, or lightly cooked in some luscious fashion. As it turns out, Tom Ham’s Lighthouse has terrific oysters done several ways, a spectacular bay view, an enormous comfortable dining room, and reasonable prices. After the oysters — well, it’s a matter of taste. Not my taste, for sure, but lots of locals love it.

The real Tom Ham bought Bali Hai in 1955 and made the floundering restaurant a popular success. In 1971, he bought the Lighthouse — an actual, working lighthouse — and built a restaurant around it that, ever since, has been charming diners with its water view and convivial atmosphere. (Notice that I didn’t mention “gourmet food.”) It’s now run by the next generation of Hams. A few months ago, executive chef Erik Sarkisian won an award for his oyster creation at the Bay Wine and Food Festival, and my foodie alarm chimed: Why not try the place at last?

I like using Restaurant Week bargain meals to check out longtime veterans that can handle a crowd more easily than some tremulously new fledgling. And here, the $30 price included no fewer than 11 entrée choices — plus 50 percent off cocktails (we requested the wine list instead, despite the temptation of the knockout Bali Hai mai tai), no server slippage, all that. I like to keep it simple and sexy with oysters (typically, at home, bought from Blue Waters) — raw on the half-shell, or lightly cooked in some luscious fashion. As it turns out, Tom Ham’s Lighthouse has terrific oysters done several ways, a spectacular bay view, an enormous comfortable dining room, and reasonable prices. After the oysters — well, it’s a matter of taste. Not my taste, for sure, but lots of locals love it.

To the Lighthouse

DINING REVIEW
NAOMI WISE

To the Lighthouse ★★ (Good)

2150 Harbor Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-291-9110, tommahslighthouse.com

HOURS: Weekday lunch 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; Saturday from 10:30 a.m. Sunday champagne mimosa brunch 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Dinner nightly 4:30–10:00 p.m. Happy hours daily 4:00–6:00 p.m.

PRICES: Branch prix fixe, $28 ($16 kids). All-day menu starters, $5–$14; salads, $8–$11; oysters, clams, mussels, $3–$18; sandwiches and entree salads, $11–$20. Dinner starters, $5–$18; salads, $8–$20; seafood entrées, $18–$50; meats, $20–$41.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Seafoods with touches of creativity, steaks, grill, roast beef. Affordable, well-chosen wine list. Full bar, including sister-restaurant Bali Hai’s famous mai tais.

PICK HITS: All oyster preparations, especially “gourmet food.”) It’s now run by the next generation of Hams. A few months ago, executive chef Erik Sarkisian won an award for his oyster creation at the Bay Wine and Food Festival, and my foodie alarm chimed: Why not try the place at last?

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The dining room includes a real wooden boat parked in the center and affords all tables and banquettes bay views that include the glittering city skyline at night. The blonde hostess, blind to the implications of my middle-age spread, tried to seat us some at one of the small, couple-sized booths next to the window (there are larger ones against the back wall), but we declined in favor of a more breathable table. The room was reasonably full; as we arrived at 7:00, the early-eating grandparental regulars were abandoning ship. Music played faintly in the background, too soft to actually make it out (it’s probably at full volume in the first-floor bar). If it’s what we were playing downstairs at the entrance (and on the website), it features hip jazzy sounds mainly from the ’50s and ’60s — Sarah Vaughan, Bobby Darin’s “Sailin’,” Otis Redding, Fats Waller. Two thumbs up.

After we declined the offer of cocktails (we requested the wine list instead, despite the temptation of the knockout Bali Hai mai tai), no server would even look at us for some 20 long minutes. But suddenly — showtime!

Dinner began with a chef’s amuse, a deceitfully fine omen: a slice of cucumber thickly piled with crabmeat, lightly dressed with sweet sushi vinegar and a touch of hot pepper. The lovable table bread was a warm, crusty loaf of light, yeasty white, served with swirled room-temperature butter.

My buddy Sam and I are like the Walrus and the Carpenter when it comes to raw oysters, and those are a good opening gambit when checking out a seafood restaurant, so I ordered a modest à la carte starter of a half-dozen on the half-shell. The assortment included Chefs Creeks, Fanny Bays, and Carlsbad Blondes, all shucked expertly (not a whit of grit, so you could drink up the shell-juices), served with a balsamic mignonette and a vibrant New Orleans-style spicy cocktail sauce — plus coarse-grated fresh horseradish and lemon wedges for doctoring the latter to taste. The farm-raised Carlsbad Blondes lived up to their names — smooth-shelled and sort of bland, they’d rather be surfing. The big, craggy Chefs Creeks were nearly as creamy as my favorite little Kumamotos. (Did n’t check out the Fanny Bays — six oysters divided by a foursome means not everyone gets one of everything, and briny Fannys are not my fave — we left them to tablemates Jim and Michelle, not yet oyster nuts.)

Then we tried the two rewarding renditions

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of cooked oysters. The recipe that won the award at the food festival, "Cortex Style," is complex and seductive, resembling a warm upscale ceviche: diced fresh tomatoes, mini-cilantro, minced bacon, and wonky chipotle beurre blanc, with part of the oyster chopped into the sauce on top and a remaining succulent bite at the bottom of the shell. The more you eat, the more fascinating; it's well deserving of the award. And the "Classic Rockefeller," with spinach-flavored Pernod (anise liqueur) in a creamy béchamel, is old-fashioned and just swell, exactly what you expect from a Rockefeller.

That was the climax of the meal. Lowering expectations, the New England clam chowder is also old-fashioned and good, if you don't go all food-snobby over it. The creamy liquid is milk, thickened with a flour roux (not reduced cream and/or baked-up potato), but it's noticky-thick. The liquid is filled with clam-meats (as likely as not canned or frozen) and diced potato, with a token fresh clam in the shell, lurking near the bottom. It's the standard version you expect when you order it, which makes it above-average for San Diego. And with that, the good times were over.

"Never play cards with a man named Doc. Never eat at a place named Mom's..." wrote Nelson Algren. And never order lobster bisque at a joint that doesn't have whole lobster on its menu. Great bisques are made from shells and spare parts. Tom Ham's only lobster entree is an Australian tail, so here we're likely starting from the New England clam chowder. The more you eat, the more succulent bite at the bottom of the shell. The more you eat, the more fascinating; it's well deserving of the award at the food festival, "Cortex Style," is complex and seductive, resembling a warm upscale ceviche: diced fresh tomatoes, mini-cilantro, minced bacon, and wonky chipotle beurre blanc, with part of the oyster chopped into the sauce on top and a remaining succulent bite at the bottom of the shell. The more you eat, the more fascinating; it's well deserving of the award.

Speaking of devils, "Shrimp Diablo" (billed as "another local legend for 30 years") is a remnant of the San Diego fad of the '80s, prawns wrapped in bacon and stuffed with something-else. Maybe back then, the prawns were fresh from the Mexican Gulf. Here, they seem to be farm-raised Thai jumbo shrimp. Those can be okay with careful Asian treatments to baby them along and reawaken their inner shrimpiness, but in this recipe they're stuffed under the shell with spicy fresh breadcrumbs, then bacon-wrapped and grilled until chewy. They taste like generic sea-meat. They're swamped in a moat of black beans, surrounding both the shellfish and the plate's central turtle of chili-pollenta cake, tingling everything they touch with militant beaniness, like some horror movie: The Black Beans That Ate San Diego.

Are we done yet? Oy, dessert. There's no espresso, but the Café Moto coffee is good dark-roast. To my shock, the peanut butter chocolate ice cream pie with Oreo crust, whipped cream, and warm chocolate sauce was actually good — well proportioned for adults, letting the ice cream rather than the garnishes take the lead role. With the soggy grilled drunken pear, a lively blackberry cabernet sorbet seized center stage while the pear slept it off. In the creamy, oversized lavender crème brûlée, you'd taste the lavender if you knew it was present, otherwise not. The final brûlée stage was a bust: the topping was barely crisp, and cold. As Samurai Jim said, it needed a longer time under the torch, and a shorter time before being served.

So, it's still old-time pre-San Diego. Go for the atmosphere, go for the oysters and maybe the steaks. Or don't go, if that's not what you want. There's more than one oyster in the sea.
Mustard Rules

“There’s lots of rules. Like, you never put Italian beef on a French roll.”

Can I wax poetic? Heed ye the words of Carl Sandburg, the poet, describing the rough, tough city he loved, Chicago.

“Here is a tall, bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities/ Fierce as a tough, strong man.”

But interesting things here too, like dogs, pizzas, burgers, ribs. Standard-looking and start perusing the menu she hands me. I see for a root beer ($1.75 — gotta work tonight)

“Like some ketchup?”

But before you can eat, a series of tests. First, has it been “dragged thru the garden”?

Okay, they’ve done their part. Now I’m so-o-o hit the spot. Manuel the cook stops by. “We get a lot of customers from Chicago,” he says. “They are very…particular. That’s why everything comes down from Chicago. Even the rolls.”

So, gotta come back, try the deep dish, the Chicago dog, and not forgetting that major crossover, the hot dog taco. Bet they don’t have that in the Windy City.

Warning! If you’re caught squirting ketchup on a hot dog in Chicago, you may as well jump off a bridge. It’s just one of those things. In Chicago, mustard rules. Remember Clint Eastwood, Dirty Harry, in Sudden Impact? “You know what makes me really sick to my stomach?” Clint says. “It’s watching you stuff your face with those hot dogs. Nobody…I mean nobody puts ketchup on a hot dog.”

Okay, he said it in San Francisco, but Chicagoans teach their babies that line before “Mama and Dada.”

“So, yes, the kielbasa’s nice and smoky. And with the fries, pretty filling. Jeez. A beer would know what’s good.”

But they’re open. Good people, “he says. “Chicago people are tough. They talk loud. Chicago people love their food. They love to eat. They know what’s good.”

The Place: Wolffy’s Place, 844 Market Street (at Eighth), downtown 619-234-2626

Type of Food: American/Chicago

Prices: Wolffy’s original hot dog taco, $3.95; Chicago-style wings or chicken pieces, $6.95 for 7 pieces; Caesar salad, $6.95; Wolffy’s Big Burger (1/3 lb. with fries or chips), $7.95; Wolffy’s Bigger Burger (1/2 lb.), $9.95; half-slab pork ribs, $13.95; beef ribs, $10.95; Italian beef sandwich with fries, $8.95; rice pizza, $3.50; Chicago Hot Dog (all beef), $5.95; Five Dog, $6.50; Johnsonville Brat, $6.95; Polish Kielbasa dog, $6.95

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Alpine

Ramon’s Smokehouse BBQ 1730 Alpine Blvd, Alpine; 619-645-1008. The smell of mesquite burning under fresh-cut beef rib is too much to resist — the secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-splitting fire. Inexpensive.

Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico. From the United States use the prefix 081-89  2/9/10  9:12 AM  Page 81

La Diferencia Avenida Sánchez Taboada #1081-A, Tijuana, 664-634-3346. Mexican haute cuisine with inventive combinations. The menu re-frames the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja wineries. Moderate.

Fonda Roberto’s Avenida Cuahtémoc #2800 (at Agua Caliente BL). next to CESUN Universidad, Tijuana, 664-686-4687. Unusual dishes from Chef Roberto’s native Puebla include huaraches; the Aztecs’ “red spinach” in chocolate mole sauce, and Dedos de Mostezuma (monteruma’s fingers)—cactus stuffed with steak). Moderate.


Super Antojitos Fourth Street #1810 (between Constitución and Niños Héroes), Tijuana, 664-685-5070. The house special, mole poblano, has complex, delicious house-made mole sauce with an enchilada, eggs, rice, beans, tortillas. Also delicious: stuffed pastries, pork tint gordita. Inexpensive.

RESTAURANT LISTINGS
A complete searchable list of over 1,500 restaurants is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below $10; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $29; very expensive: more than $30.

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January 15-March 15

Oaxaca Festival!
worth ordering. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive.

**Edgewater Grill** 861 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-233-7381. Faux-fusion fare. The lighter dishes are best — not a bad place to graze on appetizers or a mini-pizza when you're starved for a water view. Entrees high-moderate to very expensive.

**Gaslamp Pizza** 305 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-7842. This joint comes alive around 2am, serving good thin-crust pizzas (vegetarian, BBQ chicken, and chicken pesto are best-of) plus wings, “halaleno peppers” and big salads to reseed your post-revel bal- last. Inexpensive.

**Georges on Fifth** 835 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-792-0444. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers (“lobster martini,” oysters, tuna tartare). Expen- sive to extreme.

**Harbor House** 831 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-1141. This two-story Midwestern-friendly eatery caters to tourist families and conven- tioners, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to watch the sailboats over a margarita and a plateful of iced bi- vals. Moderate to expensive.

**Hot Dogs @ 428** 428 G St., Down- town, 619-544-0428. Late-night dog house for after you've drunk your fill on Fifth. Good fast dogs, always Hebrew National. Regional dogs include New York, Deep South, Texas, even the Sushi with mayo. Also: good-value lunches. Inexpensive.


**JJ's Sunset Deli by the Bay** 200 Marina Park Way (behind the Convention Center), Downtown, 619-237-1070. JJ's delivers one heckuva harbor view plus an ambitious menu running from rib-eye steak-sandwiches to a pork chop plate and sometimes a half-rack of BBQ baby back ribs. Inexpensive.

**Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge** 1352 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-515-2233. They serve a panoply of Middle Eastern and Greek food until 3 or 4 am. Best deals are probably the single lamb valves. Moderate to expensive.

**Mara's** 327 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-8424. Ravishing upscale decor and chefs from top Bangkok restaur- ants offer a special experience. The menu includes some rare, authentic dishes like chicken and squid with flat noodles and caramelized palm sugar, and a wicked Thai version of Chinese twice-cooked pork. Moderate.

**Red Pearl Kitchen** 4401 St., Down- town, 619-231-1100. An anthology of favorite Asian dishes creatively inter- preted for American palates, with touches of fusion and some original dishes. Plenty of appetizers, but main dishes and veggie side dishes tend to be tamer. High-moderate.

**Rei Do Gado Churrascaria** 939 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-8464. Skewer after skewer of Brazilian barbecue of many meats. The buffet (included in meal price) includes side dishes, salads, fruit, and hot entrees like seafood in coconut milk, with exotic but comfortable flavors. Moderate.

**Sidebar Dell** 225 Cedar St., Down- town, 619-525-1444. Cal Western stu- dents clamor for lunch specials like spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. Also breakfast burritos, break- fast sandwiches, French dip sand- wiches, California wraps. Inexpensive.

**Soleil 6K** 4605 St., Downtown, 619-464-6088. The fare here is simple Cal-
Calendar

RESTAURANTS

iforia cuisine that won’t scare the con-

ventioners, but the outdoor dining pa-
tio is a nice spot for a light meal.

Starters may include a seasonally avail-
able-fried-calamari and crabby

crabsticks. Moderate to expensive.

The Strip Club

340 Fifth Ave.,

Downtown, 619-231-3140. It’s DIY

grilling here; no minors admitted. You
can take the USDA Choice steaks up

a notch with spice blends and sauces.

Other choices include burgers, chicken,

ahi, shrimp, and kebabs. Inexpensive
to moderate.

East Village

Broadway Pizza

1008 Broadway,

East Village, 619-232-6246. From a

pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches
to a Louisiana-style sausage-link sub,

portions are generous if not exactly
gourmet fare. Free neighborhood deliv-

ery. Inexpensive.

Dirty Del’s

499 Yick Tung Ave., East Vil-

lage, 619-677-3879. A cozy neighbor-

dhood watering hole near the ballpark
has half a dozen tables and half a dozen

sports screens, and serves big, interest-

ing sandwiches. Inexpensive.

East Village Tavern and Bowl

930 Market St., East Village, 619-677-

2695. Big, noisy sports bar/bowling al-

ley with creative pub grub until 2am

nightly. Imagine three New York strip
steaklets, caramelized onions, and

melting Gorgonzola tucked into a

Hawaiian sweet bun. Or try a Panino

Calabrese or herb-brined chicken wings.

Inexpensive.

El Cajon

Paipa’s Oasis

Sycuan Casino, 5469

The salad bar is surrounded by a U-

shaped table laden with everything from

poeled-and-eat shrimp to baked cod
to certified Black Angus prime rib.

Moderate.

Encinitas

The Birds House Grill

250 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882.

San Ysidro-style tacos include generous

plates like lakender Kebab (gyros, a.k.a.
döner kebab with rice, tomato sauce,

rich house-made yogurt) and Kofte (ground

meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and
tzatziki sauce). Inexpensive.

Firefly

251 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882.

Spacious wine-

bar/restaurant features exciting wine

choices and wine-bar stacks. The most

popular lunch item is the Cobb salad, and

at dinner there’s a bourbon-and-

mustard-brined pork tenderloin.

Desserts and weekend brunches are

high-moderate. Moderate to expensive.

Firenze

162 S. Ranchito Fe Rd.,

Encinitas, 760-744-9100. Gorgeous

rooms and outdoor patio, offering

heaping platters of multiracial Ital-

cuisine (including two dozen meat-

less selections) and affordable Italian

and California wines. High-moderate.

El Q’ero

344 S. Coast Hwy 101,

Encinitas, 760-753-9050. The fare in-
cludes empanadas, tapas-like small

plates, and full-size entrées — most

from the family homeland. Peru. Be

tured to try the house’s choclo mofule,

a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian

purple corn. Moderate.

Saint Germain’s Café

1030 S. Coast Hwy 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411.

Not French, despite the name, but all-Amer-

ican. Omelets are the best-known dish —

14 three-eggers (or Eggbeaters by re-

quest). Sandwiches run to hearty

American classics (including some veg-

gie choices). Inexpensive.

Escondido

A Delight of France

126 W. Grand Ave.,

Escondido, 760-746-2444. This French

bakery is a delight, offering

authentic baguettes, brioches,

quiches, and croissants, including true

Parisian-style almond croissants stud-

wed with nuts and laced with almond

paste. Inexpensive.

La Tapatía

340 W. Grand Ave.,

Escondido, 760-747-4282. Take a walk on

the mild side at this family favorite, in busi-

ness since the 1930s. You’ll find standard

Mexican fare done low-salt and healthy

style in a comfortable dining room or, in

good weather, a lovely, alber-tile ston-

ewalled patio. Moderate.

Vincent’s Sirinos

113 W. Grand Ave.,

Escondido, 760-745-3833. French-born chef-owner Vincent

Garnel serves Gallic cuisine of rich
dark sauces robing fine ingredients, like

a flavorful veal chop (no factory calf,

that). Mushrooms and vegetables are

the season’s best and sensitively treated

Expensive.

Golden Hill

Los Reyes

2496 Broadway,

Golden Hill, 619-231-0716. Also 47th and

Market, Chollas V, 619-262-6052.

Regular Mex dishes served, but the

soaring specialty is Seven Sea Soup, a

big bowl of savory red broth clunking

with giant crab legs, clams, fish

chunks, shrimp, octopus, and vegeta-

bles. Inexpensive.

Turf Supper Club

1116 25th St.,

Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. Every night’s an

indoor cookout as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tend-

ing their steaks, burgers, chicken

breasts, or portobello mushrooms. In-

expensive to moderate.

Hillcrest

The Asian Bistro

114 University Ave.,

Hillcrest, 619-296-4119. The advent-

urous Thai-accented pan-Asian menu

is served until 3am. Don’t miss

the Louisiana fried buster crab dish

dnamed Jumping Jars. Lunches inex-

pensive to moderate.

Banana Leaf South Indian

Restaurant

3975 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest,

619-298-8888. Rarely found South In-

dian cuisine including crepes (dosas)

and rice-finch paconces (urisappa)

s, best with simple vegetarian garnishes

or unadorned as wraps for tropical
curries (veg or non-veg), many with

Summer’s Day At Portugalia

Celebrate with Seneafrica

Melodic music for the kings and queens of the world.

3-course Dinner for 2 *$100

Includes 2 appetizers, 2 entrées, 2 desserts and a bottle of red or white wine.

Portugalia

4839 Newport Avenue • Ocean Beach

Call for reservations! 619-222-7678

Hob Nob Hill

2 entrées for

$19.44

breakfast, lunch & dinner

2271 First Avenue • 619.239.8176 • Reservations accepted

50% off sushi

Dine-in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

Sushi • Tempura • Teriyaki • Noodles

Mikko

Japanese Cuisine

Low cholesterol, low fat, no MSG

1025 Carlbad Village Drive

760-730-0088

Free $1 off Indian buffet

Limit one per customer.

Sher Punjabi Indian Cuisine

934 S. Coast Hwy 101

Ste. E- 619-234-2442

Express 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Free buttermilk pancakes

Short stack with purchase of two
entrées. May not be combined with
any other coupons. One coupon per

party. Not valid on holidays.

The Trains

4939 Community Drive

San Diego, 619-232-6165

Express 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Free entree with purchase of any entrée
of equal or greater value and two

beverages. Up to a $5.00 value. Not

valid on holidays or with other offers.

Free entree or sushi roll

With purchase of a second entrée
of equal or greater value and two

beverages. No minimum purchase.

Free special sushi roll

Buy one special roll and get a second
of equal or lesser value free.

Our special rolls include the crab-

roll, file fish, caterpillar roll and moe.

Free Asian fusion entrée

Buy any lunch or dinner entrée and

two beverages, receive a second
entrée of equal or lesser value free.

Some restrictions.

Khan’s Cave

Kensy Park, 91360
camran Ave. Blvd., Ste F

619-379-9799

Expires 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

50% off breakfast or lunch

Purchase one entrée and two

beverages at regular price and

receive a second entrée of equal or

lesser value at 50% off.

Some restrictions.

Hang’s Café

San Diego, 760-724-5244

Expires 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Free taco

With purchase of $5 or more. Not
to be combined with any special offers
coupons. Lette not accepted.

Limit one per customer.

Free entree with purchase of any entrée
of equal or greater value and two

beverages. One coupon per

party. Dine-in only. Maximum value $5.00. Lette specials not

be included. Not valid with any other
coupons or offers.

Da Nino’s

2453 Broadway

1969 Broadway

Ste. E- 619-234-2442

Express 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Free Mexican combo plate

With purchase of a combo plate of
equal or greater value and two

drinks. Some restrictions. Valid

Mon.-Thurs. only. Only combos 1-16.

Emiliano’s Mexican Deli

6650 Mission Gorge Rd.

Ste. E- 619-234-2442

Express 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Free Italian entree

With purchase of any entrée of
equal or greater value and two

beverages. One coupon per

party. Dine-in only. Maximum value $5.00. Lette specials not

included. Not valid with any other
coupons or offers.

Samborea Mexican Food

Visit www.sanmexh.com

Expires 3-4-10 • Coupon code: GFSR0

Central | East | North

(continued)
tangy tamarind and/or coconut milk. Moderate.

Bite Bistro and Wine Bar 1417 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-2483. Modern Mediterranean tapas are most of the menu, cleverly cooked and assembled into interesting bargains—price early-bird dinners some weeknights. Individual dishes inexpensive to moderate, but they can add up.

Busalacchi’s Ristorante 3685 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-298-0119. Nooks and crannies for hoards dangerous, or there’s the street-side casual level. Mainly Sicilian-style tomato-sauce dominated dishes (like torta di melanzana, eggplant layered with mozzarella), but satisfying. Moderate to expensive.

Celadon 3671 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-297-8424. The entrance offers sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go to the chef’s specialty menu to find the rarest. Choice of protein, but go to the chef’s specialty menu to find the rarest. Moderate to expensive.

Chipotle 834 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-209-3688. Several San Diego locations. This chain that McDonald’s imitated is the traditional Hawaiian favorite, pineapple fried rice. Moderate.

Khyber Pass 523 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-294-7579. Fascinating Afghan cuisine. Don’t miss the outstanding aushak (spring onion ravioli) and noor (ground meat ravioli) — both with lovely yogurt sauces and zamarod chalow, a spicy lamb and spinach stew. Moderate.

Sushi itto 441 Washington St., Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Also 409 F St., Downtown, 619-237-1037. This is the Queen of Thailand’s favorite, pineapple fried rice. Moderate to expensive.

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soup will feed you all day for near-nothing. Inexpensive.

George's at the Cove — California Modern
1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-4244. The California Modern dining room continues to serve Chef Trey Foshee's ambitious California cuisine based on seasonal ingredients and emphasizing wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. Very expensive.

Harry's Coffee Shop
7545 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 858-454-7381. Down-home eatery with a pretty patio, where the ham, steak, and eggs is a favorite breakfast, as are Hot Creamy Oatmeal with strawberries, pecan pancakes, and thin, crisp waffles. For lunch, turkey burgers and the British Burger are popular. Inexpensive.

Jai
2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1398. Reserve for the garden patio to avoid indoor din. Exquisite, creative Italian dishes include fine sweetbreads, ravioli al limone, prosciutto-grilled romaine, and key lime-raspberry tart. Moderate to expensive.

La Mesa
Antica Trattoria
5654 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, 619-463-9919. Exuberant Italian food in family-friendly atmosphere. NY expats will rejoice at cooking and hospitality to equal Manhattan favorites. Moderate (pastas) to slightly expensive.

Ciao Bella Caffe Bar e Ristorante
5263 Baltimore Dr., La Mesa, 619-337-0238. Not your ordinary neighborhood Italian joint. Exciting dishes include Penne Ciao Bella (salmon, shrimp, and spinach in a light sauce), cartoccio (baked spaghetti with seafood) and San Remo pizza (with sunny-side-up eggs). Moderate.

GIO Bistro & Wine Bar
8384 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa, 619-462-9100. The vast garden patio is the main draw, however punishing the wiry patio chairs. The hit-or-miss menu of eclectic Cal-Ital-Asian-fusion offers “something for everyone” — but there’s no “there” there. High-moderate.

Lemon Grove
Barnes Bar-B-Que

Taste of Polynesia
6937 Federal Blvd., Lemon Grove, 619-466-6199. It’s

One-day only online sale
Thursday, February 11
$6 for $15 worth of gourmet desserts!

Register early. We’ll email you when the sale begins!

San Diego Reader
February 11, 2010
Expires 3-4-10
Coupon code: G1FSDR

La Jolla
Jai
2910 La Jolla Village Drive/UCSD Campus, La Jolla, 858-638-7778. Chic Wolfgang Puck spinoff serves refined Asian fusion in beautiful woodsy setting, and you don’t need tickets to L.J. Playhouse to enjoy it — it’s all pure, playful pleasure. Expensive.

Piatti Ristorante
2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. Reserve for the garden patio to avoid indoor din. Exquisite, creative Italian dishes include fine sweetbreads, ravioli al limone, prosciutto-grilled romaine, and key lime-raspberry tart. Moderate to expensive.

The Steakhouse at Azul
1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The Brigantine chain's upscale branch offers surf ‘n’ turf with a sea view. Big, tender steaks, reliably well-treated seafood. Very expensive.

Zenbu
7660 Fay Ave., La Jolla, 858-454-4540. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls. Don’t miss the live local uni (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood. Upper-moderate to expensive.

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Lemon Grove
Barnes Bar-B-Que
### San Diego

#### Little Italy

**Fat Steak City House** 2137 Pacific Hwy., Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Danube Room, one of the city’s best Italian restaurants. Try the veal chop, which is 6oz of veal cutlet cut over mesquite charcoal, which lends them their deliciously smoky flavor. Inexpensive to moderate.

**Indigo Grill** 1536 India St., Little Italy, 619-236-4552. Deborah Scott expands her original Native-American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Inexpensive to moderate, dinner moderate to expensive.

**Pete’s Quality Meats** 1742/1210 30th St., Midway District, 619-226-2524. Also includes line up for Italian-sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches, and especially gressins — veal rolled around mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky flavor. Inexpensive to moderate.

**Puerto La Boca** 2060 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Uncompromised Argentine cooking here, emphasizing healthy grass-fed grilled beef but also lush seafood, pizzas, and lacto-vegetarian pastas. Starters include luscious beef or corn empanadas and the filling matambre (rolled beef galantin). Moderate.

#### Mission Hills

**Lucha Libre Gourmet Taco Shop** 1810 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-297-8226. Wonderful shrine to Mexican wrestling, plus really excellent tacos. It’s a taco joint, but definitely going to the must-see 24 hours ahead and you can see the Champions’ Booth, created like Taqueria El Grito. Moderate.

**Sausage King** 811 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-297-4001. The German couple who run this place make 34 sausages and lunchroom meats, plus 10 smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bison. Inexpensive to low moderate.

**Starlite** 3175 India St., Mission Hills, 619-359-6176. The California-Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats, house-made pasta and sausages, local produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat iron steak are knockouts; so is a toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Nice back-patio seating. Moderate. 3166 30th St., Midway District, 619-491-0708. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with goat cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese…fruity, moldy, runny, stinky…Any cheese in the house, same price: around five bucks. Even Bocconcini cheese, with truffles in it. Inexpensive.

#### North Park

**Blind Lady Ale House** 3146 Adams Ave., North Park, 619-255-2491. The amazing, ever-changing draft ales will bring you here, but the unusual pizzas will help you keep chugging. Original salads, too. Basic draw: the civilized craziness of the place.

**Cantina Mayahuel** 2934 Adams Ave., North Park, 619-283-6292. Small room, short menu of fine, authentic Mexican cooking including specials like complex house-made mole poblano and Oaxacan black mole, Chili Colorado (slow-cooked beef), or Yukon catfish stew. Inexpensive.


### Oceanside

#### Oceana Beach

**Livingston’s Chicken and Mexican Grill** 5036 Ocean Ave., Oceana Beach, 619-224-8888. “Breaded” chicken — pressure cooked in oil — is tastier and less greasy than standard fried chicken. Or try garlicy “potato hush,” a California burrito, or fried sweet potato slice. Until midnight weekdays; 2am weekends. Inexpensive.

**Ocean Beach People’s Organic Foods Co-Op Deli** 4505 Ocean Blvd., Oceana Beach, 619-224-1387. Virtuous, mainly vegan-prepared dishes include fresh vegetables, olive oil, local produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat iron steak are knockouts; so is a toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Moderate.

#### Old Town

**Bobbi's** 2384 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-220-0602. Casual dining serving generous portions. Try the three-eggger breakfast omelet with Italian sausage, avocados, and plums. If Erik’s smokin’ up some ribs (you’ll smell them half a block away), grab ‘em. Inexpensive.

### Oaxaca Festival


### Ruby’s Diner


### North Park

**Mission Beach**

Jack and Giulio’s Italian Restaurant 2391 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-294-2074. The traditional Italian entrees like veal parmigiana and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crabmeat, or the sampi dishes. Moderate.

Pacifc Beach

Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. Also 662 E St., Downtown, 619-294-9999. The Kiwi owners guarantee healthy, hormone-free, organic beef and lamb from New Zealand — mainly in burgers, from grass-fed organic beef burgers to lamb burgers with wasabi dip. Inexpensive.

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Additional locations in Chula Vista, Carlsbad, and Downtown. Breakfasting P.B.ers love this place for the sundae, the 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet 427. Inexpensive.

Gringo’s 4474 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. This noisy, popular indoor-outdoor venue is better than its name implies, with fresh, skillful cooking of slightly dummied-down, gentrified Mexican cuisine such as you might find in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta. Moderate.

JRDN 723 Felipar St., Pacific Beach, 858-270-2056. Beachfront dining room and patio, with dishes covering the waterfront, ranging from mac ’n’ cheese to die for to a sexy, fruitied garpadoco to swoon over. Chic, relaxed atmosphere, great grazing, youngish crowd. Entrées expensive.

Joe’s Crab Shack 4325 Ocean Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-274-3474. Additional locations in Mission Valley, Oceanside, and Downtown. Buckets of crab or fried or grilled seafood in raucous, kid-friendly atmosphere. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Latin Chef 1142 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-8810. Peruvian and Chinese-Peruvian cuisine cooked with rare, authentic ingredients, including canchitos (special toasted corn kernels) to nibble instead of bread. Outstanding anticuchos (heart kebabs) and refreshing ceviches. Friendly owner gladly explains the food. Inexpensive.

Sushi Ota 4529 Mission Bay Dr., Pacific Beach, 858-272-6070. This renowned sushi bar offers pristine seafood, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, like the sashimi of a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into the shape of a swelling sail. Moderate to expensive.

Pine Valley

La Posta 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Old West atmosphere, vintage American food including hefty anytime breakfasts (bulging omelets, chicken-fried steak with eggs). Their burgers are big, their chili is legendary, and the dinner rib-eye steak can make city folks swoon. Inexpensive.

Point Loma

Umi Sushi 3086 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-226-1135. Japanese and Korean entrées such as teppanyaki (cooked in the kitchen) chicken/seafood/buffet, Korean ribs, and excellent beef teppanyaki. Sushi highlights include lemony ama ebi, rich garlic tuna, and spicy Crazy Boy “krab” roll. Inexpensive to moderate.
Everybody wants to play in a group that has an international career,” says Luiz Mantovani of the Brazilian Guitar Quartet. “Some people think, ‘Wow, you go everywhere in the world. It must be great.’ But sometimes I just know the airport, the hotel, and the [concert] hall.”

The other three members agree. To live this life, they say, you have to want it. In the past ten years, the band has played over 300 concerts in the United States and only 10 or so in Brazil. While traveling, the group has to deal with all the annoyances one might expect — the long lines in airports, the late nights, the small hotel rooms. Finding familiar food isn’t easy either.

“We go to places where we just don’t know what to eat. Either we eat fast food or we eat food that we are not used to,” says Mantovani, the group’s designated English speaker. “If we’re touring for a month, we can’t be eating fast food every day.” At home in Brazil the group usually eats salad, seafood, and rice and beans. “So if we’re missing that, sometimes we go to a Mexican restaurant. At least they will have rice and beans.”

Negotiating the particulars of each venue requires flexibility as well. The day before their January 28 show at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library in La Jolla, the quartet members visited the venue. After the visit, Mantovani concluded, “It’s definitely not a concert hall. They’ll be very close to us when we’re playing. They’ll see all the details. Even our breathing.”

According to Judith Oishei, the Athenaeum’s music director, the intimacy is the point. She gestures toward the Bach-Gesellschaft (the complete works of Bach) housed in a closed case against the wall in the music room and says, “When Bach wrote those pieces, he expected them to be heard in a room this size. He expected to see the performers sweat.”

Unfortunately, for some, on the evening of the show the sweat and other intimate details (including the two eight-stringed Brahms guitars — played by Mantovani and Everton Gloeden — and the fake fingernails on Tadeu do Amaral’s right hand) were visible only to big donors and special guests.

“It used to be that the first two rows were reserved for people who gave a certain amount of money,” says audience member Eilene Cummins. “Now it’s five or six rows.”

Her husband Arthur agrees that, although the venue is cozy and charming — with pretty wooden floors and shelves full of books and records — it’s also frustrating to hear but not see the musicians. “They need something where the [performance] stand is higher so everybody can see.”

The program began with “Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major” by Johann Sebastian Bach and segued into “Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1” by Heitor Villa-Lobos, a Brazilian composer who, says Mantovani, is currently “recovering the status he had when he was alive.”

According to Tadeu do Amaral, the quartet member responsible for the group’s musical arrangements, “There is a natural connection between Bach and Villa-Lobos. Bach, he says, was Villa-Lobos’s favorite composer, and in this piece, he tried to find a connection between the music of Bach and the Brazilian folk music.”

After intermission the group played six pieces from “Iberia,” a suite composed by Spanish pianist...
Isaac Albéniz. The program noted that Albéniz’s suite was especially difficult to arrange for the guitar, and the expanded range of the eight-string guitars (developed by Paul Galbraith, a former member of the quartet) went a long way toward making it possible. At the end of both El Polo and Lavapiés, Gledone dropped his arm to his side and let his head fall back, as though exhausted by the effort.

The Spanish “character” of the Albéniz piece made it an audience favorite. Audience member Louise Garrett, however, did not like the second half of the program. She likened it to jazz and said, although it was “soul-felt,” it was disjointed and “warm up, they say it was a difficult piece.”

“Some Places” Jurgen Frey’s piece may be heard during UCSD Music Department Winter Festival (6pm). Also on tap: “Nordic music for flute, baroque violin and electronics” with UCSD’s Berglind Maria Tómasdóttir (flutes) and guest Hall Steinunn Stefansdóttir (baroque violin) from Iceland (9pm). 858-534-4830. Tuesday, February 16, 16pm; free. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Strings in the Morning!” The Hutchins Consort plays J.S. Bach’s duo concerto referred to as the “Bach Double,” featuring treble and mezzo violinists Healy and Chris. Listen to them “rip on this late-Baroque masterwork.” 760-753-7376. Wednesday, February 17, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

“Two Pieces for Piano and Electronics” UCSD Music Department Winter Festival continues with Jacob Sudoh’s piece (6pm). “Palais du Mari” by Morton Feldman, plus songs on texts of Beaudelaire by Dan Tickle and world premieres of songs on texts of Emily Dickinson by Nicholas Deyoe (10pm), 858-534-4830. Friday, February 12, 6pm; free. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Jacobs’ Masterworks Concerts San Diego Symphony joined by pianist Garrick Ohlsson for Chopin’s “Piano Concerto No. 2.” Jahja Ling conducts “Second Symphony” of Jean Sibelius. 619-235-0804. Friday, February 12, 8pm; Saturday, February 13, 8pm; Sunday, February 14, 2pm; $20-$93. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Music by Mozart May be heard when Quartetto Sorrento performs for Concert Hour Series, along with selections by Debussy and original compositions by quartet cellist Gordon Grubbs. 760-438-5996. Tuesday, February 16, 10:30am; free. Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, February 14, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALboa PARK)

UCSD Music Department Winter Festival Festival gets underway with graduate forum featuring music by Sosa, Kurtag, Pierzak, Hackbarth, McCallum, Ruviano, Peterson/Nelson (8pm). “Supermarket Music” follows (10pm). 858-534-4830. Thursday, February 11, 8pm; free. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)


CLASSICAL MUSIC

“Five Centuries of Love and Laughter” San Diego Master Chorale presents “Sacred and Profane” songs during Valentine’s Day choral concert to “make your heart sing.” Enjoy classics from Shakespeare to Broadway. Donation, 858-487-0811. Sunday, February 14, 4pm. Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, 17010 Pomerado Road. (BANCO FERNANDO)


Laughter” Songs during Valentine’s Day

Gala Benefit Reception Following the San Diego performance

J.S. Bach’s Six Motets have served as a point of reference for the Bach Collegium San Diego’s repertoire since the ensemble’s founding. This season, the Chorus of the Bach Collegium San Diego will perform all six motets in one program, with varying vocal configurations, immediately displaying the breadth and vitality of Bach’s vocal output. The motets have been admired by composers through the centuries as “pinnacles of absolute vocal music.”

For more information and advance tickets, please contact:
Bach Collegium San Diego, P.O. Box 33754, San Diego, CA 92163
www.bachcollegiumsd.org • 619.341.1726

San Diego Reader February 11, 2010 97
Who Got the Jams? The Onyx Room’s website says there is a live jazz jam on Tuesday nights. But as of this writing, the site has not been updated to indicate that the jam’s founder and host for the past decade, Gilbert Castellanos, has moved on.

“It was just time,” he says. “I mean, I love Greg Strangman, the owner. I have nothing but positive and wonderful things to say about him. He was there for me, believed in what I was trying to do. For ten years, he supported the jam session.”

Castellanos says that his decision to leave Onyx was based on a growing rift that was between him and club management. “I wasn’t really butting heads, but I just felt like Tuesday nights had become a burden,” he says it got to the point where he no longer felt welcome. “That’s the last thing I wanted to feel,” he says. “It was time for a change.”

Castellanos kicked off a new weekly jazz jam at El Camino (formerly the Airport Lounge) on India Street, January 27, with guests Daniel Jackson, Gary LeFevre, and Tommy Arros.

“The whole purpose of running the jam session for me is a community service, actually, to let people come out and share the stage with musicians in my group and, hopefully, to inspire the musicians of a younger generation to continue playing jazz.”

Spin magazine has called Castellanos the city’s best trumpeter. A veteran of recording sessions with Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsalis, and Charles McPherson, Castellanos teaches jazz at USC’s Thornton School of Music.

He says he started the original jam sessions at Ole Madrid in 1995, right after he moved to San Diego. For him, those jam sessions were school. “Back then, I was the one who was getting my stuff together and figuring out how to play jazz and all that stuff.”

His friendship with Madrid’s then-part-owner Mauricio Couturier would come full circle when Castellanos decided to pull the plug on the Onyx gig. Couturier had recently opened El Camino in Little Italy (he has another location in South Park) and was looking to book some live music.

“It was a blessing in disguise that I quit when I did,” says Castellanos. “When I called Mauricio to tell him that I had quit the Onyx Room and I was looking for change, he was, like, ‘Man, that’s so funny. I was thinking about you last night, and I was going to call you to come and play at my place.’”

He says the new jam will be held every Wednesday evening but that this time, the music will be geared toward a theme.

“It’s going to be jazz, but jazz in a Latin context.” He says the rules of the game are standard — that any musician at any level is welcome to join.

— Dave Good

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— Dave Good

Hating on Day Jobs

“This album was supposed to come out last December,” says Lualta singer Michael Roger Hernandez, “but when we were in the studio fixing up the kinks, we all had different opinions and ideas about how it should sound. We went in over and over again, just changing and adding shit.”

As for the album title, Nobody Loves You When You’re Down, “A lot of the tracks were written at a very low and dark point in my life,” says Hernandez. “[The title track] is speaking of a breakup and self-reflecting on how you’ve become nothing that you anticipated in life. One line in the song says, ‘Take your wine and your records, to me they don’t mean nothing.’ Obviously, trying to convince oneself that they don’t give a f*ck about a breakup is clearly a lie.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Hair Products and Narcotics “The BombPops started in 2008,” says Jen Raz, the singer-guitarist for the female-fronted North County punk-rock band, “but Poli [guitar-vocals] and I met in 2005 at Stripline [studios in Oceanside]. We were in other bands. We just became really good friends, and I asked her if she wanted to start a band with me. Dylan [drums] and I went to Carlsbad High. I met him when his band, Geek Mafia, played [a] battle of the bands his freshman year…my junior year. I liked their music and I thought he was hot, so I asked him to sign my yearbook, and we’ve been great friends ever since. We just got a new bass player,

(continued on page 94)
"I DID" BEATS "I WILL" ANY DAY

WARNING:
THIS PRODUCT MAY CAUSE MOUTH CANCER
Trevor Robertson. He’s 18 and this is the first band he’s been in. The first show he ever played was our show opening for T.S.O.L. at Coconuts. He did good. I don’t think he really knew much about T.S.O.L. at the time, which was probably a good thing because if he had he would have been a lot more nervous.

The BombPops recently returned from their first West Coast tour. Raz relates some of their first-time difficulties. “We got to the Doll Hut [in Anaheim] and we were pretty excited because it was the first show of our tour, but then they told us we weren’t gonna be able to play because members of our band weren’t 21. I was the only one that was 21 in the band. So, what they said was, as long as our drummer was 21, he could set up on the stage — drums and amps… He wasn’t 21, so he used Poli’s boyfriend’s I.D. to get in the bar, and me and him set up everything up. And then Poli and Austin had to run cables out the door and set up a mike stand outside and play the show from there. It actually turned out to be a really good show because people weren’t sure what was going on ‘cause we were inside the bar and they were outside the bar, but we got a good response and sold a lot of merch.”

With a tour under their belt and a batch of songs worked out, the BombPops are taking the next step, releasing their debut album, Hair Products and Narcotics, and planning a more ambitious tour. “We recorded [the record] with Jeff Forrest at Doubletime in El Cajon because he’s recorded a lot of great San Diego bands over the years, including blink-182, Rocket From the Crypt, Buck-O-Nine, and Battalion of Saints, so we knew it would sound good. But we’re gonna release it ourselves… sometime in February, hopefully before our tour with the Sparring.” The BombPops are scheduled to be on the road through February 27, when they’ll play the Vault in Temecula with punk veterans Strung Out. Go to myspace.com/thebombpops to check out the new tunes and stay up to date on Hair Products and Narcotics.

— Adam Crawford

Record-Release Roundup

Flautist Holly Hofmann debuts her new CD Three’s Company with a performance at the Athenaeum Wednesday, February 10. Gregory Page’s release party for Heartstrings happens February 13 at Oasis House Concerts. Angels and Airwaves will be giving away free downloads from their website and created a website, made a music video, and recorded an album with Christopher Hoffer [Truckee Brothers] at Chaos Recorders."

Other locals with new February releases include Coachella-bound buzz band the Soft Pack and Clay Pigeons collaborator James T. Powers (Cali-Foreigner), as well as Heavy Claw (The Filth and the Fury), Lualta (Nobody Loves You When You’re Down), Skid Roper (Rock ‘n’ Roll Part 3), Secret Apollo (Circus Opus), the Wayne Riker Ensemble (Full Soul Ahead), and a self-titled full-length from Gypsy-flamenco improv kings Otto Mundo. March will see new records from former Zappa sideman Mike Keneally (Scambot 3), songstress Steph Johnson, reggae-minded Higher Minds, man-of-a-thousand-bands Rafter Roberts, the resurrected Ratt (Infestation), longtime Beatleholic Dave Humphries (aka the Man Turned Down by Apple Records More Than Anyone Alive), and female indie-pop trio Bitter Sober, who will preview their new tunes at the Flame’s Club Purple tonight.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Gram, Dave Good, Larry Harman, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
29TH ANNUAL
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FESTIVAL 2010

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Thursday 11

Kick out the jams, brothers and sisters, when Santa Cruz instrumental act Sound Tribe Sector 5 delivers “post-rock dance music” to all over House of Blues. The alt-hop band’s got a new one in Long Way Down, which reads like a best-of collection. I don’t know, I’m not a big Sauce guy. With Vancouver B.C.’s pale rastas Redeye Empire, there’s gonna be some fun dance jams up in the House. The Yard Dogs Road Show rolls into Casbah Friday night. It’s a traveling rock, roll, and vaudeville revue that offers music, performance art, magic tricks, poetry, and balloon animals (kidding about the balloon animals, just kind of hoping). “Time passages” when British singer-songer Al Stewart (“Year of the Cat”) takes the stage at Anthology. The ’70s radio staple is still recording and touring at a dip. His latest is last year’s live catchall called Uncovered. . . . Uptown, it’ll be acid-jazz cats Pocket at Bar Pink. . . . San Francisco psych-punks Venus Bogardus at Soda Bar with Pterodactylies and Lenguas Largas . . . and indie-rock sets by Luulla and Lights On at Beauty Bar. Catch up with Luulla in this week’s Blurt.

Friday 13

Philadelphia’s favorite son and another Jack Johnson signer, Garrett Dutton, better known as G. Love, will pour his Special Sauce all over House of Blues. The alt-hop band’s got a new one in Long Way Down, which reads like a best-of collection. I don’t know, I’m not a big Sauce guy. With Vancouver B.C.’s pale rastas Redeye Empire, there’s gonna be some fun dance jams up in the House. The Yard Dogs Road Show rolls into Casbah Friday night. It’s a traveling rock, roll, and vaudeville revue that offers music, performance art, magic tricks, poetry, and balloon animals (kidding about the balloon animals, just kind of hoping). “Time passages” when British singer-songer Al Stewart (“Year of the Cat”) takes the stage at Anthology. The ’70s radio staple is still recording and touring at a dip. His latest is last year’s live catchall called Uncovered. . . . Uptown, it’ll be acid-jazz cats Pocket at Bar Pink. . . . San Francisco psych-punks Venus Bogardus at Soda Bar with Pterodactylies and Lenguas Largas . . . and indie-rock sets by Luulla and Lights On at Beauty Bar. Catch up with Luulla in this week’s Blurt.

Saturday 14

Happy healthy Valentine’s Day. Brick by Brick’s got your deathrock–date-night set with L.A. goths Christian Death. CD started in 1979 (!) behind Rozz Williams and Valor Kand. Since the passing of Williams in 1998, it’s been Kand’s band, and he’s calling this their Necro Sexual Tour, which is sort of romantic. For the uninitiated, CD’s 1982 debut Only Theatre of Pain is a goth staple. Order of the Fly and Eternal Unborn will warm up the Bay Park bar with their own stack-shaking bloodlust. Dude, you gotta take her . . . The rest of you: one-off local rock-rollers collaboration Listening to Rocks will join camry twin Silent Comedy and Encinitas indie kids Tan Sister Radio at Roger and Sara’s anniversary party at the Casbah. Aw.

Monday 15

It’s President’s Day and time for the big not-called Bob Marley Day Tribute to Reggae Legends at the San Diego Sports Arena. Featured performers Barrington Levy, Don Carlos, and Gregory Isaacs will be joined by a whole bunch more to entertain the Arena’s floor, which will be opened as one big dancehall . . . Casbah’s Anti-Monday meet-up stages Foo Fighter Chris Shifflett playing a solo acoustic set. So, the guitarist was once upon a time in a cover band Me First and the Gimme Gimmes, and he’s got a tat inside his lip that reads “Gimme Gimme.” L.A. folkie Audra Mae goes first . . . Buena Park thrashcore crew Ghostlimb headlines the fray at Che Café with the Separation, deliciously country-fried skunks Behind the Wagon pull into Winstons with that Old Devil . . . and SDSU professor Joe Waters brings the “skate-boarder sax and wild meter-gnome” that is Swallows to the Loft at UCSD.

Tuesday 16

Folk-pop hit Suzanne Vega sold out the Loft, so they added a second set at 10p, which, at this typing, 8x for it are still available. Now I’m going to have “Luka” in my head all day . . . L.A.’s reverb-ic newgrass clan Old Man Markley trips into town Tuesday to take the stage at Casbah behind the like-minded Pete Bernhard and SanFran band the Pine Box Boys . . . Radio Room wages punk rawk Drug Wars, with No Idea artists Worn in Red and locals Youth Envy . . . Class act jazzman Jessie Davis croons a Tuesday night away at Humphrey’s Backstage.

Wednesday 17

So, Who’s Paranoid? U.K. goth-band the Damned check into Casbah for a two-night stint Wednesday and Thursday. These five lads from London have been at it for 35 years, which they just celebrated on tour with metal peripherals Motörhead. The Creepy Creeps will open the show on Wednesday. . . . Real quick with the best of the rest: the ratty Henry Rollins Frequent Flyer Tour lands at Belly Up . . . experimental jazz trio Medeski Martin & Wood bring their brand-new Evolutionary Set to the House of Blues . . . while grungy Brooklyn bro Ultra Violent Lights shine on Ruby Room.

— Barnaby Monk
NOTHING SAYS “I LOVE YOU” MORE.
(Except, of course, actually saying “I love you”)

PERFECT PAIRING DINNER.

Escape the ordinary and celebrate this Valentine’s Day with the Perfect Pairings Dinner at 6:30pm. For only $70 per person, enjoy a gourmet 4-course dinner with wine pairings along with a live jazz performance.

THIS FEBRUARY, TRADE CUPID FOR COSBY.

Performing live February 14 at 6pm and 9pm in the Pavilion.

Tickets for both events can be purchased at www.HarrahsRincon.com or Ticketmaster.com. Call 1-800-HARRAHS for hotel packages and group rates.

Some restrictions may apply. Tickets are required. Entertainers subject to change or cancellation. Must be 21 or older to gamble and attend concerts. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700. Owned by the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians. Managed by HCAL, LLC. ©2010, Harrah’s License Company, LLC.
In Matthews's Steps

“James Brown might have been a pain to work with, but he sure was funky.”

We try to capture the musical variety and spiritual energy of a Dave Matthews concert,” says singer-guitarist Mike Myrdal of his tribute band Stepping Feet. The group has jammed with Matthews associates such as harp player John Popper, who played on Dave Matthews Band recordings such as “What Would You Say.”

“It was a private party in San Francisco during Super Bowl weekend,” says Myrdal, “and one of the organizers arranged for John to play a few songs. He played solo with a guitar for some new songs, which were impressive and heartfelt. But the whole time he played he kept looking over at us; he seemed eager to sit in and rip some solos on his signature harmonica. We weren’t sure how many songs he wanted to do with us, so we started with ‘What Would You Say.’ After the song, he turned to me with his arm raised for a high five, and I must’ve had the hugest smile on my face.”

Stepping Feet saxophonist Dan Boissy has kept in touch with Popper. “Who knows where that might lead? All we know is that it made for one memorable trip to San Francisco.”

Our queries were answered by Myrdal and Boissy, along with Jennifer Spingola (violin), Sam Johnson (bass), and Kevin Dooley (drums).

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Myrdal: “Tool, Aenima. Their use of syncopation is always impeccable. Listening to this CD reminds me of the power, the unpredictability, and the exhilaration of sitting through a violent thunderstorm.”

Boissy: “Stanton Moore, All Kooked Out! Moore is a New Orleans cat, most known as the drummer for Galactic.”

Spingola: “I rarely listen to entire albums anymore. Instead I find myself checking out artists on MySpace, just to see what’s out there.”

Johnson: “Modest Mouse. I like them ‘cause they’re different, with a quirky sound that I crave at times.”

Dooley: “Thrice, The Illusion of Safety. These guys are incredibly talented, from the captivating vocal harmonies and thoughtful lyrics to the polyphonic guitar lines and impeccable drumming.”

BEST IN THE BIZ?

Myrdal: “Eddie Van Halen is the reason I play the guitar today. I swear, Eddie looked me in the eye and gave me the thumbs up one night at a show at the Centrum in Worcester.”

Boissy: “James Brown might have been a pain to work with, but he sure was funky.”

Johnson: “One of my favorite artists is Wayne Shorter.”

Dooley: “I discovered the Smashing Pumpkins during those angst-ridden formative teenage years.”

MUST-HAVE DVDS?

Myrdal: 1. Spy Game. “Robert Redford and Brad Pitt deliver fantastic performances in this spy thriller.”
2. There’s Something About Mary. “I almost soiled myself due to prolonged laughter during this movie.”
3. Donnie Brasco. “I love movies based on true stories.”
4. Almost Famous. “Something every musician can relate to.”

Boissy: 1. The Big Lebowski. “My favorite Coen Brothers movie.”
2. Big Trouble in Little China. “One of those movies you can watch over and over.”
3. Fight Club. “Love the look and feel of the picture.”
4. Office Space. “Reminds me why I don’t work for anyone.”

Spingola: 1. Meet the Parents. “Anyone who knows me knows I watch this movie at least once a day.”
2. The Notebook. “It’s such a romantic love story, though I’m sure the boys in the band are rolling their eyes right now.”

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS?

Myrdal: 1. Golf Digest. “I’m practicing for the senior tour.”
2. Men’s Health. “Great health tips and also high on unintentional comedy.”

2. Fast Company. “Good stuff on business.”
3. Wired. “I like to keep up with the techie stuff.”

GUilty PLeasures?

Myrdal: 1. “Junk food.”
2. “Sleeping in.”
4. “Heavy-metal music.”

Boissy: 1. “Any dessert with peanut butter.”
2. “A good hefeweizen.”
3. “Bowing.”
4. “Buying shoes.”

Spingola: 1. “Watching The Bachelor.”
2. “Watching Lost.”

Johnson: 1. “Computer games are just addictive.”
2. “Buying CDs, especially obscure stuff.”
3. “Old ’80s movies with really bad acting.”

Dooley: 1. “Watching Grey’s Anatomy. That’s right, ladies, I watch Grey’s Anatomy.”
2. “Singing along with terrible pop songs on the radio.”
3. “Sipping maple syrup.”
4. “Chasing birds.”

MOST VISITED WEBSITE?

Myrdal: “Golfnow.com, for the discount golf.”
Boissy: “YouTube has great old-school jazz clips.”
Spingola: “I love ABC.com because I can watch TV episodes without commercials.”
Johnson: “Amazon.com has anything I want.”

LOCAL HANGOUT?

Myrdal: “The Hotel del Coronado is great for a casual cocktail and beautiful scenery.”
Spingola: “You might catch me wandering the aisles and reading the labels at Whole Foods.”
Johnson: “The Wild Animal Park and the Zoo are like being somewhere else.”

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEw WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

Myrdal: “I am the real-life Larry David from Curb Your Enthusiasm.”
Boissy: “I once carried a 203 bowling average and bowled 11 strikes in a row.”
Spingola: “I’ve been on three overseas tours, playing music for our troops.”
Johnson: “I used to have really long hair.”
Dooley: “I can’t tell you.”

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Sat. 2/13
TONIGHT: NO COVER
THE WATCHLIST
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Sun. 2/14
TONIGHT: THE MATT COOK SHOW
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UPCOMING:
2/18: Reggae w/ Tristan Palma
2/19: The Vokab Company
2/22: "Juno What?" feat. members of the Motet
2/26: Tomorrow's Bad Seeds
2/27: eoto

2/9/10 8:16 AM  Page 99

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JOHN LEGUIZAMO IN JOHN LEGUIZAMO'S DIARY OF A MADMAN; photo by Carol Rosegg.

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Classical listings can be found in the Classical Music Guide. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT A MUSIC LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Friday — I Love Hip-Hop. Featuring Murs with Dead Prez and Phife Dawg.
Saturday, 7pm — San Diego Brazil Carnival 2010. Carnival bands, samba dancers, Capoeira performances, parades, Mardi Gras beads, and authentic Batucada rhythms of Rio de Janeiro 21 and up.
710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
Friday, 9pm — Flight to Athena and Monkeys In Space. Rock.
AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
Friday, 7:30pm — Chris Smith. Blues/rock.
Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
Thursday, 7pm — Tommy Emmanuel. Acoustic. $37-$54.
Friday, 7:30pm — Al Stewart and Johnny Polanco. Folk/rock/Latin. $7-$8.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue. R&B/soul.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Rosie Ledet & the Zydeco Playboys. Zydeco/blues. $5.
Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
Thursday, 9pm — ALO Funk/pop. $16, 21 and up.
Saturday, 9pm — Los Lonely Boys. With Alejandro Escovedo and Carrie Rodriguez. Pop/rock. $45-$47. 21 and up.
Sunday, 9pm — Valentine’s Day Ball. With B-Side Players and World Anthem. ’70s, ’80s throwback. $15-$17.
Boar Cross’n: 390 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-2989.
San Diego Brazil Carnival 2010.
Thursday, 7pm — NSD Presents Hip-Hop. With Mac-T, Black Resume, Submission, Chase DreamEnt., Go Hard or Go Home, Zoozlick Gang, and Gordo. $10.
Friday, 8pm — Frank & Salo’s Birthday Bash. With Unset, Authentic Sellout, Shovel, Unloaded, and Behind the Wagon. Rock/punk/country. $10.
California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, 760-839-4438.
Saturday, 8pm — Bobby Caldwell. Presented by KIFM Smooth Jazz 98.1. $30-$50.
Capri Blu: 10436 Craftsman Way Suite 120, Rancho Bernardo, 858-673-5100.
VALENTINE’S
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Friday
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Dj Mahjestik
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Thursday
Tribal KINGS

Friday

Saturday
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Saturday, 8pm — Acoustic roots. With guitarist-vocalist Nathan James, followed by Chris Clarke & Plow with Joe Ponnand, mandolin; David Bandrowski, banjo; and Doug Walker, upright bass. $12.
Sunday, 7pm — Valentine’s Day Tribute. Classic Lou Armstrong/Ella Fitzgerald duets with vocalists Leonard Patton & Rebecca Jade; Derek Cannon, trumpet; Ed Kernahuer, piano; Justin Grinnell, bass; and Duncan Moore, drums. Jazz. $15.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131, Friday — Psychedelic Rock/Jam. With Earthlies, Moonbeams, Psychelastic Priest, the Kabhs, F**K Yeah, and Brainickett DJ’s.

El Cajon Grand: 351 W. Main St, El Cajon, 819-444-0949, Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — OUI12. A tribute to Van Halen. Rock.


Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill (La Mesa): 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900, Friday, 9pm — Tony Cummins. World, Free. Saturday, 9pm — The Fooks. Celtic/punk. Free.


House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583, Thursday, 8pm — Sound Tribe Sector 9. Electronica/experimental. $22-$32. 21 and up.


SUZANNE VEGA

The other day I heard the new song “Wide-Eyed, Legless” by singer-songwriter Laura Veirs, and it made me think of Suzanne Vega’s 1986 single “Left of Center.” In the verses of both songs, a female singer’s voice bounces along a rhythm, almost chanting the words. And in both songs, the singer slows down her phrasing and gets more melodic on the chorus but never gives in to full-bodied singing. In both songs, the singer sounds more than a little emotionally detached. The effect is like meeting a woman who knows exactly how smart and talented she is and who doesn’t particularly care if you like her or not.

I don’t want to make too much of the similarity: Veirs and Vega are very different songwriters. But I do wonder if there would be a place for someone like Veirs today had Vega not paved the way.

This year, Vega is marking the 25th anniversary of her career as a solo artist with a solo acoustic tour. She also has a new acoustic album, Close Up Vol. 1, Love Songs, in which she rein-terprets some of her classics such as “Marlene on the Wall.” If you go to her website, you can hear an acoustic version of her 1987 hit “Luka.” In the many years since its release, the song — sung from the point of view of an abused child — has lost none of its power. And as she showed with 2007’s Beauty & Crime (an album-length med-itation on post-9/11 New York), she has lost none of her skill in making personal, melodic, and memorable music out of the kinds of weighty topics that would have bogged down a lesser talent.

SUZANNE VEGA: The Loft, Tuesday, February 16, 10 p.m. 858-534-8497, $10, $26.

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 500 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6pm — Yeah, and Brainticket DJs. Psychedelic Priest, the Kabbs, F**K Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131. Friday, 7pm — Dr. Skavra. With Straight Trippin’, EPZ, the Guaze, and the Demencomo. Alternative/punk/reggae/ ska.


80’S FOR HAITI

Tribute Band-Aid Concert to Benefit the Victims of the Haiti Earthquakes SATURDAY FEB 20TH @ 4TH & B
All Proceeds to Benefit the CLINTON BUSH HAITI FUND
11 of California’s Top 80’s Bands
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The Smiths — Tribute Band Sweet & Tender Hooligans
U2 — Tribute Band The Joshua Tree
The Pretenders — Tribute Band Ghost in the Machine
The Police — Tribute Band Gabba Gabba Heys
The Ramones — Dust n Bones

Radio Star
New Wave with a Hard Rock Twist
Hosted by Steve West and special guest host John Easdale of Dramarama

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Doors 6:30 Show 7:00 - 21&up
4thandbevents.com ticketmaster

102 San Diego Reader February 11, 2010

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday — Old Man Markley. With Pete Bernhard of the Devil Makes Three, Pine Box Boys. Punk/ bluegrass. $8-$10.
Wednesday — The Damned. With the Creepy Creeps. Punk/rock. $20.


80’S FOR HAITI
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2/20
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2/26
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LOOSE NUTTS • T.F.L.

February 26:
Sadistic Intent • Coffin Texts
Ruines ov Abaddon
Phantasm • Sergulath

March 5:
Warrel Dane (frontman of Nevermore) • Bonded by Blood • Mindmum
Within the Swarm • Metatonic

March 13:
Bobaflex • Downstait

March 18:
Bang Tango • March 19: The Dreaming

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Rent Ramona Mainstage for your private event
The fan may be confused by my state-ment that Medeski Martin & Wood is a jam band with traditional jazz roots. After all, isn’t jamming, or improvising, the province of traditional jazz? But in this context, jam means something else — it’s a genre. And in keep-ing with the jam-band mentality, Medeski Martin & Wood compositions are long repetitions of some kind of hypnoto groove. Everything MMW begins and ends with a New Orleans funk beat. It’s a paradigm shift away from the melodic pocket necessary to the explorations of straight-ahead jazz. Miles Davis made such paradigm shifts acceptable in the 1950s when he dumped bebop for the ex-periments in modality that became Birth of the Cool. Since then, every discern-ing, traditional jazz musician has been looking for the next new thing — with the excep-tion of the smoothjazz crowd, which continues to search for the next dollar.

John Medeski, Billy Martin, and Chris Wood have been together for nearly two decades. They have long been associated with the kinds of nightclubs that form the nucleus of New York’s hipster downtown, which happens to be the cor-nerstone of the world’s straight-ahead jazz scene. MMW is a standard keyboard-bass-and-drums arrangement, but the way they per-form is a return to form of the late ’60s when jazz masters like Charles Lloyd opened for the world’s greatest jam band, the Grateful Dead. John Medeski’s pile of keyboards runs from Hammond B3 hot to cool-blue electronic riffs that sound like whales breeding, performed in the spirit of revealing that elusive next new thing. For this trio, it’s a mix of hip-hop, electronica, funk, acoustic percussion, and older traditions. Call it jazz, for lack of a better word.

MEDESKI MARTIN & WOOD
House of Blues, Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. $20.50, $35.
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**UPCOMING SHOWS**

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<td>Wild Child—an amazing re-creation of a Doors concert</td>
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**HAPPY HOURS**

5:30 PM

2/12 The Fabulous Pelicans

2/29 The Mar Dels

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**Anvil: This Is Thirteen**

CD Review by Michael Caldwell

On their 18th release, Canadian metal veterans Anvil live up to their name. Title track “This Is Thirteen” is a chunky, iron block on which to lay your head for a steady, heavy-handed pummeling. The group’s cofounder, guitarist-vocalist Steve “Lips” Kudlow, howls, “Tarot cards and tea leaves/ a crystal ball...” (Hey, it worked for Ronnie James Dio...) “Burning Bridges” is another lumbering affair with an inflammatory chord structure that slowly builds to ignition. Anvil’s attempts at speed metal are inconsistent, and the problem isn’t drummer Robb Reiner. After 30 years with the band, Reiner is spry and inspired, thrashing up a maelstrom with his double-bass drums. But, neither are the failings due to the riffs Lips and bassist Glen Five grind out. The two infuse the best cuts with old-school metal joy. “Ready to Fight,” for example, sounds like a hopped-up Ted Nugent number. “Shoulda Woulda Coulda” could’ve been a Motörhead outtake. The album’s Achilles’ heel is that all 14 tracks contain choruses that replicate the song titles shouted repeatedly; e.g., “Flying Blind.” “Room #9,” “Axe to Grind.” Notice the rhyme scheme? Same tempos, too. And they come at you consecutively in tracks five through seven.

**Pastels/Tenniscoats: Two Sunsets**

CD Review by Chris Holmes

Two Sunsets brings together lo-fi kingspins the Pastels and Japanese ambient-folk duo the Tenniscoats in a mostly winning collaboration. Part of the album’s charm comes from its nonchalance, as if the melodies occurred to the musicians the afternoon that they went in to roll tape. Opener “So Many Stars” sets the collections’ tone. It’s a laid-back instrumental that hits right in the gut, taking the listener to a place of wide-eyed, wistful reflection. Another early highlight is “Vivid Youth,” wherein the Pastels’ Katrina Mitchell paints a portrait of growing up over a ‘60s pop-lite melody. The success of the album, though, may hang upon the cover of the Jesus and Mary Chain’s “About You,” as the group shines a light on the Darklands closer, infusing it with a sense of unheeded joy. Where Two Sunsets lags a bit is on some of the Saya (Tenniscoats) sung tunes toward the end of the album, as her twee falsetto tends to suck the air out of some nice melodies. Still, there’re enough special moments to overshadow these missteps, making Two Sunsets something that indie-pop fans should seek out.

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**Second Wind (Navajo):** 8515 Navajo Rd., San Carlos, 619-465-1730. Thursday — Sub Zero.

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**SD Reader/critic.com**

$75 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader/critic.com
Conrack's Got Cool
Concert Review
by Tim Manglona
I've always considered Harry Connick Jr. 's music to be what you would play when you wanted something to hear but not necessarily listen to. His performance proved the opposite. Although this particular tour was in support of Connick's newest album, which focuses on his vocal abilities, he spent two hours showcasing the full range of his talent. The accomplished arranger, pianist, and vocalist was accompanied by a 14-piece assembly of strings, horns, and percussionists. Songs throughout the evening ranged from classic crooner standards such as “The Way You Look Tonight” and “All the Way,” to up-tempo New Orleans jazz numbers that at times felt like the audience was observing a jam session unfold.

Connick demonstrated a cool stage presence, weaving personal anecdotes with the occasional background of the songs. A moment of note was his handling of an older woman who had partaken of the Copley beverage services offered in the lobby. Connick accommodated the woman's need to share her love of “Nawlleans.”

He was kind enough to appear after the show to fans awaiting autographs. He requested nobody take pictures and only one autograph per couple, which was the only disappointment that evening.

Concert: Harry Connick Jr.
Show date: January 28
Venue: Copley Symphony Hall
Seats: RC Main, Row V
CD release of Prayer for My Ancestors featuring Amadou Fall and Ibrahim Ba, with Henry “Skipper” Franklin, Theo Saunders, and Lorca Hart. Jazz. $15.

My Re-Generation
Concert Review
by Robert Duffy
Local mods Manual Scan regrouped as part of the Che Underground's annual reunions show at a packed Cashbah. As Cherry Red records are about to reissue their back catalog in Europe, it's a timely reminder of how many classic songs Manual Scan wrote.

Fronted by the dapper Bart Menendoza, who looked as if he'd just ridden his scooter off the set of Quadrophenia, they kicked straight into their anthem “American Way.”

They grinded through “Plan of Action,” “Jungle Beat,” and “She Said It's Late” in Biff! Bang! Pow! success. With Kinks-like riffs, courtesy of Kevin Donaker-Ring, the band built a bridge between '60s rhythm-and-blues and '70s power pop. A special mention must go to drummer Morgan Young who was locked in throughout the 14-song set.

Covers of songs by the Pretty Things and the Easybeats left Manual Scan hearing cries of “More!” ringing in their ears, and they gave it. For the encore, the Penetrators' Chris Sullivan (bass) and Chris Davies (guitar) joined Manual Scan onstage for a blistering set of Penetrators classics: “Sensitivety,” “Untamed Youth,” “Revolution Now,” and “Walk the Beat.”

Concert: Manual Scan w/ special guests
Show date: January 30
Venue: Cashbah
Seats: standing

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Music Reviews from Our Readers

Reggae/rock.
Wednesday, 9pm — The Heavy Guilt. Rock/world.

Friday, 8pm — Azar Lawrence.

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Show date: January 30
Venue: Cashbah
Seats: standing

$75 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReaderCritic.com
March 11 — Brandi Carlile.
March 12 — Melissa Ferrick.
March 13 — Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.
March 19, March 20, March 21 — Bad Religion.
March 24 — Kretzer.
March 26 — The AD Tour 2010.
March 28 — HammerFall.
April 1 — The Alkaline Trio.
April 7 — Five for Fighting.
April 15 — Ramon Ayala.
April 19 — Sia.
April 21 — Overkill.
April 25 — HIM.
April 29 — The Avett Brothers.
May 15 — Steel Pulse.
May 20 — The Shout Out Louds.
Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
February 18 — Paradise.
February 19 — Beck.
February 20 — Detroit Underground.
February 22 — Michele Lunden & Blues Streak.
February 23 — Blow by Blow.
February 24 — Rhythm & the Method.
February 25 — The Insomniacs.
February 26 — Guitar Shorty.
February 20 — Matthew Ryan.
February 21 — Michael Miller.
February 21 — Casey Anderson.
February 24 — Ramekela.
February 28 — The Robin Henkel Band.
The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
February 18 — Mauger.
February 21 — Luminance.
February 24 — We Were Promised Jetpacks.
February 28 — Zee Avi.
March 10 — Dawes.
March 17 — Kalman Balogh & the Gypsy Cimbalom Band.
April 7 — Gretchen Parlato.
February 18 — Big City Shaman.
February 19 — Harmony Road.
February 20 — 4-Way Street.
February 23 — Knockout Bell.
February 24 — Laguna.
February 25 — Harmony Road.
February 26 — The Offbeats.
February 27 — 4-Way Street.
February 19, February 20 — International Pop Overthrow.
February 21 — Left Alone.
February 21 — International Pop Overthrow.
February 22 — Blues Jam.
February 23 — Jerusalem.
February 24 — Knockout Bell.
February 26 — Viva Hate.
Onyx/Thin: 852 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-235-6699.
February 23 — The Jon Goodhue Band.
February 26 — The Red Hot Chili Peppers.
Pacific Beach Library: 4275 Cass St., Pacific Beach.
March 10 — "Guitar Extravaganza."
Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
February 19 — Spuntaneous.
February 21 — American Asian Variety Show.
February 26 — Pop Vinyl.
April 20 — Tony Bennett.
Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.
February 18 — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band.
February 19 — Missy Andersen.
February 20 — Shari Puertos and the Rhythm Addicts.
February 21 — Burnsville Blues.
February 22 — Chet Cannon & the Committee.
February 23 — Jasper and Ain't Mishabavin'.
April 15 — Mark Knopfler.
April 24 — Leon Redbone.
RT's Longboard Grill: 4466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
February 18 — Chimney Fish.
February 19 — Flock of 80s.
February 20 — Stepping Feet.
February 25 — The Pheromones.
February 26 — Helicopter.
March 11 — Nautical Disaster.
March 12 — The Slants.
Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-788-7008.
February 19 — Paul Di'Anno (from Iron Maiden).
February 20 — The Angry Samoans.
February 26 — Sadistic Intent.
February 27 — Erik Anarchy.
March 5 — Warren Dane.
March 7 — Hatchet.
March 13 — Bobaflex.
March 18 — Bang Tango.
March 21 — Pentagram.
San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
May 7 — Celtic Women.
March 2 — The Zac Brown Band.
March 23 — Hank III & Ausjack.
April 3 — The Black Eyed Peas.
May 1 — Daughtry.
February 19 — Children of Nova.
February 20 — Strange Out.
February 27 — The Toasters.
March 5 — Ukeirth.
March 6 — Scary Kids Scaring Kids.
March 7 — Alesana.
April 8 — Lights.
Sprechels Theatre: 121 Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-9500.
April 21 — Pat Metheny.
April 24 — Norah Jones.
May 23 — The National.
March 16 — Scott Amendola.
April 6 — Kenny Wollesen.
Swedenborg Hall: 1531 Tyler Ave., University Heights.
February 21 — Songwriters' Acoustic Nights.

Camel's Breath Inn: Thursdays. 9pm, 4 Regulation Pool Tables Shuffleboard • Darts

Cafe Sevilla: Saturdays. 8pm: DJ Demond. 9pm: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. 15 and under. 4pm: DJ Tonny Sleeze. Spins Top 40 reggae/dancehall. 760-741-1270.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: Thursdays. 10:30pm: DJ Swoll. Fridays. 10:30pm: DJ Gary B. Saturdays. 10pm. Spins classic rock. Sundays. 8:30pm: DJ Chuck. Spins classic rock. 351 W. Main St., El Cajon. 619-444-9494.


The Crest: Wednesdays, 9pm: Cookies with DJ Dirty Karty. 3780 Park Blvd., Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.


Gulstream: Thursdays. 8pm: DJ Oso. Saturdays. 8pm: C-Phat. 868 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-239-3339.


Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays. 1pm: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and ‘80s. 15 and up. 757 Metell St., Escondido. 760-741-1271.


Pacific Beach Bar & Grill: Wednesdays. 10pm: DJ Toney. 861 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 619-227-2272.

Pierview Pub/Sub’s Whiskey Dive Bar: Mondays, 6:30pm: Metal Mondays. Metal all night long. 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-757-2827.


Romantic Sunday Nights. $17. 9pm, 4 Regulation Pool Tables Shuffleboard • Darts

San Diego Reader: To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene. P.O. Box 58850, San Diego, CA 92110. You may also submit information online, get directions, RSS feeds, club coupons, free MP3 downloads and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

The Top 40: Dance Lessons at 8pm. 760-741-1270.


The Sky Box Sports Grill: Saturday, 6pm: Pre-Valentine’s Bash. Music by DJ Dek and Suka Samos. Additional $5 for a rib-eye steak dinner. $5. 21 and up. 4805 Clairemont Dr., Clairemont. 858-274-7269.


Stout Public House: 858-274-7269.

Tiki House: Tuesdays, 9pm: Tunes by Joe Marson. Every Tuesday. 1152 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734.


U-31: Thursdays, 8pm: DJ Artistic. With Cros 1, ’80s and ’90s hip-hop. 21 and up. Saturdays, 9pm: Dance Party Mash-Ups. 21 and up. Sundays, 9pm: Tribe of Kings. Featuring DJs Jestor, Peril, Dash Eye, Unite, and Rashi. Reggae. 21 and up. 3112 University Dr., Clairemont. 858-274-7269.

Beach. 858-272-6066.


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WEST COAST HALL OF FAME

San Diego Reader, February 11, 2010 111
**FALLBROOK**
Aqua Terra: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3 domestic beer by the glass, $9 pitcher, $4 imported beer by the glass, $12 pitcher, $5-$6 appetizers, 1/2 off sushi rolls (not sushi on Monday).

**GOLDEN HILL**
Turf Supper Club: Sunday, noon-6pm: $1 off all beer/wine/spirits. 5$ lunch: 1/2 lb burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + chips.

**GRANTVILLE**
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic margaritas, wells, $5 appetizers.

**HILLCREST**
Baja Betty’s: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: $3 draft, house margarita, well, house wine, sangria, $3 quesadilla.

**IMPERIAL BEACH**
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, All day: 5.99 fish tacos, 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted appetizers.

**KEARNY MESA**
94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 5:30-6:30pm: $2.75 Bud Light on tap, $3 well. Saturday-Sunday, 1/2-price bottles of wine.

The Butcher Shop Steakhouse: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: drink specials and discounted appetizers.

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

**LA MESA**
La Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 house wine. $5 premiums.

**LAKESIDE**
Coach Stop: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.75 domestics, $2.50 domestic bottles, $2.50 domestics, $3 Corona, Pacifics, Imperial.

**LEUCADIA**
Bar Leucadian: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.75 waters, $3.75 domestics, $2.75 imports.

**LAKESIDE**
L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, 1/2 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: $1 drafts, $1 tacos & wings.

**LINDA VISTA**
Brick by Brick: Every day, 3-6pm: $2.50 house wine, 1/2-off beer.

**MISSION BEACH**
Coaster Saloon: Friday, 7pm-1am: $2 wells, all drafts.

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestics/drafts, wells, $1 off premium beers/wine by the glass, $3 off pitchers, 1/2 off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

**MIRA MESA**
Bamboo Hut: Every day, 3-6pm: Buy a large beer, get a small house sake free, $2.75 small beer, $3.25 glass house wine.

Mira Mesa Lanes: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic pins, $7 pitchers. $3 import pins, $10 pitchers. $2.50 wells, $3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.

**LITTLE ITALY**
Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

**MIDWAY DISTRICT**
Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 draft beer, $8 pitcher, $2.50 french fries, $4.50 chicken wings.

**MISSION VALLEY**
Adam’s Steak & Eggs: Monday-Friday, 3:30-7pm: Double well drinks, complimentary hours of ouvre.

All American Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.75 selected craft beers, $5 specialty drinks, $2 off wine by the glass and grazing menu.

Came’s Breath Inn: Monday-Thursday, 11am-6pm: $2.75 domestic bottles, $3 wells, $4.99 lunch/dinner specials.

**MISSION HILLS**
Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $2 domestics bottles and drafts, $3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Every day, 4pm: $4.95 imported 20-oz. beer, $3.75 well drinks, $1 off bottled beer and house wine by the glass.

**MISSION VALLEY**
Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $2 domestics bottles and drafts, $3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

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**MISSION HILLS**
Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $2 domestics bottles and drafts, $3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Every day, 4pm: $4.95 imported 20-oz. beer, $3.75 well drinks, $1 off bottled beer and house wine by the glass.
OCEAN BEACH
Bravo Mexican Bistro: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1-$3 off margaritas, $1 off tequila, $1 off tacos, $2 off nachos, $4 off shrimp cocktail and sampler plate, $4.50 off nachos supreme.
Dream Street Live: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $2 wells, domestic pints, $4 Guinness pints.
Portugalia: Tuesday-Saturday, 10pm-1am: $3 domestic beer, $5 wine; $4-$10 food specials.
WINSTONS: Monday-Saturday, 1-8pm: $3.50 wells. $1 all beer/wine.

OCEANSIDE
The Flying Bridge: Every day, 4-7pm: $3 beer, $4 wine, 20% off appetizers.
Rockin’ Baja Lobster: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 pints, wells, $4 wines, margaritas, $5 Long Islands, 25-oz. drafts. 1/2-off starters. Saturday-Sunday, 9pm-3am: $3 pints, wells, $4 wines, margaritas, $5 Long Islands, 25-oz. drafts. 1/2-off starters.

OLD TOWN
Alamo Mexican Cafe: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: 1/2-price drinks, food special.

Happy Hour Recipes
- **Pacific Beach's Best Happy Hour!** Every day, 4-7pm: $1 Domestic Beers, $2 Import Beers, $3.50 Shots/Drinks, $4 Appetizers, 10% off Refills.
- **Fat City Steakhouse** Happy Hour 7 Days, 5-6:30pm Sale: $2.50 Domestic, 3.50 Imported, 4.50 House, $3.50 House Wine.
- **Sushi on the Rock II** Happy Hour, Monday-Thursday, 2-5pm: $1.95 beer & shot.
- **Lips Restaurant**: Monday-Friday, 11am-7:30pm: $1 off drinks. $1 tacos. $2 domestic bottles.
- **The Bluefoot Bar and Lounge**: Monday-Friday, 11am-7:30pm: $1 off drinks. $1 tacos. $2 domestic bottles.
- **Moondoggies Pacific Beach**: Tuesday-Saturday, 3-7pm: $2 wells, house wine. $5 imports, microbrews. $2 off all drafts.
- **Pacific Beach Ale House**: Monday-Saturday, 3-6pm: $3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2-price appetizers.
- **Paradise Beach Bar & Grill**: Tuesday, 11am-7:10pm: $3 Bud, Miller Lite, amber ale, well sampler, $3 Bud Light pints, $4 flavored Smirnoff, premium draft pints. Heradura tequila specials. Tuesday, Thursday, all day: $8-12 bottle of beer and a shot, $3 pints of Bud Light. Monday-Saturday, noon-11pm: $3 Bud Light pints, $4 flavored Smirnoff, premium draft pints.
- **Sinhad Café**: Every day, 4-8pm: $1 drinks, $1.50 wells, shots, $2 imports. $3.50 appetizers. 11am-8pm: $12-15 hook-ups.
- **Society Billiard Cafe & Bar**: Monday, Wednesday, Sunday, all day: $3 wells/Bud Light pints, $4 flavored Smirnoff, premium draft pints. $7.10 beer & shot. Saturday-Sunday, noon-7pm: $7.10 beer & shot.
- **112-114 2/9/10 8:20 AM Page 114**
For the first of many “don’t try this at home” sequences, in Aurélia’s Oratorio the lights come up on a timeworn, three-tiered chest of drawers. A hand and a foot pop out. Then red high heels. Then another hand, but at least one drawer too far to connect to the first. Okay, we’ve got a giant inside a chest of drawers. But where’s the room? The hands and feet coordinate so well they must belong to the woman whose face slowly materializes, with large, watery, silent-film eyes. But she exists in conflicting realities — the chest of drawers and her quadruple-jointed body — the one deconstructing the other.

There’s a famous sketch of a rabbit/duck: look one way, you see the rabbit; look another, a duck. The trick is trying to see both at once. Those who claim they can are either visiting from a quaternion hyperdimension or are lying through their teeth.

Even if the chest of drawers is rigged, the question lingers: how? Okay, so each drawer has no bottom. But still, how can you cram a person into such a confined space, let alone — since the woman can’t be doing some stunts by herself — two?

For 70 minutes, the elastic, irrepressible Aurélia Thierrée un-jibes time and space: effects (like a kite flying its handler, or an alarm clock putting her to sleep) cause their causes; inanimate objects assault people (especially clothes: beware of black sport coats bearing gifts); and fictions, like a toothy cartoon monster, can have a devastating chomp. Thierrée becomes an Alice in a dualistic Wonderland — like a photograph and its negative — well, either Alice or the time-obsessed White Rabbit, perennially late for an appointment.

Thierrée even kaleidoscopes the looking glass. We assume a proscenium stage will have four walls: that east will be east, west west, and that gravity governs what rises and falls. Thierrée’s stage, like space itself, is warped. When she tosses white towels off stage left, they come back stage right. Objects move backwards and upside down. At one point, Jamie Martinez, a lithe dancer and Thierrée’s co-contortionist, walks up a curtain.

You could call the biggest effect “Curtain Quake.” Thierrée toys with a seemingly endless red sash. Like the towels, it goes out east and comes back west. Suddenly she’s in the air, the sash wrapped around her ankles. Then the stage shakes with Richter-jarring intensity, and the curtains flop akimbo.

Thierrée’s parents, Jean Baptiste and Victoria Chaplin Thierrée, performed Cirque Invisible at the La Jolla Playhouse in 1995 (Victoria is the daughter of Charlie Chaplin and Oona O’Neill, daughter of Eugene). Victoria wrote and directed Up Is Down, East Is West

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**THEATER REVIEW**

**JEFF SMITH**

**Aurélia’s Oratorio** by Victoria Chaplin Thierrée

La Jolla Playhouse, Mandell Weiss Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive

Directed by Victoria Thierrée Chaplin; cast: Aurélia Thierrée; technical direction, Gerd Walter; costumes, Chaplin, Jacques Perdiguera, Veronique Grand, Monika Schwarzl; lighting, Laura Bernadis, Philippe Lacombe; sound, Chaplin, Paolo Barachchi

Playing through February 28; Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 858-550-1010.

**The Fever** by Wallace Shawn

Compass Theatre, 3704 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest

Run concluded.

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**Up Is Down, East Is West**

Fictions, like a toothy, cartoon monster, can have devastating chomp.
The thoughts came in pulses, received consideration, and went. He never betrayed a technique behind them.

And the feelings didn’t force themselves on the audience. They forced their way through Bevell to get out, often interrupting a sentence along the way. What the audience did with them was their business.

One would love to quibble with Shawn’s narrow, formulaic thesis. But watching Bevell perform once again was a joy.

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Aurelia’s Oratorio
The La Jolla Playhouse presents Aurelia Thierrée and Victoria Thierrie Chaplin’s dreamlike piece, its stage illusions inspired by “the magic of music hall and circus.” La Jolla Playhouse, 2010 La Jolla Village Dr., UCSD, $58-$101, 8pm Thursdays, 8pm Fridays, 2pm and 8pm Saturdays, 7:30pm Sundays, through February 26.

Companion Piece
OnStage Playhouse presents a staged reading of Kevin Armento’s drama about a lonely computer repairman whose only companion is a life-sized doll named Rosemary. Then an actual woman enters his life, Jenna Long directed. OnStage Playhouse, 2911 Third Ave., Chula Vista, 619-422-7787, 7pm Sundays, through February 21.

Hansel and Gretel
Lyric Opera San Diego presents Engelbert Humperdinck’s musical, based on the children’s fairy tale. Lyric Opera San Diego, 2851 University Ave., Suite 1, North Park, 619-239-8836, 2:30pm Sundays, open-ended run.

The House of Yes
Compass Theatre stages Wendy MacLeod’s “dark comedy” about a hurricane, a neighbor of the Kennedys’ named Marty, and a threat to Jackie-O. Jay Mower directed. Compass Theatre, 3704 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-688-9210, 7:30pm Thursday, 7:30pm Friday, 7:30pm Saturdays, 2pm Sundays, through February 14.

A Little Night Music
Lyric Opera San Diego presents Stephen Sondheim’s Tony Award-winning musical, based on Ingmar Bergman’s film Smiles of a Summer Night. J. Sherwood Montgomery directed. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836, 7:30pm Fridays, 7:30pm Saturdays, 2:30pm Sundays, through February 21.

Lost in Yonkers
In Neil Simon’s Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, young Jay and Artie Kurnitz move in with their grandmother, a Germanic glider who runs her walk-up apartment with Hitlerian control. But what promises to be a battle between wise-cracking kids and a cane-wielding battle-ax instead focuses on a sad, in some ways tragic couple: Grandma K and her 35-year-old, mentally challenged daughter Bella, whose mind, a boy quips, “is closed to repairs.” In the Old Globe production, Judy Kaye doesn’t need the persistently melodramatic effects — lights suddenly dimming, her cane thumping the ground — to accompany the grandmother’s entrances, since Kaye makes her an iron-gray cold-front set to storm on all opposition, including Jennifer Regan’s Bella, a grown woman trapped in a child’s mind. Stephen Kaplan and Austen Myers play the young brothers with impressive minimalist choices. Jeffrey M. Bender’s Louise, a mob “henchman,” has been a survivor, up to now. Amanda Naughton and Spencer Rowe contribute in minor roles.

Worth a try
Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, 619-234-5623, 8pm Thursdays, 8pm Fridays, 2pm and 8pm Saturdays, 2pm and 7pm Sundays, 7pm Tuesdays, 7pm Wednesdays, through February 28.

The Man Who...
New Village Arts presents the play based on Oliver Sack’s best-seller, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, about the inner workings of the mind and dealing with extreme mental trauma.

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NEIL SIMON’S LOST IN YONKERS
NOW - FEB 28 | SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE

The Old Globe’s staging of Neil Simon’s MacLeod’s “dark comedy” about a hurricane, a neighbor of the Kennedys’ named Marty, and a threat to Jackie-O. Jay Mower directed. Compass Theatre, 3704 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-688-9210, 7:30pm Thursday, 7:30pm Friday, 7:30pm Saturdays, 2pm Sundays, through February 14.
National Comedy Theatre
The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriately for all ages.”
NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 IN DI A ST., MISION HILLS. 619-295-4995. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM AND 9:45PM SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Night of the Laughing Dead...We’re Dying to Cast You!
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theatre celebrates its 20th season with Victoria Valasco and James Pascarella’s interactive comedy. An eccentric director is doing a live broadcast of his full-length horror film, and the audience is encouraged to audition. Valasco directed.
MISTERY CAFE, 505 KALMA ST., BANKER’S HILL. 619-544-1664. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

On the Horizon II
Due to popular demand, Cygnet Theatre will host special encore performances of the San Diego Black Theatre Collective’s staged reading series featuring new plays by writers of diversity. Readings on Monday at the Lyceum will be followed by Tuesday night encore at the Old Town Theatre.

The Piano Lesson
In August Wilson’s Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, a family heirloom prompts a ferocious tug of war. It’s a piano with the family’s history carved on its polished wood. To Berniece, the piano’s priceless. To her brother, Boy Willie, its sale would earn enough money to buy a piano with the family’s history. The piano in half). But the play’s end-
ing, “from somewhere old,” makes it’s a retread but I ain’t no spare”), Marci Anne Wuebben’s “Be Good to Yourself”, Mooney’s “Serve Yourself” (“I may be a retread but I ain’t no spare”),建筑设计团队

Pump Boys and Dinettes
This spunky musical functions just like its subject. It’s set at a filling station/diner on Highway 57 between Smyrna and Frog Level, North Carolina. While tourists make pit stops to replenish themselves for the road ahead, the musical encourages its audience to make the theater a rest area, where the world slows down. The “pump rock” music can be raucous or soothing, and — except for the owner of the Winnebago on the blocks awaiting a repair — everyone’s a forgiving soul. Lamb’s Players director Deborah Gilmour Smyth has coaxed just the right spirit from her cast of six, each doing a standout number: among them Leonard Patton’s “Mona,” Jim Mooney’s “Serve Yourself” (“I may be a retread but I ain’t no spare”), Marci Anne Wuebben’s “Be Good to Yourself”, Mooney’s “Serve Yourself” (“I may be a retread but I ain’t no spare”), so much in her cast of six, each doing a standout number: among them Leonard Patton’s “Mona,” Jim Mooney’s “Serve Yourself” (“I may be a retread but I ain’t no spare”), Marci Anne Wuebben’s “Be Good to Yourself”, Mooney’s “Serve Yourself” (“I may be a retread but I ain’t no spare”).

Swingtime Canteen
Moonlight Stage Productions presents the San Diego premiere of this “canteen musical.” Hollywood star Marvene Anis gathers up her “gal pals” to entertain the troops during WWII. Don Ward directed.

Whisper House
The idea behind Duncan Sheik and Kyle Jarrow’s new musical has potential: What if only certain characters sing? And what if they’re ghosts haunting a lighthouse during WWII? Death in the midst of heightened life. But what could be a daring experiment—a Goth musical—ends up a dismal hybrid with side tripping over the other. Sheik (who wrote the magnificent score for Spring Awakening) and Jarrow cram in every cliché about death, but with out enough menace to hold the various elements together. The ghosts (who must kill someone to escape their plight) aren’t tormented. They’re rock stars. David Poe and Holly Brook sing quite well, but when they drop character and a concert breaks out. Except for Marc Winningham and Arthur Acuna, who smartly underplay their roles, the rest of the cast play stock characters overburdened with lengthy exposition, and the story evolves around predictable lines. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1383 OLD GLOBE WAY, BROADWAY. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 7PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 21.

The Wild Party
The Coronado Playhouse presents Andrew Lippa’s musical, based on Joseph Moncure March’s 1928 poem about a violent, booze 1920s party. David Kelso directed.
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 6.

SWINGTIME CANTEEN
Moonlight Stage Productions presents the San Diego premiere of this “canteen musical.” Hollywood star Marion Anis gathers up her “gal pals” to entertain the troops during WWII. Don Ward directed.

Whisper House
The idea behind Duncan Sheik and Kyle Jarrow’s new musical has potential: What if only certain characters sing? And what if they’re ghosts haunting a lighthouse during WWII? Death in the midst of heightened life. But what could be a daring experiment—a Goth musical—ends up a dismal hybrid with each side tripping over the other. Sheik (who wrote the magnificent score for Spring Awakening) and Jarrow cram in every cliché about death, but without enough menace to hold the various elements together. The ghosts (who must kill someone to escape their plight) aren’t tormented. They’re rock stars. David Poe and Holly Brook sing quite well, but when they drop character and a concert breaks out. Except for Marc Winningham and Arthur Acuna, who smartly underplay their roles, the rest of the cast play stock characters overburdened with lengthy exposition, and the story evolves around predictable lines. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1383 OLD GLOBE WAY, BROADWAY. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 7PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 21.

The Wild Party
The Coronado Playhouse presents Andrew Lippa’s musical, based on Joseph Moncure March’s 1928 poem about a violent, boozed 1920s party. David Kelso directed.
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 6.
Dear John — The buggy-eyed Amanda Seyfried manages to convey maybe a month’s worth of maturation over the decade-long storyline.

(desert, lording it over a bunch of illiterate riffraff, wants to get his hands on the book, much less knows of its existence. With Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, and the ever-lovely Jennifer Beals; directed by the Hughes Brothers. 2010.

★ (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTRY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Broken Embraces — Almodóvar, as is his wont, gives you splatters and splashes, swoches and swatches, of vibrant color, and he gives you the occasional rock-you-on-your-heads image (a teardrop on a ripe tomato, lovers writhing within a white-sheet cocoon), and he gives you deliberately over-the-top domestic melodrama played steadfastly straight: a blind filmmaker (shades of Woody Allen’s Hollywood Ending, albeit darker shades), a kept woman turned movie starlet, a manipulative millionaire, albeit darker shades), a kept woman turned movie starlet, a manipulative millionaire, his conniving gay son, etc. He doesn’t, however, give you much to believe in, except in this instance the undoubted radiance of Penelope Cruz, who in her mid-thirties would appear to have yet done nothing surgically to disfigure herself. It’s a sad comment on our times that that’s worthy of comment about an actress of her age. With Llias Hnomar, José Luis Góez, Blanca Portillo. 2009.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

Crazy Heart — Jeff Bridges is pretty much the whole show, and a generous show it is. His Bad Blake, given name to be held back for the gravestone, is an over-the-hill and down-on-his-luck C&W singer still liv- ing the life of a C&W song, four marriages behind him, long-loned drives and cheap motels and cheaper women in front of him, a chain smoker and a hard-at-it alcoholic (preferred poison, fictitious McClure’s bourbon) on a free fall to the unseen bottom and, on impact, the uncertain bounce-back to redemption. As one of his lyrics neatly sums it up: “I used to be somebody, now I’m somebody else.” The actor’s singing voice amounts to a dull blade that has a hard time cutting through the expert arrangements by the late Stephen Bruton co-wrote the origi- nal songs in the crying-in-your-beer genre. But then too, the actor’s speaking voice, a low rumble through a mouthful of marbles, has a hard enough time cutting through thin air, as if he could use a hit of oxygen before and after each utterance. To outward appearances, he’s approximately one-third Kris Kristofferson (the constipated voice and the wheezy wince to produce it) and two-thirds Waylon Jennings (the grey strings hair, the bedraggled beard, the shades, the vest, the paunch), in no part original but in every part authentic. With Maggie Gylenhaal, Colin Farrell, and Robert Duval, directed by Scott Cooper. 2009.

★★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HILLCREST CINÉMA; LA JOLLA 12; TOWN SQUARE 14)

La Danse — This privileged peek inside the Paris Opera Ballet — more than a peek, a thorough probe — ought to be catapult to anyone interested in classical and modern dance, or for that matter in artistic creation in any form, the process of bringing execu- tion in line with conception. Veteran documen- tarian Frederick Wiseman provides no narrative thread and no commentary from within or without the picture frame, just random drop-ins on rehearsals (predomi- nantly), polished performances, conferences in the inner sanctum, costume and makeup

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lock of the daughter’s hair snipped on the coroner’s slab later reads as radioactive on the Geiger counter in her personal effects.) If the investigation depends on a bombshell Dirty Harry tactic to show it is obvious, at least it pulls up short of the overscaled action — the outrageous chases, the explosions, the Hong Kong combat — that has sapped the numbed contemporary action film.

There are other ways to heighten the scale, however. And at this late date we can scarcely be surprised, we can at best be resigned, that a grade-A mainstream murder mystery (based, like Steven Soderbergh’s Traffic and Kevin Macdonald’s State of Play, on a British TV mini-series) would lend ultimately to matters of national security and nuclear weaponry. Ray Winestone, Danny Huston, Bojana Novakovic, Caterina Scorsone, directed by Martin Campbell. 2010.

The Perfect Date

An Education — A precocious English schoolgirl of 1961 (a cellist, a Francophile, a devotee of the Pre-Raphaelites, a smoky smoker for sophistication), on track for Oxford, gets rerouted by a shadier older man who shows her the finer things of life: a Ravel concert, a Christie’s auction, night clubs, Paris. The foreseeable end is a bit of a slog, but the film in the early stages is very good on the pretenses of intelligent youth, and very good on the heady intoxication of growing up fast. Peter Sarsgaard’s British accent is hit-and-miss; and the prim schoolmarm of Olivia Williams, a beauty with a demure downturn at the firelight over it like syrup. The buggy-eyed Amanda Seyfried manages to convey maybe the freshest smile since Eleanor Powell: plenty showing off, among her other talents, the same-aged fumbling suitor, and a blond bimbo (Alfred Molina, Matthew Beard, Rosamund Pike, in order) are too thin to bear. Keeping things fully alive throughout, however, is Carey Mulligan in the lead, showing off, as well as her other talents, the freshest smile since Eleanor Powell: plenty of teeth with a demure downturn at the corners of the mouth. And Sally Hawkins, back to reality from the giddy heights of Happy-Go-Lucky, has a tiny but vital part to play. With Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Emma Thompson; directed by Lone Scherfig. 2009.

Fantastic Mr. Fox — Wes Anderson’s wised-up children’s film, a labor-intensive stop-motion animated adaptation of The Roald Dahl animal tale (relegating the Angela Huston, a strong, talented vet as the Haas family’s new schoolmarm, so that she no longer has to do everything herself. The dog, we are told by the dog: “Dad always said I never looked a day over three.”

Traffic — U.S. superspy with the demeanor of a Hell’s Angel (“Tell me that wasn’t some impressive shit!”), shooting up the City of Light in a grainy sallow digital image. Jonathan Rhys Meyers affects a credible American accent as his timid embassy liaison, perhaps the only credible thing in the movie. Directed by Pierre Morel. 2010.

An Audience — A small London audience at the death-scene of the monogrammatic devotee of the Pre-Raphaelites, a sneaky anarchist, a devoted schoolmarm, a sneaky masochist who would want actually to bring him back to life again. The⁄Masochist is Will Self, the original author, and surely we can at best be resigned, that a grade-A mainstream murder mystery (based, like Steven Soderbergh’s Traffic and Kevin Macdonald’s State of Play, on a British TV mini-series) would lend ultimately to matters of national security and nuclear weaponry. Ray Winestone, Danny Huston, Bojana Novakovic, Caterina Scorsone, directed by Martin Campbell. 2010.
It’s Complicated — Romantic-comic triangle concocted of a fifty-something divorcee, her remarried but re-interested ex-husband, and her too-good-to-be-true divorced architect: “Your age is one of my favorite things about you.” The grown children have no problems of their own, and the level of affluence — not to forget level of gourmet cuisine — removes all other problems, so that a hypothetical air prevails. In truth, it’s complicated enough already. (The chorus of confidantes drops out of sight when we need them most.) Meryl Streep brings to her role her usual fine detail and wide dynamics, and Alec Baldwin brings an amusing girth. With Steve Martin, John Turturro, Annette Bening, and Luke Bell; written and directed by Nancy Meyers. 2009.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; POWAY 10)

Nine — Former choreographer Rob Marshall’s third directional effort, a restaging of the Broadway musical based on Fellini’s #1. In essence the filmmaker has taken an intensely personal film (so named as it was Fellini’s eighth and a half opus, counting three collaborations as halves) and depersonalized it, trivialized it, into nostalgic cinephila circa the mid-Sixties and secondarily into generative Italophonia, the cultural di-vide highlighted by a principle of non-Italians, Danial Day-Lewis as the Fellini figure, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, Kate Hudson, Judi Dench, whom Van Sant couldn’t persuade. Only Sophia Loren, not all of them pretending to be Italian. Each gets to perform at least one number that would be showtuber. Cruz (dubbed! — it scarcely matters in her scanties) and Fergie come closest to attainment of that goal, and Cotillard outside of her would be showtuber. Daniels is a levitra of tangible humanity. Somehow the notion of a Broadway show of this origin seems less objectionable because it’s in a different medium and not in direct competition. Dion Beebe’s rich imagery as if through an IV, maintaining the dumps are rather

The Lightning Thief — Legendary Greek hero, a travelling showman, his magic-mirror portal to the realm of imagination, and his deal with the Devil, gets overpowered by the relentless production: the desolate stark smoky-post-apocalyptic real world. The fantasy scenes almost attain a similar musing quality, triggered as they are by the hero’s urgent desire to escape, but the actual content of these fantasies — a red-carpet Hollywood premiere, a mirror reflection of a slender beautiful blonde in place of a fat black, a subtitled black-and-white telecast of De Sica’s Two Women, etc. — exhibits a consistent maimity which works to rob sympathy from either the film’s heroine or its director, Lee Daniels. One or the other. You choose. With Gabriel Macht, McUne, Patton, and Mariah Carey. 2009.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Police, Adjective — Romanian cop film written and directed by Corneliu Porumbu, starring Dragoș Bucur.

(REN, 2/12 THROUGH 18)

Precious: Based on the Novel by Sapphire — A bit of well-meaning manipulation, unevenly photographed, alternately ridiculous and grossly and glossy and grainy, centered around a Harlem African-American illiterate obese unwed teenage mother of a Down’s daugh-ter, now pregnant again, expelled from school, abused and battered at home by her welfare mother, an incestuous rape victim of her absentee father, and oh, HIV posi-tive. We don’t find out all of that at once. It piles up. Some interesting effects are gotten from the heroine’s first-person voice-over, interwoven at competitive volume with the dialogue, such that it plays as interior monologue rather than expository narra-tion. The fantasy scenes almost attain a similar musing quality, triggered as they are by the hero’s urgent desire to escape, but the actual content of these fantasies — a red-carpet Hollywood premiere, a mirror reflection of a slender beautiful blonde in place of a fat black, a subtitled black-and-white telecast of De Sica’s Two Women, etc. — exhibits a consistent maimity which works to rob sympathy from either the film’s heroine or its director, Lee Daniels. One or the other. You choose. With Gabriel Macht, McUne, Patton, and Mariah Carey. 2009.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GROS

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San Diego Reader, February 11, 2010
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Edge of Darkness (R); Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG); Tooth Fairy (PG); Valentine's Day (PG-13)

FRIDAY

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri.-Sun.: (11:00 AM), (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, 9:30,
Mon.: (11:00 AM), (1:30), 4:15, 7:00, 9:30; From Paris With Love (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:00 AM), (1:15), (3:45), 6:15, 8:45, 10:45; Mon.: (11:00 AM), (1:15), (3:45), 6:15, 8:45; The Wolfman (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15, 11:45), 1:55, 2:25; The Tooth Fairy (PG) Fri.-Mon.: (12:00), (3:00), 5:30, Tue.-Thu.: (3:00), 5:30; The Book of Eli (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15 AM), 4:45, 7:00, Mon.: (11:15 AM), 4:45, Tue.-Thu.: 4:45 PM; Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Mon.: (12:15), 5:15, Tue.-Thu.: 5:15 pm; Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15 AM), (3:00), 7:00, 10:30, Mon.: (11:15 AM), (3:30), 7:00, Tue.-Thu.: (3:00), 7:00; Super Why!: Attack Of The Eraser (G) Sat. & Sun.: 10:30 am

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Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 2:00, 6:15, 9:30; The Book of Eli (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:15; Dear John (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 2:10, 5:05, 7:45; The Wolfman (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15, 3:00), 5:15, 8:15; The Spy Next Door (PG-13), Tooth Fairy (PG); Valentine's Day (PG-13)

FRIDAY

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri.-Sun.: (11:00 AM), (1:45), 4:30, 7:15; Valentine's Day (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15 AM), (1:45), 4:30, 7:15; The Wolfman (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:15, 2:15), (4:15), 7:15, 9:30; Super Why!: Attack Of The Eraser (G) Sat. & Sun.: 10:30 am

The Spy Next Door (PG-13), Tooth Fairy (PG); Valentine's Day (PG-13)

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San Diego Reader February 11, 2010 133

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*www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html (See Table 8) **Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost. †Offered fully online by Stevons-Henager College* Salt Lake City/Murray, an affiliated college.
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THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online each week to sanediegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must fit the format and get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday. 
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or 619-231-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92138-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly! And now for the really small print: 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided. 2) Late entries will not be considered. 3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
6) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: _____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Neighborhood/City: __________________
State: ______ Zip Code: ________
Personal Message: ___________________

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

M A D A M  S O D A  A Q U A
A L O N E  M O O D  N U L L
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S A G E  G L A D  N E E D S

THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:

Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, S. San Ysidro by ten
Leslie Chase, Campo, S. Bill, be my Valentine.
Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, S. Crucial puzzle solvers who are suspensational and don’tnert your mate.
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, S. Stop what you are doing and hug your kids, says Leota.
Craig Curtis, Escondido, S. Oh Rose, will you please be my young Valentine?
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, S. Alma, Be my Valentine
Dale Duffalo, La Jolla, S. Happy Valentine day Carol! I have you

Harry Engel, La Jolla, S. No message no name in paper
D. Faulkoner, University Heights, S. Save gas, ride your bike.
Jacque Glick, El Cajon, S. No remark. No see name!
Iiggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, S. “Ooh,” my favorite sister in law
Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, S. I still love New York
Richard Hitchens, Santee, S. You had me down five for awhile Randy?
Dorothy King, Carlsbad, S. Probably late-sorry!
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, S. Be glad that hypnosis & Arnold is termed out.
James McVeagh, Lakeside, S. Steve, get well soon, we are praying for you!
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, S. This world is bunum and its song fast

Susan Morrey, Little Italy, S. Love your Reader Steals! Can’t wait to see what’s next?
Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, S. Thanks for the Reader steal! I have you
Jim Odell, Vista, S. If I was! If Me! Me! Me! More! More! More!
Robert Otto, Mira Mesa, S. Who Dat?
P. Drew Papas, La Jolla, S. He got rate?
Burr Passenheim, Linda Vista, S. Happy Valentine’s Day – Still wait-

Solutions to this week’s puzzles:

Janie Redmond, Cardiff, S. Lost me an ear and I’ll sing you a song
Matthew Rosello, San Diego, S. I will go

Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, S. Happy Valentine’s Day Pam. Thanks for the wonderful

Stuart A. Young, San Diego, S. Any fool can set into a fight, but a wise...
Ken A., Ocean Beach, S. The desired center of the Self not the ego
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, S. This puzzle gave me a bad case of asp!
Jeff Battles, Ocean Beach, S. Baseball season can’t come soon enough.
Evelyn Bower, Hillcrest, S. House is sold!
Maria Coda, Oceanside, S. Hi All Love you!
Jon Connor, Oceanside, S. "You come at the king, you best not miss"
**Another Chance for Fame and Glory!**

**THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

**RULES OF THE GAME:**
1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level: Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online at san diegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the contest four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR ENTRY WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING:**

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Neighborhood/City: __________________
State: ___ Zip Code: ________________
Circle T-shirt size: L   XL
Personal Message: ___________________

**SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!**

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the “comments” feature, you must be a registered site member.

**EASY:**

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**THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:**

**Easy:**

- Pauline O’Malley, Point Loma, 2. A large smuggle this week
- Cathryn A. Ward, Clairemont, 2. I create art
- Greg Blomberg, Escondido, 1. I love you Holly
- Erik Carroll, San Carlos, 1. Only had time for easy this week
- Ryan Sharratt, Rancho Bernardo, 1. Noah’s Ark: loves penguins
- Mike Wiebe, Poway, 1. Happy birthday to two new babies!

**Medium:**

- Betty Archer, La Jolla, 5. Maybe the Chargers next year?
- Robyn Johnson, Vista, 5. Happy Valentine’s day Gary, I love you!
- Dave Small, San Carlos, 5. Hope your Groundhog day was a happy one!
- Paul Tomasin, San Diego, 5. Sometimes I get listed 3 times
- Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 4. Everybody’s got a water buffalo, yours is a fast
- Linda Belle, El Cajon, 4. Happy 89th birthday Meri!
- Henry Chung, San Diego, 4. When will it snow again in San Diego?
- Dr. Dave Sprou, Point Loma, 4. Here, pretty, Sara loves you
- William Stiewag, Vallejo, 4. What happened?
- Hans Buttkofer, Mission Beach, 3. I keep doing Medium!
- Josie Ranches, San Diego, 3. Happy Valentine’s!
- Kelly Sakoi, Rancho Peñasquitos, 3. I love this rain
- Sue Boyko, Spring Valley, 3. This one for Mickie and Bill
- Elliott Estrine, Poway, 2. Go Winter Olympics!
- Ben Breeding, San Diego, 1. Better luck next time!
- Eleanor Burbank, Escondido, 1. See and she walks with Jesus and her loved ones
- Chris Dunn, Lemon Grove, 1. Puzzle Master – Harper Lily is... Six years old
- Rasa Sozua, Chula Vista, 1. Please help Sara Happy Valentine’s Day
- Linda J. Bellvis, Oceanside, 2. Love you Preston
- Ray Hunt, Rancho Peñasquitos, 2. And happiness Laura on Valentine’s day and birthday
- Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 2. Lovin my Valentines, Michael, Murphy, Morgan, Mason, my gifts
- Henry Romero, San Diego, 1. Mom’s 90th was a blast

**Hard:**

- Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 5. Héctor Meloza, Amanda, I love you
- Esther Hays, La Mesa, 5. Octo, 2010 will be here before we know it...
- Bruce C. Mengler, Solana Beach, 5. Super Santa Secret!
- Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 5. Mother Earth is a cynic while we fight for gas
- Blurry, San Diego, 5. Monkey-Bay came home soon, love, Kitten, Oldman Steve, Goldmember, R1 Rabbit
- Glenn R. Walker, La Jolla, 5. Time to root for the Lakers
- Saad Ghulam, Escondido, 4. Can not do evil for now or I will keep trying
- Bill Calderwood, Clairemont, 3. Ann will you be my Valentine?
- Bill Green Dave Gietzen, Sunset Cliffs, 3. Happy Birthday Josef
- Arthur Hunsaker, David Sterling Lewis: Remembered, raised
- Dennis Jardim, Oceanbar, 3. Tomadonan is a pouting crybaby-good Ridance
- Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 5. Stealing a calendar will get you twelve months!
- Alford Caliboro, Encanto, 5. Happy days are here again
- Larry Clark, Clairemont, 5. Local boy does good, Jimmy Johnson was 2010 Daytona 500
- Roger Douchman, San Diego, 5. The fear of the lord is the beginning of knowledge
- Butch Hays, La Mesa, 5. “Flash Back is an awesome server!”
- Dan Holstein, San Diego, 5. Needs a replacement for the old Reader t-shirt
- Belmont Hope, Vista, 5. I hope your Valentine day is good
- Jacqueline Jordan, San Diego, 5. 2000 HKS is not tough
- Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 5. Who Dat! Kerol Bobo! San!!
- Lornetton Lammett, La Mesa, 5. Too easy. How about a challenge?
- Raymond Land, Escondido, 5. Support the solution not the causes!!
- Ralph Levy, La Jolla, 5. Was Obama’s creation an abomination
- Julio Magnus, San Diego, 5. Happy Valentine’s Eileen!!
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lice/ cradle cap problems from
dullness to health & beauty! Monday,
11th and Tuesday the 15th. Through Hair
Style, head lice treatment, body
problems and trauma. Counseling for
Individuals, couples, families and
family bonding. Sharon Goodfellow, TFT
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1490. Goodfellow Counseling Center,

Gay/ Bisexual Men. Support group to
focus on grief, support, coping, confusion,
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Kamieniecki, PhD (San Diego), 520-865-9445.

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Events Calendar


Mind, Body Fitness and Wellness Clinics. Thurs. Feb. 11, Tues., Feb. 16. 5pm Fitness class-Core strength stability and conditioning mat class. 6pm Yoga-Hatha Vinyasa mix. 7:30pm Alternative Wellness Clinic: Acupuncture/ Massage/ Energy Medicine. Learn meditation healing and more. $10 donation. Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, San Diego 92116. 619-884-2662. prakash@flujence@yahoo.com.


Diabetes/High Blood Pressure? You may be at risk for Kidney Disease) Sunday February 28, 10am-2pm. Do you or a family member have diabetes or high blood pressure? or Do an immediate family member have kidney disease? If you answered yes, you are at risk for kidney disease. Our FREE KEEP SCREENING is just for you! Make your FREE appointment today! Space is limited! Call The National Kidney Foundation Serving Southern California & Southern Nevada at The Jackie Robinson YMCA 151 YMCA Way, San Diego, 92101, 800-747-5527.

Group Meditation & Discussion. Tues., Feb. 16, 7pm. Learn how to deal with stress, anxiety, anger, sadness and depression by developing a meditation practice. Free. Buddha For You, 619-582-1100 or buddhaforyoutwo@gmail.com.

Messages with Love from the Other Side. Thurs., Feb. 11, 7pm. Clairvoyant medium readings by psychic medium Reverend Roby Warren. “Connect with loved ones who have crossed over to the other side.” Requested donation: $15. Celebration Center for Spiritual Living, 5820 Oberlin Drive #108, San Diego 92121. 858-320-0090.


Melt Away Stress. Fri., Feb. 12, 4-5pm. Laughter yoga class led by Dr. Funshine, a.k.a. Caroline Meeks, M.D. Expect video presentation followed by laughter exercises, laughter meditation. Admission free. No yoga mats or special clothing required. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive, San Diego 92123, 619-573-1396.

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619-713-1044 or 619-618-8111.
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**LEAD STORY**

In December, a prominent online game player, Buzz "Erik" Lightyear, won the auction for ownership of a virtual space station in the Planet Calypso game, paying 3.3 million Project Entropia Dollars (PEDs), which at various points entered the game's play-like economy at an out-of-pocket cost of 10 actual U.S. cents per PED. Thus, Lightyear paid $330,000 for nothing more than digital representations of cool-looking structures. However, Lightyear can now charge other PED-seeking players who shop and hunt for valuable parts to the popular space station. He appears confident he will eventually earn back his investment. (On the other hand, if everyone abandoned the game, Lightyear will have spent thousands of hours online, buying, selling, and bartering to earn the $330,000 of PEDs that would then be worthless.)

**Government in Action!**

The Wisconsin legislature is considering a bill to designate a "state bacterium" (the Lactococcus lactis, which is crucial to turning milk into the state's famous cheese). If approved, the bacterium would join two dozen other state symbols (according to the Wisconsin Blue Book): coat of arms, seal, flag, song, flower, bird, tree, fish, state animal, wildlife animal, domestic animal, mineral, rock, symbol of peace, insect, soil, fossil, dog, beverage, grain, dance, ballad, waltz, fruit, and tartan.

**New York City**

Under Mayor Bloomberg’s leadership, has taken aggressive positions against cigarette-smoking and restaurant dishes made with trans fats, but the city’s Department of Health is apparently more tolerant regarding heroin. A recently released, department-funded 16-page pamphlet instructs heroin users on "safer" ways to inject the drug (and suggests, if the first needle stab misses a vein, the more healthful course is to pull it out and begin anew rather than to maneuver the syringe).

**Great Art!**

In December, Portuguese dancer Rita Marcalo, seeking to raise public awareness of the tragedy of epilepsy (which has afflicted her for 20 years), performed a 24-hour "show" at a West Yorkshire, England, theater in which she attempted to trigger an epileptic seizure on stage. She had stopped taking her medications and consequently starved into flashing strobe lights but was unsuccessful. However, in the second part of her project, she will continue the quest, but only in front of cameras, hoping to capture a seizure for a subsequent video production.

**Scottish sculptor Kevin Harman was fined the equivalent of about $325 in November for vandalizing the Collective Gallery in Edinburgh by smashing a metal scaffolding pole through a gallery window. Harman insisted that the incident was actually "art," in that it was part of a video for a project at the Edinburgh College of Art and that Harman had immediately repaired the window. However, it was not "art" to the gallery’s management, which pressed charges. Harman, according to London’s Guardian, said he was less distressed by the fine than by the gallery’s insulting his art by calling it vandalism.**

**Are the Terrorists Safe?**

Although the U.S. military stateside can direct a drone aircraft halfway around the world to deliver bombs mostly on highly specific targets in Iraq, the Pentagon acknowledged in December that even after six years of war, its signals to the drone are still not encrypted. Thus, Iraqi insurgents can pinpoint drone locations by using ordinary computer programs like SkyGrabber, which is available from software retailers for about $25. U.S. officials admitted that the software could make it easier for insurgents to anticipate the timing and location of attacks.

**People with Issues**

Prominent eastern Idaho prosecuting attorney Blake Hall, 56, was fired in November (and he also resigned from a major national political position) after his conviction for stalking an ex-girlfriend. Evidence at trial revealed that Hall had been tossing used condoms onto the woman’s lawn — a total of 19 collected in ten days.

**Truck driver Yuki Oshima, 22, was arrested in Chiba, Japan, in December after allegedly urinating through the mail slot of a woman’s apartment door on more than one occasion. Oshima told police that he was frustrated, apparently too shy to approach the woman and admitted that he was "crazy about her."**

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BestBuys

**EVERY KELLY**

“Chili dogs are our best sellers, and some people come in for the chili and nothing else.”

“Chili with merlot?” grinned my husband Patrick. “There may be something to this wine- and-food-pairing thing after all.”

I had to drag him to the winemaker dinner, but once he saw the chili provided by chef Kurt Metzger’s Concept Catering by CK (858-336-9832; conceptcateringbyck.com), his mood improved considerably.

“Every time I make chili, it reminds me of my childhood,” says Metzger. “It’s great comfort food. It’s one of the sides for our BBQ shack. We started the shack last year when the recession started setting in, and it’s been popular, especially in summer. We use organic beef out of South Dakota — we put a spice rub on some filet and some rib eye, braise them, and then grind them down. The spice rub uses pink and black peppercorns, coriander seed, and mustard seed, roasted together and ground. Plus some smoked sea salt. We mix the ground meat with chili spices, heirloom tomatoes, and cannellini beans. The chili spice includes ground New Mexico chiles, so there’s a little bit of heat, and that traditional chili taste, adds Metzger. For condiments, Metzger likes to go with “onions and cheese. Maybe a good condiment with melted Monterey Jack blue on top.” (Prices vary by group size.)

“Filet and rib eye” marveled Patrick. “That’s awesome, but what if I just want a chili dog? I can’t steal a pot on a dog.” So I rang up Matthew Horton of Mato’s Hot Spot in Pacific Beach (887-775-5256; matoeshotspot.com).

“We have them outside of the Silvery Fox Lounge [Thursday to Saturday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.] and the Dog [Wednesday to Saturday, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.] so that we can sell a niche for people coming out of the bars. And we’re thinking about adding a day-cart in front of Plum Crazy Saloon on the weekends.” (All three bars are in Pacific Beach.)

“Our most popular chili dog is the Son of a Spicy Bitch ($4.75),” says Horton. “It’s a spicy hot link with chili and nacho-cheese sauce. We cater, too. Our minimum price is $200. The dogs are Hebrew National. The buns are from the Galaxo’s Bakery. And the chili? We buy our chili canvases, but then we doctor it up. I’ll add whole chilies, chili flakes, and a bit of curry powder. It’s spicy but not deadly. And there are beans in there.”

There are no beans in the chili at Woodies Chili Dogs in Clairemont (858-270-6142). But, says employee Dennis, “People love our chili. Chili dogs ($2.85–$4.25) are our best sellers, and some people come in for the chili and nothing else.” (A chili-cheese bun costs $3.95.) “It’s an all-beef chili with a thick consistency; we buy it from a local company. It comes to us frozen, and we cook it up daily. We can cater for anywhere from 10 to 200 people.

Finally, I called up a few friends. “I make mine in a Crock-Pot,” said Katie. “I use great northern beans, kidney beans, small white beans, red beans, and a can of Bush’s chili beans — which are pinto beans in chili sauce. I drain and rinse everything but the Bush’s. For the meat, I’ll use whatever I have in the freezer — ground turkey, ground beef, or sausage. I brown the meat and drain it, then I sauté an onion and some crushed garlic. All that goes into the Crock-Pot with the beans, and then I add tomatoes, cumin, basil, chili powder, and a dash of cayenne pepper. Every now and then I’ll add something like chopped-up zucchini. We then add a bit of curry powder. It’s spicy but not deadly. And there are beans in there.”

My neighbor Sarah won for the quickest, dirtiest version: “Brown your lean ground beef, drain it, and add a jar of thick salsa. I use Pace picante. Add a jar of tomato sauce and a can of stewed tomatoes and another can of black beans. Toss it all in a Crock-Pot for two hours on high, and serve it with grated cheddar cheese on top. It’s not gourmet, but it’s good.”

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SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: nondenominational
Address: 9590 Chocolate Summit Drive, Alpine, 619-561-4777
Founded locally: 1990
Senior pastor: Ray DuVal
Congregation size: 150
Staff size: 0
Sunday school enrollment: 45
Weekly giving: $3000
Annual budget: $330,000
Singles program: no
Dress: casual to formal
Diversity: diverse
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 40 minutes
Website: acffamily.com

As I entered the church, a girl handed me a golf ball. It was yellow; the one atop the mic stand next to the pulpit was white. You could almost miss it within the pale gray vastness of the interior — that is, until the fluorescent went off and it shone beneath the yellow spotlight beside the bright pages of the open Bible.

Throughout the service, pastor Ray DuVal paused to pray, and the songleader followed suit, asking that the church become “a place where the lost can come and find hope; where the broken can come and find healing.” He also sang the two hymns that set the theme for the service: “How Great Is Our God” and “You Never Let Go.”

“I know some of you were invited by a neighbor or a friend,” said DuVal during the welcoming. “But...the person who really invited you was Jesus Christ Himself because He has an incredible message for you.”

Starting from the beginning then: Genesis chapter one. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (How great is our God.) Also, “God said, let us make man in our image.” (You never let go.) “The One who placed the billions and billions of stars in place and called them by name...cares personally for you. Before conception, Jesus Christ knew you... Each day of your life He has planned, and it is a good plan, a supernatural plan that counts totally on Him and not on circumstances. He never truly thinking of you.”

The image on the projector screen showed an enormous Jesus hovering in space, reaching out to embrace the earth. DuVal then gave the sermon over to a taped presentation by Louise Giglio, pastor of Atlanta’s Passion City Church. And Giglio was passionate, working his congregation, turning the Psalmist’s claim that the heavens were made “by the breath of His mouth” into the title “Star-Breather” for the Creator. “All you have to do is look up and you see the size of the God we are worshipping tonight!” he exclaimed. He pulled up an image on his huge display of the black hole at the center of the whirlpool galaxy, some 31 million light years away. It appeared as a black cross on a white background.

“It’s the imprint of God in all of creation, everywhere we turn.”

He treated four stars, each larger than the last, giving accounts of how size based on “if the earth were the size of a golf ball...” Example: “Betelgeuse would be the height of six Empire State Buildings on top of each other... The God we are singing to tonight is enormous.”

Then Giglio turned from macro to micro, quoting Augustine as he did so. “Men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains... the vast compass of the ocean, the circular motion of the stars, but they pass by themselves.” Giglio noted that, at conception, your chromosomes “began to write out the three-billion character description of who you are, written in the language of God. And that single cell then set out to build that model. You are a miracle.”

And there, in the cell interior, he found another cross; the cell adhesion protein laminin. “The stuff that holds our bodies together is in the perfect shape of the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ!” He quoted Paul’s claim that “In Him, all things hold together.” “Of course they do!” Because he argued, “the cross is the place where the Star-Breather became the sin-bearer... There are millions of microscopic crosses holding you together right now, and one giant cross of Jesus Christ that’s holding every one of us that is trusting in Him to the Father ever for and ever! ‘I will literally hold you together, and I will carry you, and I will see you through any circumstance’ — that’s the promise of God...”

“I don’t know how you can get your hand around that,” marveled DuVal as the video ended. “I can’t understand it, but I do believe it. The only way I can get my hand around it is to know and understand that God is love.”

What to do with this knowledge about the star-breathing God who dwells within and loves us? “Begin asking yourself right now: what is it that I need to change before I walk out those doors today?”
DuVal made three suggestions: amending sinful ways of life, making Jesus Lord of your life, and if you hadn’t already, accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. “Don’t leave today without making it right, because He loves you so much. Say these words: Jesus, save me.”

What happens when we die?

“I believe in heaven, and I believe in hell,” said DuVal. “It depends on how people have received the word and grace of Christ.”

— Matthew Luckona

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