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Too Much Debt, Too Few Jobs

By Don Bauder

If a railbird tout gives you a tip on a horse, and you learn that three of the nag’s legs are so fragile they will likely break during the race, you will keep your money in your wallet. Similarly, if you’re told that some relay team is a sure thing, but you find out that three of the four runners weigh 375 pounds each, you won’t count on those tracksters to win a gold medal.

It’s the same way with the American economy. At least once a week, you hear some Wall Streeter exulting that manufacturing is showing signs of recovery. What he doesn’t tell you is that manufacturing is less than 10 percent of the economy. He won’t mention that sickly consumer-related activity is 75 percent.

The TV talking heads will rejoice that profits are doing extremely well and that productivity, or output per worker hour, is setting records. But the commentators won’t give the reason: companies are still laying off workers and not hiring back ones who were earlier laid off.

The unemployment rate in both the U.S. and San Diego hovers around 10 percent, give or take a hair on each side. But consumer spending is 70 percent of the economy, nationally and locally, and housing is another 5 percent. That’s three very wobbly legs under the stool. As long as unemployment remains so high, how can consumer spending, which dominates the economy, pick up?

I interviewed two analysts with excellent track records. One is local: E. James Welsh of Carlsbad’s Welsh Money Management and publisher of The Financial Commentator. He has been warning of excessive debt and speculation for a decade. The other is A. Gary Shilling of Springfield, New Jersey, an economist who has been pointing out for almost five decades that American consumers have been stretched too thin and are too deeply in debt. He predicted the 1970s megrims and the 2000 tech crash, warning of “internet nuttiness” as investors bought into the craze. Three years ago, he was belittled on TV when he predicted the current recession: “There weren’t any of those people who had the guts to apologize and say, ‘You were right,’” he says.

His economics Ph.D. from Stanford in the early 1960s focused on private-sector debt — consumers, corporations, financial institutions — and not on government debt. “Back then, if anybody worried about debt, they worried about federal government debt. I was much more concerned with the private sector,” says Shilling.

Basically, American consumers are wallowing too deeply in debt at the time that their job prospects are looking bad. Welsh and Shilling agree. Shilling notes that the average number of weeks on unemployment is 29 — almost double what it was when the recession began in late 2007. Almost 40 percent of the unemployed have been out of work for more than half a year. The number of unemployed per job opening has jumped from 1.5 before the recession began to 6.4. The University of Michigan consumer sentiment index is below 74. On January 1 of 2000, it was at 112. The government has extended unemployment benefits. More and more Americans are using food stamps.

Welsh points out that household debt amounts to around 97 percent of the total U.S. economy, up from only 44 percent as recently as 1982. And unlike in the early 1980s, when interest rates were 15 to 20 percent, the burden of this consumer debt can’t be lessened with lower rates, because today’s rates are about as low as they can go.

Americans have been on a spending binge. In the mid-1970s, they saved, briefly, 14 percent of their disposable personal income, but by 2007, the saving rate was below 1 percent. Now it’s around 4 percent, notes Welsh, and he believes it will go back to 8 or 9 percent.

In the U.S., 22.6 percent of homes are underwater — that is, the value of the home is lower than the mortgage. In Nevada the ratio is 65 percent, in Arizona 47.9 percent, in Florida 44.7, Michigan 37.3, and California 34.7. Home values are down sharply (almost 38 percent in San Diego from the 2005 peak). “The 1995-2005 housing bubble was driven by low mortgage rates, extremely loose underwriting standards by lenders, lax regulation, securitization of mortgages and, most of all, by the conviction that house prices could never fall,” says Shilling. He is not bullish on housing. Both Welsh and Shilling believe that the current stock market recovery is not a portrait of a stoutly recovering economy.

In China, consumer spending is 36 percent of the economy — a tiny bit more than half the ratio in the United States. Shilling notes that the Chinese savings rate is 29 percent, or about 7 times the U.S. savings rate. After taking out essential living expenses, 42 percent of Chinese want to put their spare cash into the future education of their children, according to Reuters. In the U.S., according to PriceGrabber.com, 84 percent of people consider their personal computer or laptop a necessity, with clothes dryers coming in a close second at 83 percent and cell phones next at 72. Global economists, aware that U.S. consumer spending can no longer support the whole world, want the Chinese to spend more and save less and Americans to save more and spend less, but we are too accustomed to those luxuries. It may be a tough slog.

In U.S. consumers’ “25-year borrowing-and-spending binge,” Americans were trained by retailers, advertisers, and the media that “instant material gratification was good,” says Shilling.

He believes it will take us 10 years to shed the past’s legacy of gluttony. Growth may be just 2 percent a year — far below the 3.3 percent needed to keep employment stable. “It took 30 years for the financial sector and the

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The National Association for Business Economics will release today a poll of economists who...

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The Best Cure
By Joe Deegan

Rey Knight’s easygoing persona serves him well Sundays at the Hillcrest farmers’ market as customers linger to sample exotic spiced meats. In the prepared-foods section, Knight hawks sausage and salami. His white apron, stocky frame, and black hair and beard add to a Mediterranean butcher-shop atmosphere, as though beef and pork flanks might be dangling behind him. He dishes me up a sausage stuffed with smoked Gouda cheese in a French roll. It has just come off the grill, and I can barely keep the melting cheese in my mouth as I bite into the amalgam of flavors.

A day earlier, Knight toured me through the 3000-square-foot facility in Kearny Mesa where his Knight Salumi Co. processes meats. (Salumi is a general term for cured meats.) Knight opened his business in February 2008 after a stint producing sausage for a local restaurant.

We first walked through the refrigerated storage. “On the racks here is sirloin trim that goes into our cacciatore Tuscan salami,” said Knight. He showed me a meat grinder that looked to be the size and shape of a large toaster. “Twenty-four thousand pounds of meat went through that little guy last year,” he told me. After the meat is ground, a hydraulic stuffer forces it into the standard cylindrical salami shape.

In the room next door, the air was drier and the temperature dramatically higher as Knight led me to see the “fermentation stage.” Here the meat is inoculated with bacteria that “will acidify it and set its color,” he said. “At this point we’re taking the meat to the point where all the moisture’s going to fall out of it. During this time, because there’s a stagnant airflow, we get a mold bloom.”

We looked at thick mold on the salami that had what Knight called an “angelic powdery look. It’s a combination of a type of yeast and a mold like that on cheese.” Later the mold dies from lack of moisture, and a white papery casing is left on the salami. “You can eat it,” he said.

Knight grew up on a farm in northwestern Montana. His father hunted regularly and brought elk and bear back to the farm, where he and his teenage son dressed the meat and prepared cuts for smoking. Rey Knight later attended the Culinary Institute of America in New York. There he received a chef’s education and earned a bachelor’s degree in business management. He also came under the influence of an important mentor who had been trained as a chef in France. Through that connection, Knight landed a job as a chef at a renowned restaurant in a community just north of Cannes. The head chef was a specialist in preparing meat from the slaughtering stage on. Eventually, the two men began going together to small farms in Provence and northern Italy to slaughter animals for farmers who wanted certain cuts of meat or other products. Knight would climb on the backs of the animals and shoot them in the head with a revolver before he and his partner started butchering the meat. The work involved reaching into the still-warm animal from behind and opening the carcase with a knife pointed outward to avoid cutting into the internal organs. “I’d slaughtered animals at home growing up,” says Knight, “but killing them still made me queasy.”

Knight came to my attention on January 14 when the Wall Street Journal ran a story on chefs who, primarily for learning purposes, have smuggled European meats into the United States. The article claimed that Knight once smuggled a pork shoulder and a fennel-pollen salami from Italy to Miami and, on another occasion, hid a 4-pound of meat or other products. Knight would climb on the backs of the animals and shoot them in the head with a revolver before he and his partner started butchering the meat. The work involved reaching into the still-warm animal from behind and opening the carcase with a knife pointed outward to avoid cutting into the internal organs. “I’d slaughtered animals at home growing up,” says Knight, “but killing them still made me queasy.”

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After I’d taken a few photos, an officer ran up to me and said, “Get outta here — the propane tank might blow!” Members of the San Diego Fire Department had shown up and were dousing the fire, showing no fear.

By Rene Pina
Tuesday, Feb. 16

Cash Crop for the Can
Ensenada Fishermen Netting Giant Squid

Ensenada — Commercial fishermen who run their trawlers out of Ensenada have largely ceased their annual pursuit of sardines off the Baja coast in order to capture some creatures that rarely venture this far north — the calamar gigante, giant squid (aka Dosidicus gigas, Humboldt squid).

Only six fishermen out of Ensenada are currently dedicated to sardine fishing, according to boatman Francisco Valenzuela; the rest, some 35 in all, are out haul ing in the large-but-lithe cephalopods that are usually found much farther south, around Cabo.

This type of squid was virtually unknown off Ensenada as little as three years ago, and the reason for their sudden manifestation is unclear.

Despite their voracious appetite for sardines, the squids’ occupation of Bahia de Ensenada has proven to be the fishing community’s cash crop for the can: one squidder boasted of having netted 350 tons in a single night.

Source: Frontera
By T.B. Beauden Saturday, Feb. 20

Realty Reality Check
Storefront Owner Forced to Slash Rent

East Village — Like so many retail spaces in the East Village, a storefront that measures just over 1000 square feet (located on Tenth Avenue, near the baseball stadium) is vacant. In fact, in the almost four
San Diego
Forensic Loan Audits:
February 25, 2010
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Chapter 13 Only
 Too much debt  
continued from page 6

household sector to leverage up [get too deeply in debt], and now it will take 10 years to work off all that excess. If we did it in a year or two, we would have a depression, so it is lucky it will be 10 years,” says Shilling.

Welsh foresees woes for three to five years but says they may stretch out to ten. Excessive government debt will be unwinding along with excessive consumer debt. “Governments will be raising taxes and cutting back on services. It’s a debt pandemic,” he says. That will be a double-whammy on ailing households. Politicians won’t level with the public: “If you get out of the foxhole, you have your head blown off.” Says Welsh grimly, “There could be riots. There could be violence when politicians start telling people the truth.”

The best
cure  
continued from page 7

pound goose-liver torchon from France inside the belly of a salmon.” (There are fewer restrictions on importing fish.) According to the Journal, such practices may fade as the scrutiny of potential terrorists increases in the wake of the Nigerian who, in December, “allegedly tried to set off a bomb hidden in his underpants on a Northwest Airlines flight to Detroit.”

The paper then continued, “I’ll have to come up with more creative ways to get charcuterie into the U.S., says Mr. Knight. Knight says he’s never heard of jail time for smuggling meat, though fines as high as $500 are possible. I ask him if the Wall Street Journal’s exposure of his smuggling bothered him. Could his admissions get him into trouble with law enforcement? “No,” he says, “because I’d have to do it again. Now I don’t really want to dig my hole any deeper. However, that is the chef culture. The chef’s culture is about buying the best things, the greatest things, and nine times out of ten it’s a back-door deal. The mushroom purveyor, or forester guy, shows up at the back of the restaurant with a truck full of mushrooms. You come out and take what you want, and it’s the best that’s out there. It’s like a drug deal. There’s no need to do that in Europe. But here it’s all about the back-door deal.”

Other foods that might come secretly in the back door, according to Knight, are ham, caviar, truffles, and other delicacies. The items might be out of season or smuggled into the U.S., or the seller might not be licensed to resell. “Here in San Diego,” says Knight, “I could go catch a fish, head to a local restaurant, and trade it for a meal, if it is good quality. It would end up on the plate the next day as a special.

“I don’t have the need to smuggle again,” Knight continues. “I have my business and I’m successful. Now, instead of trying to mimic what they’re doing in Europe, we’re inventing our own. We know a company here in town — White Labs, Inc. — that can grow bacteria for us so that we can experiment on a bacterial plane with our production. San Diego has the best conditions for drying and curing meat. We have the right humidity levels and cool-but-not-freezing winters. We have great parameters here for what we do.”

Europe’s small-farming methods have worked for centuries, and they still follow them. “In the U.S.,” says Knight, “we have need for a healthier product. We put the minimal amount of salt in our products. Some European hams have salt contents upward of 11 percent. Supermarket hams have about 8 percent salt. My ham is at 3, the minimum-required salt...
The best cure
continued from page 11
for ham.”

Then there’s fat content. Knight says that two years ago he allowed some of his salamis to contain 30 percent fat. “But people don’t want that. And some people like lean, lean sausage. That’s just a product of our environment. So we cater to the American palate.”

Today, the injection of nitrates and nitrites into processed meats has become the hot-button issue. The centuries-old processing methods used on family farms in Europe did without it. And here Knight lines up on the side of those farmers. He tells me that the big meat processors, such as Farmer John, are committed to the use of nitrates because they are the most effective single agent in preventing botulism. But the old method of dehydration, he argues, is just as effective. It uses salt and plain old drying. As long as “water activity” is reduced low enough, the process functions as well as nitrates. “Water activity,” Knight says, “is the amount of water left in a product that allows microbiological growth. The dehydration process creates in the meats an environment that cannot support that microbiological growth.”

Again, the Knight Salumi Co. is responding to growing American sensitivities. Its owner, however, is not totally convinced of the danger of nitrates. “It’s a debate right now,” he says. “Some studies show that nitrates are dangerous, others that they are safe.”

The greatest dangers seem to occur when products such as bacon are cooked. Nitrates injected into the meat become nitrates over time, and these can transform further into nitrosamines, which are carcinogenic, raising the risk of certain cancers, especially stomach cancer. Any debate that remains over the safety of nitrates seems to center on what might happen if they were not used in the huge meat-processing operations. Even the European Food Information Council states, “Without preservatives our food chain would not be as safe as it is today. Nitrates and nitrites used in processed meats protect against the deadly Clostridium botulinum.”

Knight tells me he is not an anti-nitrates ideologue. “But some of the organic producers are using creative marketing to lie to people,” according to Knight. He suggests I look in grocery stores for organic products that claim they do not add nitrates. “Nitrates are found naturally in a lot of fruits and vegetables. They’re in celery, radishes, cherries, even wine. The processors take celery, they juice it, reduce it down, and mechanically separate the extract until it meets the same concentration of nitrates as a curing salt has. They put that in their product and say on the label ‘No nitrates’ or ‘No nitrates added,’ while underneath that, in the ingredient list, is celery juice extract. So we say on our website that we cure meat without adding nitrates via chemical additives, curing salts, via vegetable extracts, juices, or any other derivatives.”

As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is suspicious of the processes used at Knight Salumi and similar operations. The department sends representatives to the premises where two-pound samples of meat are tested regularly. Knight has never been written up for safety violations, but “they think what we do is dangerous,” he tells me. “That’s ridiculous.”

Knight and I count the ways that big meat processors are deceptive. Take items that call themselves pork. “Well,” says Knight, “there are plenty of pieces of pork, some of them less appealing than others. Go pick up the Reynaldo’s brand chorizo. Pork salivary glands and lymph nodes make up 50 percent of that product. Do you want to eat a bunch of filters?”

“When it comes to organic labeling of meat, all that’s required is for 70 percent of the product to be organic. That leaves 30 percent that might not be. You can have irradiated spices; you can have a filler, GDL [glucose delta lactone], which is a chemical acidifier. When you eat pep-

peroni that gives you heartburn all the time, it’s been chemically acidulated. In a natural process, your body tolerates the meat much better when you digest it and you don’t get heartburn.”

I ask Knight what “fillers” do. “I’ve been told they cause problems for people with gluten sensitivity.” “We call them sawdust,” says Knight. “They’re made out of concentrated whey protein powder. A glutinous net in the fillers captures moisture, oils, and fat. Bologna, mortadella, frankfurters are all loaded with them. The reason the processors add the fillers is because moisture retention is money retention. Fat retention is money retention. Big processors dry their meat to a 30 percent moisture loss. We dry ours to 48 and 50 percent.”

Is that reflected in your prices? I ask. “Yes,” says Knight. “We’re middle of the road.” Of the two other companies mentioned in the Wall Street Journal story, one prices its products lower and one higher. ■

STRINGERS
continued from page 7
years since it was constructed, the space — on the ground level of a condominium — has yet to have a tenant for longer than a two-week period.

In late 2009, Efren, the owner of the unit, admitted that the recession had resulted in little interest in the retail spot and his asking price. He said that people interested in opening a medical marijuana facility had inquired about moving in, but despite his desire to find a lessee, Efren believed that the condo residents upstairs would most likely protest the dispensary.

This month Efren broke the news that a computer-repair business will be moving in. Efren said he finally agreed to lease the space at a rate significantly less than what had been understood as “market value.”

Upon hearing the news, a neighboring proprietor said, “I hope other [retail space] owners with vacancies can come to the realization that they need to start lowering their rent prices. That’s the only way things will pick up for our community.”

By Nathaniel Uy
Saturday, Feb. 20

Heinous Hike
Copter Rescues Teen in East County
Alpine — A panicked father was reunited with his son after the young man became lost approximately one mile from the eastern end of Palo Verde Lake in Alpine.

On February 19 at around 6:00 p.m., Royal Magnus called sheriff’s deputies to report that Zane Magnus, 19, had left home at 10:00 a.m. to kayak and possibly do some hiking. At 4:00 p.m., he called to say he’d be home in about an hour but failed to show. Calls to his cell phone went unanswered.

Deputies conducted a preliminary search but were unable to find Zane. A search-and-rescue team and a Coast Guard helicopter were then called to the scene. After a 15-minute search, the helicopter located him and airlifted him to Gillespie Field, where his father was waiting. Paramedics found the teenager disoriented and cold but in good condition.

By Craig Vansant
Saturday, Feb. 20

Big Bore Banter
Push for Ballot
Language Revisions
Coronado — Will some Coronado voters be confused by the wording of a June ballot measure and support a tunnel they don’t want? Councilmember Barbara Denny thinks so. She considers the draft ballot language “unintentionally mis-

leading” and called for revisions at the council’s January 19 and February 16 meetings.

The proposed ballot measure asks, “Do you support the City continuing to use existing federal, state and local funding to complete the study of long-term traffic relief options, including a tunnel, between the Coronado Bridge and Naval Air Station North Island?”

Denny’s suggestions include advising the public why the vote will be on the June ballot rather than November’s, when there is greater voter turnout; recommending that the language inform voters that the $14 million-plus (to date) project covers one mile; and making it clear that the tunnel option being studied will “daylight” in Coronado, not on the naval base (meaning the traffic will exit the tunnel on city streets near the base, rather than emerge on base property, an option that would result in about 13 homes being lost).

By Sheila Pell
Saturday, Feb. 20

Weedy Wheels
Bike-Tire Pot Smuggling
Foiled
San Ysidro — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested an American teenager on Wednesday, February 17, when he attempted to smuggle marijuana into the U.S.

At about 3:00 p.m., the 18-year-old male, also a resident of Tijuana, entered the border crossing as a pedestrian with a bike. According to a report obtained from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the CBP officer inspected the mountain bike and felt something bulgy in the tires. Officers used a narcotic-detector dog that alerted them to the possibility of contraband.

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underwent X-ray inspection, agents removed the bike’s tires and found more than two-and-a-half pounds of marijuana stuffed into the tire tubes. The pot was stated to be worth over $1300.

By Steve Horvath
Friday, Feb. 19

Punched Out
Assault and Burglary in SDSU Lots

SDSU — A man was assaulted on the second level of San Diego State parking structure 6 at approximately 4:20 p.m. on Thursday, February 18.

According to a witness, she saw a man lying on the ground screaming and getting beat up by at least two others. The three suspects believed to have been involved in the assault were last seen traveling southbound on East Campus Drive in a silver late-’90s Chevy Camaro.

SDSU police said that a red-and-blue backpack was stolen along with $13 in cash.

Less than an hour before the assault, a vehicle was reported burglarized in parking structure 1, located just north of structure 6. A police report documented that a car stereo was stolen and the driver’s side door was broken into with a lock punch. It is unknown if the incidents are related.

By Nathaniel Uy
Thursday, Feb. 18

From 18 to 86
Largest Marriage Ceremony in TJ History

Tijuana — On Sunday — Valentine’s Day — what is believed to have been the largest mass wedding in Tijuana’s history took place at Parque Morelos, in the La Mesa delegation of Tijuana.

At just before 11 in the morning, a municipal government representative began a ceremony that bonded 1512 couples in matrimony.

The ceremony included couples as young as 18 years of age and one couple 84 and 86 years old. Thousands of spectators — family and friends of the betrothed — turned out to witness the spectacle. Jackets were gladly shed in temperatures that approached 80 degrees.

By one o’clock in the afternoon, most couples had departed to enjoy private fiestas.

By David Alton Dodd
Tuesday, Feb. 16

Day of the Dragon
S.D. Celebrates Chinese New Year

City Heights — On Sunday, February 14, the tranquility of my afternoon was interrupted by the sound of drums coming from 47th Street and El Cajon Boulevard.

I followed the sounds of the drums to Minh Hoa Supermarket on El Cajon Boulevard. The parking lot of the Asian market was full of activity. Approximately 20 to 30 men, women, and children surrounded the entrance of the store. Access to the parking lot from El Cajon Boulevard was blocked by orange cones, and two employees stood by to ensure that nobody entered from that direction.

I followed the sounds of the drums to Minh Hoa Supermarket on El Cajon Boulevard. The parking lot of the Asian market was full of activity. Approximately 20 to 30 men, women, and children surrounded the entrance of the store. Access to the parking lot from El Cajon Boulevard was blocked by orange cones, and two employees stood by to ensure that nobody entered from that direction.

Across the street I saw a large handcrafted dragon dancing around the entrance of the store. The management at Minh Hoa had decided to kick off Chinese New Year (which began this year on Valentine’s Day) with a couple of people dressed in a dragon costume.

According to tradition, the dragon dance is supposed to give good fortune for the following year. Once the dragon completed its dance — approximately a half hour later — someone lit a series of firecrackers.

By Sandi Mackenzie
Thursday, Feb. 18

Lawyers Fret
Concern over Google Maps in TJ

Tijuana — Since February 9, Google Maps’ “Street View” function has allowed virtual tourists to see a variety of streets in Tijuana with 360 degrees of perspective.

Tijuana street views currently available are along main thoroughfares such as Via Rapida Poniente, Boulevard Aguas Calientes, parts of Zona Centro, Las Playas, Fundadores, and Gato Bronco. Google has also taken photos of areas inaccessible to auto traffic for views of city parks, university campuses, and historical centers, where most of the traffic is pedestrian.

Local lawyers have criticized the street-view mapping of Tijuana as constituting a potential invasion of privacy and fret over images of citizens leaving strip clubs, visiting abortion clinics, or engaging in other possibly embarrassing behavior. Google has responded by claiming that all the images it uses are of public property and that
CITY LIGHTS

No Free Ride
State Beach to Start Charging for Parking
Carlsbad — Starting on Monday, February 15, the Tamarack Surf Beach just west of Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue will charge visitors on an hourly basis to park their vehicles.

The beach’s parking lot — state-owned property — has been stirring controversy since late 2007, when the State first proposed fees. The City of Carlsbad was able to delay the installation of fee-collecting machines by filing a lawsuit against the State.

Residents in the area have been worried that vehicles of visitors, tourists, and beachgoers will clog up streets in an effort to avoid paying to park.

The lawsuit against the State was settled in September of 2009, when the City was able to convince the State to charge parking fees per hour, instead of implementing a flat daily fee. The rate is $2 per hour with a maximum daily limit of $10.

According to the State Parks of California, the annual estimated cost to operate and maintain Tamarack State Beach is approximately $700,000. The State expects to generate $590,000 from the parking fees.

By Nathaniel Uy
Wednesday, Feb. 17

CITY LIGHTS

Redondo Court. Bicyclists, skateboarders, pedestrians, and runners froze to witness the attempted rescue.

A student from a local surf school said she saw a guy in a kayak overturn where the waves were breaking and then saw only the kayak floating.

The sound of sirens on the beach pierced the light breeze, and nearby lifeguards rushed to the scene. As an onlooker questioned, “How did they get here so fast?” three lifeguards rushed into the water.

Within a few minutes, lifeguard Mike Manley emerged from the water, dragging the boat to shore. When asked about its occupant, he pointed to the surf and said, “See those two little heads out there? That’s one of us bringing the guy in now. Strong rip currents made it tough after he capsized, but he was wearing a life jacket.”

Soon afterward, two lifeguards came out of the water, the rescued man walking right beside them. Upon seeing this, the sound of applause erupted from those on the beach.

By Barry Meyer
Tuesday, Feb. 16

CITY LIGHTS

Doobie Row
Citizens Voice Complaints on Pot Shops
North Park — After last week’s panel discussion on Hillcrest pot shops, San Diego’s medical marijuana task force took its recommendations to North Park.

The mood from audience members varied from those at the meeting in Hillcrest. During public comment, North Park resident Ed Badrak grumbled about the dispensaries operating on Adams Avenue, west of 30th Street.

“We have become a dumping ground,” said Badrak. “We have more medical marijuana dispensaries now than we have bars and liquor stores. Something is wrong with this picture.”

While most of the speakers were in support of medical marijuana, they disagreed with some of the task force recommendations, like the recommendation that dispensaries not be located within 500 feet of one another. Many speakers felt that distance should be more like 1000–1500 feet.

“If this continues, we are going to have to change the name of Antique Row to Doobie Row,” quipped Badrak.

In the end, the North Park planning group voted to accept the recommendations from the medical marijuana task force along with their suggestions.

By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, Feb. 17

CITY LIGHTS

Strong-Mayor Mess
Frye Opposes Strong Mayor Ballot Measure
San Diego — Councilmember Donna Frye isn’t a strong supporter of “strong mayor.” At the February 16 meeting of the San Diego City Council, she shared her thoughts of what is to come if the voters insist on pumping up the mayor.

“This particular form of government, because of how it originated, is flawed, and what will be voted on in June will still be flawed. I think you will see an actual strengthening of the power of the executive branch.”

The strong-mayor measure will appear on the June 8 ballot as well as the accompanying measures that would add a ninth council district and give the council the power to override a mayoral veto with a 2/3 vote.

By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, Feb. 17

CITY LIGHTS

Life, Guarded
Lifeguards Rescue Capsized Kayaker
Mission Beach — On Saturday afternoon, February 13, lifeguards responded to a call of a man in need of assistance after his kayak capsized in the ocean near
Policeman Poet Vows to Kick Some Ass

Coronado Police Department’s Internal Affairs Team on Lookout for Clever Constable Following Discovery of Poem

CORONADO — The Coronado Police Department is conducting an internal investigation into the origins of an impassioned poem, apparently written by a police officer and found pinned on the station’s main bulletin board. The poem appeared in the wake of the recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that Carl Bryan may sue Coronado police officer Brian McPherson for damages incurred after McPherson tasered Bryan following a 2005 traffic stop. (Bryan was, according to McPherson, “yelling gibberish and hitting his thighs” after getting out of his car. The gibbering thigghsapper was also wearing nothing but boxers and sneakers.) Once tasered, Bryan fell face-first onto the ground and broke four teeth.

The poem appears to be an adaptation of German pastor Martin Niemoller’s famous 1946 poem First they came..., which warns against inaction in the face of tyranny. Niemoller’s poem reads:

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak out for me.

The bulletin-board version voices a similar concern, and reads:

First they came for my gun, and I did not kick ass — because I had my taser;
Then they came for my taser, and I did not kick ass — because I had my nightstick;
Then they came for my nightstick, and I did not kick ass — because I had...screw it, I am going to KICK SOME ASS.

Officers involved in the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, speculated that the “first they came for my gun” line may be a reference to the $5.5 million settlement the City paid to ex-Charger Steve Foley in 2008. Foley’s football career ended after he was shot in the knee and hip by off-duty Coronado police officer Aaron Mansker in 2006. (Mansker had pulled Foley over on suspicion of driving under the influence.)

Reached for comment, UCSD professor of poetry and poetics Rae Armantrout called the poem “rhythmically strong, not overly slavish to the original, and frankly terrifying.”

Drinking Fountain by the Men’s Room in the Lobby, Forbes Headquarters, New York City (AP) — Ending a multi-year shoutout from nearly all of the magazine’s so-called “good” lists, the current issue of Forbes magazine puts San Diego at number nine on its list of America’s Most Populous Cities. The announcement, which is being hailed as both “accurate” and “based on sound empirical data” by the U.S. Census Bureau, comes as welcome news to the sprawling Southern California metropolis, which has been plagued in recent years by political and economic woes that have tarnished its public image nationwide.

“It’s about time we got recognized for something besides the weather and our urgent need for a new football stadium,” said San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau president Joe Terzi upon hearing the news. “Sometimes, it seems like Forbes and the rest of them can’t bear to acknowledge San Diego’s deeply pleasant existence. For some reason, we missed their most recent list of Most Livable Cities. I mean, seriously: Portland, Maine? Tulsa, Oklahoma? Those are places that people are from, you know?”

Terzi offered further evidence for his claim, “We’re not on the lists for Most Wired or Most Entertaining, and it doesn’t help that it’s true that we were the only city to make both the Most Obese and Most Vain lists, which is kind of fascinating, but I don’t really see it as a selling point.” Now, however, “we’ve given the nation — and the world — a reason to notice us. We’ve given them 1.28 million reasons....

“My only regret is that Dallas managed to edge us out by a lousy 581 warm bodies,” concluded Terzi. “Get busy, San Diego — next year, number eight!”

Terzi also took the occasion to announce the cessation of the City’s “San Diego: A Nice Place to Visit” campaign, begun in an attempt to capitalize on Travel & Leisure’s 2007 ranking of San Diego as America’s Best Vacation City. “Some wisenheimer tagged the Laurel Street billboard with ‘...but I wouldn’t want to live there,’ he explained.
The association serves its owners within the governing documents for the benefit of all. Encourage associations to find resources to effectively serve the needs of all. Effective management support (management makes no decisions — boards do) and perhaps joining the Community Associations Institute would be great sources for invitations to compliance and for maintaining and increasing values of all properties.

Joanne Diaz via email

Power Corrupts

I read your cover story “Home Owner Association Horror Stories” (February 18) with great familiarity. Before I lived in San Diego, I owned a co-op in Manhattan and later a condominium in Westchester, New York, and finally a townhouse also in Westchester. In each situation, there were one or two people who tended to make everyone else miserable.

I moved to San Diego 14 years ago, and after purchasing a condominium here in Banker’s Hill, I entered a new level of hell. I have now learned my lesson. I spent time on the board and gave away many hours of my life only to be abused by my neighbors who wouldn’t lift a finger to do a thing.

The final insult occurred when several years ago I learned that I was paying a substantially higher monthly HOA fee for my one-bedroom unit than several other larger two-bedroom units. I asked the board and the managing agent why this was and if they could explain how this happened. I was brushed off as a pest. I brought it up numerous times and received the same response so I dug in and did research.

I found documents that included the square footage of every unit. I did the math and multiplied the error by the number of months I had owned the unit. I attended the next board meeting thinking that this proof would bring home the problem to the board members. It did not. Finally I said that if I didn’t receive a meeting within the next two weeks to work out a settlement, I was going to go to small-claims court. I was laughed at. There was no meeting, and I filed a claim. By this time, I had overpaid my HOAs by $5400.

The day of my court date, the board president and two other members (one of whom was a lawyer) showed up and snickered in my direction as we waited to be called. The judge asked for evidence, which I had. The board had put together alternative evidence proving nothing. The continued on page 60
That a golfer’s swing is a reflection

—subscribers.

enter into typed conversation with other

modem, and telephone, dial a number and

modem is affixed, and with computer,

individual to sit at a computer to which a

ferencing system. Such a system permits an

The WELL, a four-year-old computer con-

subscribe ($8 per month, $3 per hour) to

Nash and I and some 3000 other people

—Twenty Years Ago

—Twenty-Five Years Ago

—Thirty-Five Years Ago

—Five Years Ago

—Ten Years Ago

—Five Years Ago

The state law that created the San Diego

County Regional Airport Authority says

nothing about hiring a small army of poll-

sters, political consultants, and public rela-

tions people to sell voters on moving the

airport. The law does require the airport au-

thority, which took over ownership and opera-

tion of Lindbergh Field from the port dis-

trict on January 1, 2003, to “review all

options of alternative sites, including, but

not limited to, expansion of the existing air-

port site” and to submit its recommenda-

tion to the voters by November 7, 2006.

Finally, the manager went up to his room

down. He said he wasn’t going to move.

They didn’t see him for about a month.

year later they decided to tear the hotel

gon to move my books anymore. ’ About a

Thousands of books. He told the people [at

he moved to the Majestic with all his books.

Thousands of books. He told the people [at

the Majestic], ’This is my last move. I’m not

gonna move my books anymore.’ About a

year later they decided to tear the hotel

down. He said he wasn’t going to move.

They didn’t see him for about a month.

Finally, the manager went up to his room

and found him dead. He committed suicide.

He had told everybody, ’I’m not moving my

books, and, by God, he didn’t.

—CALENDAR: “BULLETS AND BROADWAY,” John Brizzolara, February 24, 2000

Fifteen Years Ago

If you are looking for the essence of the city,

do not look for it at Fourth and Broadway.

Drive toward downtown on I-5, yes, but

when that Oz view of spires, glass, and jet-

craft swings around the hillside at you, turn

aside from it. Take the exit to Washington

Street. It is an uninteresting vein itself, but

means of access to a crucial artery: University

Avenue.

—“UNIVERSITY AVENUE: FROM WASHING-"TOWN STREET TO LA MESA BOULEVARD,” various authors, February 23, 1995

Ten Years Ago

This old guy, a book collector, was living in the Keat-

Building, and they told him he had to move. He
didn’t want to, but

he moved to the Majestic with all his books.

Thousands of books. He told the people [at

the Majestic], ’This is my last move. I’m not

gonna move my books anymore.’ About a

year later they decided to tear the hotel

down. He said he wasn’t going to move.

They didn’t see him for about a month.

Finally, the manager went up to his room

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not limited to, expansion of the existing air-

port site” and to submit its recommenda-

tion to the voters by November 7, 2006.

—“LEAVIN’ ON A JET PLANE,” Matt Potter,

February 24, 2005

For more stories by these authors, go to

sdreader.com.
Dear Matt:

How good are the elves at figuring out questions that BUG people? Good, I hope, because there are lots of bugs in my brain lately. And around the porch light at my house. They’re the usual suspects. I don’t know what kind they are. I hope that doesn’t matter. Every time you go out the door you get a face full of BUGS. I hate it but it also sort of fascinates me. Why would moths that fly at night be attracted to a porch light? It doesn’t make sense to me. Maybe it does to the elves. If it does, keep hounding them until they spill the beans. I’m very serious about this. I don’t know why. I just am.

— Clinton, 3000 Miles Away

If you live where you say you live—back East somewhere — I’d think you’d have tinkly, crinkly little frozen moths stuck to your light bulb. Well, no matter. As it turns out, scientists don’t know your answer, and so far the moths ain’t talkin’. But, as usual, the science guys have some guesses. Good guesses? Maybe not. That’s up to you. As I always say, what would life be without a few little mysteries to give our brains something to chomp on! Here’s your particular hors d’oeuvre, thanks to the house entomologists here in the bug division of the spectacular Matthew Alice Institute for the Study of Weird Stuff in the World Around Us.

We can start by saying that no science guy knows why moths fly in a straight line to your porch light. One thinks he knows why moths fly in a straight line toward a candle, but that’s a different thing. The oldest theory about this moth/porch-light stuff is that moths (most nocturnal) use the moon for navigation, set up an angle of flight relative to the moon, and try to maintain it. When the moth mistakes a porch light for the moon, it flies toward it and eventually has to fly around and around it in order to maintain the proper angle. They wouldn’t need to do this with the very distant moon. Science guys credit a general “confusion” for the moths’ goofy flight around the bulb. After offering this explanation for moth behavior, I can only assume the science guys packed up their PowerPoints and left the room quickly, before anyone could ask probing questions and completely deflate this scientific hot-air balloon.

But if that theory is gradually sinking, consider what one researcher did to solve the puzzle. He tied little plastic foam “boats” by long strings to his moth subjects, set the boats afloat on water, the better to observe moth movements. He, too, found his moths making a beeline for a bulb, screeching to a halt, then flittingting back and forth within a certain distance of the bulb. In an effort, I think, to blind us with science, he claims that the moths are trying to stay in a dark band around the bulb, called the Mach band. All animals apparently create this with their eyes. Around any bright light source, there’s a band that appears much darker than the rest of the environment. The Mach band. Since moths associate “dark” with “safe,” they flit around in it until they eventually find their way out of the band and fly away.

That’s really about it, Clinton. Take it or leave it. But to make up for scientific vagueness around your porch light, here’s something more convincing re: moths and candles. Yet another researcher claims to have found that moths drawn to flames are all males. Male moths, he says, use heat, and vision to track down female-moth pheromones and get lucky, in moth terms. Burning candles, he says, emit the proper infrared wavelengths and smells to lure unsuspecting males. They swoop in, ready to buy her a drink, and get fried instead. Yet a third set of researchers confirmed their own field observations of moths and forest fires by setting small fires and watching their hand-selected moths immolate themselves. They claim they had seen moths actually walking into the path of forest fires, which sparked their interest in a controlled study of the bizarre behavior.

But we can’t ignore the fact that moths in a dark environment are safest from bats, nighthawks, other night-flying predators, yet they still love that porch light. (There’s one group of soreheads that insists flying toward the moon/a light keeps moths safe from lizards, frogs, and ground-dwelling predators.) Moths are scientifically categorized as having “positive phototaxis” — they go toward light — as opposed to, say, cockroaches, which we all know are negatively phototactic. I’m secretly delighted.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.
The Therapy Directory, a sporting box, is an online marketplace for sports-related products and services. According to a relationship and family therapist with a private practice in Mission Valley, Tiger Woods' apology lecture probably did more good than bad with sports consumers. Saying that, I did smile when he said "I don't get to play by different rules. The same boundaries that apply to everyone apply to me." To handpick a hard drive that was really way out there. I shouldn't have done that. What was I even thinking?'

"People will debate whether [sex addiction] should be called a technical addiction or not, but I think it's best to treat it as one because it carries a lot of similar elements, including shame that leads one to hold silent. The more there is, the more likely they are to continue the addictive or compulsive behavior — because the behavior gives you a neurological release, the arousal gives you release."

"The fact of not holding the secret reduces the chances of relapse. When you have a terrible secret that you cannot speak about to anybody, it's kind of like a computer that has data on it that must be cloaked. And so you have a cloaking program that disguises that data so no other program accidentally runs into it. And what happens is that the Excel spreadsheet program, the writing program — or in real life it would be your marriage program or your professional program or your good-neighbor program — bums into the program that's cloaking the data, notices something's wrong, and begins to tap it at. So, you need a second cloaking program to cloak the first cloaking program to make sure the data isn't accessible. More data is entered because the addiction goes on, and that data must be cloaked. And what you end up with is a hard drive that's cloaked: the memory becomes slow, none of the programs really work well because the computer is spending so many recourses trying to deal with the shame. So, just the act of revealing it to your spouse and significant others, the brain gets to settle, the brain gets to calm."

"The majority of people who abuse drugs or alcohol realize, 'What am I doing? This is crazy.' And they just back off. Only some people can't back away. A lot of people have done sexual things, like, 'Whoa, that was really way out there. I shouldn't have done that. What was I even thinking?' and they back off, they learn to contain themselves.... Some people do work their way through. But for a lot of people, if you've had sexually addictive behavior for years and you've been trying to quit it and you've failed to quit it, especially if it caused you harm and you still can't stop, then you need professional help...."

"I would define [recovery] as keeping the urges in check successfully and keeping your life completely open to certain key people — your therapist, your spouse, a couple of friends — so that there's nothing to hide. That would be in recovery. But, if it's truly addictive behavior, you're never recovered."
La Costa Canyon’s “Canyon Crazies” catch up on the day’s headlines as the Torrey Pines starting lineup is announced.

**No. 4 Torrey Pines lines up win over No. 5 LCC to capture Avocado crown**
*Posted February 20, 2010*

With a league championship and the top seed in Division I on the line, No. 4 Torrey Pines beat No. 5 La Costa Canyon 57-49.

“It was free throws,” said Torrey Pines guard Nick Kerr. “They missed a few and we made some down the stretch.”

With Torrey Pines down one with 1:35 left, Kerr sunk two free throws to give the Falcons their first lead of the fourth quarter. After guard Jesse Neugarten made a layup, Kerr made sure T orrey Pines beat Granite Hills 84-64 on Tuesday night to capture Avocado crown.

**Southwest passes San Ysidro to claim South Bay League crown**
*Posted February 17, 2010*

Chasing San Ysidro for a month after losing their league opener, Southwest has finally caught up.

Wednesday night, the Raiders never trailed in a league opener, Southwest has finally caught up.

Fact didn’t appear lost on Southwest, who raced out to a 21-6 lead.

After halftime, Southwest kept San Ysidro at bay by pounding the ball inside to forwards Emilio Avellano and Maris Boldridge. The Raiders led by nine at the end of the third quarter and never led by less than five en route to their tenth straight win.

**Grossmont slows down Granite Hills to clinch share of league title**
*Posted February 17, 2010*

On a night when Grossmont’s student section donned sombreros, it was fitting that the Foothillers were crowned league champs. Grossmont beat Granite Hills 84-64 on Tuesday night to claim at least a share of the Grossmont Hills League title.

In the second quarter, Granite Hills guard Andre Lewis was hit in the face while going for a rebound, and the game had to be stopped for 20 minutes while Lewis was attended to and the floor was mopped up.

“I didn’t know it was going to be that physical,” Bowden said. “It was pretty crazy.”

Grossmont (17-9, 8-1) completed the sweep of Granite Hills (19-7, 6-3) largely in part to their defense. The Foothillers forced the Eagles to take tough shots and limited their possessions down the stretch.

**COMMENTS**

It’s rare to have four players with at least 20 points at the high school level...Grossmont finished strong, and they deserve the league championship.

By Broncosdynasty24, Feb 17, 2010

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

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Doctor Dad would follow up the Vicks with a hot toddy — brandy, hot water, honey, and some ginger.

After spending much of the winter sick in bed, it’s time for the Kelly family to take some proactive measures to stay well. Eve can’t take any more time off. The housework piles up, the kids need help with school, and hubby needs his wife. The house just doesn’t work when Mom’s sick. So, 2010 will be the year of no sickness. Or at least some proactive measures will be taken to fend off the flus and colds that are ravaging us.

Knowledge is power, they say, and the first person I turned to was my old pal Bernice.

“Last winter I started giving my children Sambucol black elderberry syrup [Sambucol Black Elderberry Syrup — $16.89 for eight ounces at vitacost.com] along with their morning vitamins,” she advised.

“Among all fruits, elderberries are the most popular because they are unusually rich in the phytochemicals known as flavonoids,” I read on blackelderberryinfo.com.

“Among all fruits, elderberries are the most concentrated source of anthocyanins, a class of flavonoids that act as powerful antioxidants to boost the immune system and protect the body’s cells from harm,” Bernice also praised probiotics.

“Sleep heals the body,” he’d say, “and a toddy helps you sleep.”

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Girl Talk

by Barbarella

A pessimist is a man who thinks all women are bad. An optimist is a man who hopes they are.
— Chauncey Mitchell Depew

With each glass of wine, Jen sunk a little deeper into the sofa cushions, but her gaze remained alert and fixed on the miniature web page displayed on her phone. “Five things I can’t live without,” she said, inciting responses from around the coffee table.

“You’re dogs, of course,” I offered.
“Yeah, those are good; there’s my slanket, gotta have it,” said Jen. “And I don’t care how it comes across, but I have to put Hitachi.”
“That’s a good one,” I said. “Let’s em know you mean business.”

“You’d think they’d be the ones talking about dirty stuff. Do you think David’s telling you the truth?”

“What’s a Hitachi?” It was Christie, our host, who voiced the question, but it was clear from the look on her face that Nancy was also wondering.

“For serious?” I said. “Tell me you’re kidding. You guys don’t have — you haven’t even heard of the Hitachi Magic Wand? Really?” I picked up my iPhone, Googled an image of the super-powered electric massager, and held it up so everyone could see the picture as I continued to express my amazement that these women — both 15 years my senior — had made it this far in life without having ever come across what I consider to be a standard-as-sheets bedroom accessory.

I had begun to detail the most effective method of administering the device on a man when my phone chimed with a text. Five faces stared at me in expectation as I checked the screen. “He says, ‘We’re talking about food and travel, Toro’ — that’s a restaurant in Boston — ‘and NYC.’”

“Bo-o-oring,” said Jen. She held up her iPhone, the hardware by which the recent divorcée was creating her online dating profile, and said, “It wants me to describe myself. I like painting, reading, gardening... I’m just going to say, ‘indoorsy.’”

While the rest of the group brainstormed adjectives for Jen’s profile, I responded to David’s text. David and I were on either end of the wormhole that connected our parallel universes of men drinking moonshine and women drinking wine. Because my friend Kate preferred to “not celebrate” her birthday and instead have a girls’ night at Christie’s, our friend Josue had decided to host a boys’ night at his place the same evening. Three husbands and one new boyfriend were enjoying a rare seafood-centric meal (two wives are allergic, and I’m not a big fan), while we six women shared cheese, wine, and a handful of elaborate cooked dishes David had prepared and packed for me, with instructions for each how should be heated and served.

After mingling in the kitchen for an hour or so, we’d finally retired to Christie’s living room, arranging ourselves in an oval around the smorgasbord of treats and libations on the table between us.

“Now it’s asking me what I’m looking for in a guy,” Jen announced. “Is it rude to say ‘size matters’? I don’t want to get to the third date just to be disappointed. Once you’re three dinners in, you kinda feel obligated.”

“I don’t think you should put that,” said Kate. Rosa and Nancy nodded fervently.

I was about to play devil’s advocate and encouraged Jen to declare her size conditions when my phone distracted me by chiming again. I looked down at the screen and paraphrased the message. “They’re talking about exercising and treatments.”

“Speaking of which, what does the D stand for?” asked Nancy.

“Domination,” I said.

“The men are surprisingly tame,” said Christie. “You’d think they’d be the ones talking about dirty stuff. Do you think David’s telling you the truth?”

“I’d bet money on it,” I said. David trusted me to know the difference between sharable information and top-secret stuff — aside from a few flirtatious texts that were clearly meant only for me, I divulged everything he wrote. “Still,” I continued, “the guys are letting me down. Here they have the perfect opportunity to talk about us, and they’re totally squandering it. And, if they’re not going to talk about us, they could at least talk about something juicy enough to entertain us...you know, give us something to work with over here. Exercise? Travel? Yawn. But then again, I guess minds don’t get much naughtier than mine. Except Jen’s, of course. Which reminds me, I’ve been meaning to ask about something that’s been dancing around my head lately...how many times would you have to get waxed before hair just stops growing? Does it ever?”

Rosa and Nancy claimed the need for a glass of water and excused themselves from the room, leaving Kate, Christie, Jen, and me to contemplate the potential benefits and ramifications of excessive wax treatments.

“You know, they always say, ‘The carpet matches the drapes,’” said Kate, “but nowadays! Carpet! I don’t think so. It’s more like an area rug. Or maybe an entry mat.”
“If you have laser treatments, it never grows back,” said Christie. “I had it done. I haven’t had to shave my armpits in years. I got my mustache done, too, and my Frida brow.” She went on to explain that she had to undergo eight or nine treatments, but that, since the last one was completed, she’s remained hairless in every one of the targeted areas.

“I’m totally going to do that,” said Jen. “Not the laser, not yet, but the waxing. I went on a few dates with a real butt-man — all he wants to do is stroke me, he’s remained hairless in every one of the targeted areas.

“But,” said Christie. “I had it done. I haven’t had to shave my armpits in years. I got my mustache done, too, and my Frida brow.” She went on to explain that she had to undergo eight or nine treatments, but that, since the last one was completed, she’s remained hairless in every one of the targeted areas.

“I’m inspired — I’m getting so much more fun out of it.” Then, reconsidering our lines of discussion, I texted him once more. “Scratch that, you’re not missing anything. Enjoy your seafood! Xoxo.”

For more stories and videos by this author, go to sdreader.com.
Freeway Close

“It’s not for most people; I wouldn’t recommend it.”

So says Johnny — or “JohnnyCab” as he’s known via his email handle. He’s talking about his companion for 15 years, the freeway, specifically Interstate 5, at a spot just north of Little Italy. Who would voluntarily — knowingly — live right up against a pulsing, humming, fume-cloaked ribbon of concrete?

I asked Johnny and a selection of other freeway-side dwellers around San Diego County: With all the choices available in “America’s Finest City” (and outskirts), why the hell did you move here?

Johnny comes across as big-city, blue-collar, with a strong streak of intellectual curiosity and an articulate way of talking about his neighborhood and what it means to have an interstate cut right through its heart.

continued on page 28
“I’ve always lived in urban areas; back in Chicago, I lived on Lakeside Drive — we called it ‘LSD.’ ” A big neighborhood guy, he is keenly aware of how his corner of town fits in with all the other places and ready to serve up a lively mini-lecture.

“When the freeway was built in 1965, the area just north of here became a no-man’s land. It was already in the flight path of Lindbergh. Do you remember ‘Five Points’? It was a bustling intersection before the freeway came in.”

Johnny is also keenly aware of how, well, peculiar his neighborhood might seem to some. “It’s a dichotomy. Right behind me are million-dollar condos. As for his place, a one-bedroom “apartment cottage,” Johnny freely admits it’s “funky.” It’s also cheap.

He won’t reveal how cheap but says that he gets a “freeway discount,” with rent “well below the fair-market rate. I pay what I would for a place in the ‘hood — [someplace] like University and 54th Street.” And there was no credit check.” When I ask about the drawbacks, he says, “The ambient noise level is high, and there are little rubber particles in the road dust. Also, because it’s near the airport, I get a fine residue of jet fuel sprayed on my car.”

But the cabbie-cum-urban historian is undeterred. “I’m quite comfortable here. [Also] my brother — he’s a bartender — lives in one of the cottages in back of me.”

In addition to forming an island of (relatively) affordable shelter in San Diego’s high-rent seas, the 1940s-vintage cottages — a cluster set into a hill in a three-level array — are spaces where one can make a lot of noise. “In 1995 I was 27,” Johnny says. “It was a perfect fit for a young person; you could turn up your stereo all the way, do things most neighbors wouldn’t put up with.”

When it comes to freeway living, noise might be the first thing that comes to mind, but not every highway-side denizen has the same take on the topic. For some, it’s at worst a minor annoyance, hardly a blip on the aural radar screen. For others, it’s a major impediment to relaxation and recreation, not to mention conversation. Angel, who rents an apartment where the 15 freeway spits out motorists onto El Cajon Boulevard — Marlboro Avenue — says, “Before I moved here, I didn’t think twice about it, but once I got here, I realized how noisy it was. Cops are always pulling over people, and there are constant sirens.”

Like almost everything else, the health impact of noise has been the subject of studies, largely undertaken by governmental agencies. In 1999 the World Health Organization presented findings that suggested a correlation — albeit a weak one — between long-term noise exposure (levels of 67–70-plus decibels) and hypertension. More recent studies point to a similar link between nighttime noise over 50 decibels and increased risk of heart attack, the result of chronically elevated levels of the hormone cortisol. Generally speaking, it seems that (at least for the subset of the general population that is susceptible to vasoconstriction) the constant drone of freeway traffic — if loud enough — causes a rise in adrenaline levels, which in turn leads to a decrease in arterial blood flow. Long-term, annoying noise leads to stress, and with it, higher blood pressure. In addition, folks who’ve decided, for whatever reason, to be “freeway-close” end up suffering more fatigue, headaches, stomach ulcers, and vertigo.

But how close is too close? One way to gauge deleterious proximity to a freeway is to look at the locations where noise barriers have been erected or, if not actually built, requested by nearby residents. How does one go about getting a shield between one’s back yard (or front yard) and the roar of downshifting tractor-trailers? Unsurprisingly, there is a complex and numbingly bureaucratic relationship among the various federal, state, and local agencies responsible for building, improving, and maintaining freeways in San Diego County. The road to domestic tranquility is fraught with red tape and frustration.

To begin with, the feds don’t have a “number standard” — a decibel threshold — which mandates the installation of sound barriers. True, there are regula-
and other inhabitants of the Freeway State who wish to knock down the decibels, Caltrans is the go-to agency. Without their OK, sounds emitted from the freeway next door, whether perceived as pleasant white noise or maddening anxiety-provokers, will go unabated. The key word here is abatement. No barrier, even the largest and most technically advanced, will blot out all, or even most, of the noise. Even so, you'll have to wait not months but years, perhaps even a decade or more. There's a labyrinthine process — what else would you expect for a government-run project?

If anyone can navigate the noise-weary through the red (and yellow) tape that surrounds the process, it's Jayne Dowda, chief of engineering for Caltrans' Environmental Division in the agency's San Diego/Imperial branch. A longtime San Diegan with a wry sense of humor and an encyclopedic grasp of county
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road projects, Dowda knows noise abatement the way highway workers know orange cones. In order to get a freeway sound wall built, she also obtain noise barriers; in these cases SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) is the lead agency, working within computer model to forecast future noise; if it’s projected to be 67 decibels or higher in a residential area (72 for commercial zones), the initial threshold has been met. Then, we apply a two-part test: Is [the project] acoustically feasible? That is, will it produce a five-decibel abatement? If so, will the cost to build it be ‘reasonable’?

A “yes” answer to these questions means only that Caltrans will consider noise abatement. The next step is a preliminary statement — a recommendation — followed by a public review process that, among other things, will address issues such as the visual impact of the proposed wall. At that says, there needs to be either a “capital project” underway or a “retrofit” scenario. These typically involve lane additions or widening; along with greater capacity comes more traffic — and more noise. If the projected decibel boost merits amelioration, Caltrans is in charge. Extant roadways can

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point, if locals don’t object too strenuously, Caltrans has the green light — unless significant, unanticipated costs crop up during the final design. “If we have to dig up someone’s swimming pool, that’s a problem,” Dowda says. “Sometimes, we find that people have built onto our right-of-way.”

Even if the environmental study fails to unearth an endangered rat or lizard, and even if the community forum attracts not a single activist, aural relief isn’t just a jackhammer away. Take the 1-15 “managed lane” project. Notes Dowda: “The studies began in 1999, final approval was in 2003, and the estimated completion date is 2012. And that’s a quick one.”

No one would call the completion of La Mesa’s new noise wall — the long-planned project on the 94 freeway — quick. Although La Mesa residents clamored for it as early as 1995, it wasn’t finished until July 2009, and even then, the $2,000,000, 16-foot-high concrete edifice turned out to be only half as long — 1600 feet — as originally intended. Running along the freeway between Massachusetts Avenue and Waite Drive, its efficacy is a matter of neighborhood debate; some locals say it has made a drastic difference, while others say, “Abatement? What abatement?” But Dowda says the decibel meters don’t lie. “We measured a 10-decibel reduction from 75 to 65 decibels. That’s huge.”

Paul Walters is a fan of the La Mesa noise barrier. His house sits on the north side of the freeway, at the southern terminus of Massachusetts Avenue. By the time he moved to La Mesa, the 94 had long existed, effectively creating a row of a dozen homes, all situated at the ends of parallel streets cut off by the freeway. All were severely impacted by noise. But Walters saw opportunity. “I was a young divorced guy and tired of renting. For $36,000, it was a good deal in 1976. It needed work, and I was a good fixer-upper. Also, there

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was only one neighbor — two houses sit at the end of these streets — and I got a big lot, 150 by 60 feet.”

It was the lot size that sold Walters. Within a few years, he’d planted all manner of trees: apricot, avocado, banana, cherimoya, fig, nectarine, peach, and persimmon, along with a host of vegetables. For a freeway-side property, the place was looking pastoral. But all was not idyllic; at a scant 25 feet from the 94, Walters’ retreat attracted its share of interlopers, both human and animal. “I had all kinds of critters — skunks, rats, gophers — coming off the freeway. The worst were the people who hung around. They’d steal anything in my yard that wasn’t tied down, tools, ladders, even aluminum cans. But what really got me hot was when some guy came in and just whacked off whole bunches of my bananas — they’re plantains, actually, I have ten trees. So I built my own wooden fence.”

The redwood fence kept intruders out but did little to dampen the noise, which “was so bad I could tell the time just by listening to the traffic.” Aside from the constant drone, Walters said that before the noise barrier was erected, he’d also hear the tumult from frequent rollover accidents at the Massachusetts Avenue off-ramp.

“There’s a sign on the freeway that says, ‘Signal 500 feet,’ but there’s a 6 percent downgrade, so people are going pretty fast. We have at least one accident every two or three weeks.”

Things have changed for the better, according to Walters, since the noise barrier went up. Looming six feet from the side of his house, a foot thick, and built of concrete blocks, it wins his aesthetic seal of approval: “I like it — it’s good-looking — beige, earth tones, and so on.” Most importantly, he notes, “It works. Sure, it reduces sunlight — there’s one woman in the neighborhood who’s always bitchin’ about that — but c’mon.” Retired since 2003, he spends a lot of time at home. I ask if he’s ever contem-
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To qualify, you must be 18 to 60 years of age and meet certain study requirements. You will receive all study-related medical care and the investigational study medication at no charge. Participants may be compensated for their time, and reimbursement for study-related expenses may also be provided.

1-877-500-eStudy (1-877-500-3788)
eStudySite.com
Se Habla Español: 619-955-5246

The study doctor will explain the study requirements and the possible benefits and risks to you before you decide to participate. Contacting us does not mean you have to participate or that you will be eligible to participate. Participation in this clinical research study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time for any reason without penalty or loss of benefits and without effect on your future health care.
Do You Have Plaque Psoriasis?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is evaluating the efficacy of two treatment regimens in the treatment of moderate plaque psoriasis.

We need participants:
• 18 years of age and older
• With plaque-type psoriasis

Qualified participants will receive:
• Study-related medical evaluations by a board-certified dermatologist
• Study medication at no cost
• Compensation for participation

For more information, please contact Catherine DeLue at 858-552-8585 ext. 6740.

Type 2 Diabetic Volunteers

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

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

Inclusion Criteria:
• Males or females aged 35 to 70
• Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes
• A1c 7.0% to 10.0%
• Body Mass Index (BMI) less than or equal to 45 kg/m2
• You must be taking Metformin for at least 12 weeks at a dose of 500mg or greater
• If you meet the following criteria you may be eligible to participate.

For more information call University Clinical Trials at: (858) 278-8470, ask for Julia or Eric. Visit our website at: www.univct.com

Got toenail fungus?

If so, you may qualify for a research study involving a new investigational medication for TOENAIL FUNGUS.

For more information call University Clinical Trials at: (858) 278-8470, ask for Julia or Eric. Visit our website at: www.univct.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

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

eStudySite is currently evaluating patients

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RECENT WOUND INFECTION
3 inches across or more and one of the following:

■ Your wound hurts, or
■ Your wound is swollen, or
■ Your wound is warm to the touch, or
■ Your wound is tender to the touch, or
■ There is pus coming from your wound, or
■ You have a fever, or
■ You have any of the above signs or symptoms

To learn more about this research study, please call eStudySite toll-free at:
1-877-500-eSTUDY
1-877-500-3788

There is no cost for participation. A doctor at our clinic will determine if this study is right for you. If you participate in the study, you will receive study-related medical care at no cost and may be compensated for time and travel. No insurance is required.

Going, Going, Going Too Often at Night

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

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

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(619) 521-2841 • www.mccresearch.com
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 bdSTUDY.com

Hand Eczema?

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

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

Qualified participants will receive:
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If so, you (or your child) may qualify for a research study involving an investigational topical medication for acne. No insurance needed.

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- Study-related medication
- Reimbursement for time and travel

For more information call University Clinical Trials at: (858) 278-8470
Ask for Julia or Eric. Visit our website at: www.univct.com
Hepatitis Vaccine Research

If you are between the ages of 40 and 70 and have never had Hepatitis or the Hepatitis B vaccine, you may be eligible for this vaccine research study.

Eligible participants may receive the following at no cost:
- Study vaccination
- Study-related physical exams
- Compensation may be available for time and travel

For more information contact us today!
619-291-2845

Overweight? Underactive?
Yoga and Stretch Study

University of California San Diego is conducting a study to see whether yoga or stretching therapy improves metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors.

You may qualify for the study if you are:
- Between 21-65 years old
- Overweight and Underactive

If you qualify for the study, you will have:
- Either yoga or stretching classes for 1 year
- 2-hour Oral Glucose Tolerance Test and other blood tests; measures of sleep quality; abdominal CT scan measures

You will be modestly compensated for your time.
If you are interested please call (858) 534-8118, email: prysms@ucsd.edu or visit our website: http://coe.ucsf.edu/scor/prysms

Smoking too much pot?
WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

Researchers at the Scripps Research Institute are working to develop treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana. This 12-week program involves medication.

For more information and to see if you qualify, please call 858-784-7867 (STOP) or visit www.pearsoncenter.org for more detailed information.

WOMEN NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESEARCH STUDY

Who can participate?
- Women between the ages of 18 and 60
- And recently out of a domestic violence situation

What is involved?
Once we determine that you qualify for this study (via phone interview), you will be asked to participate in the following:
- In-person Interview (2 hours)
- Neuropsychological Testing (2 hours)
- Individual Domestic Violence Therapy (10 x 1-2 hour sessions) (3 hours each)

When will this take place?
Each appointment will be made to accommodate your schedule, Monday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm.

You can receive free individual psychotherapy and up to $425 for your participation.

Principal Investigator: Monny B. Stein, MD, MPH, VA San Diego Healthcare System and University of California San Diego

Is COPD Leaving you Breathless?

Right now we’re enrolling adults with COPD ages 40+ years in a research study of an investigational medication for COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease).

Qualified participants will receive at no charge all:
- Study-related care and evaluations
- Study medication
- Compensation for travel may be provided

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shallow ones, cheek-by-jowl with the local interstate, is a financial one. The real estate mantra of “location, location, location” operates here, but inversely. Although home-buyers often shy away from home-steading next to a busy road — even a modest “feeder” surface street — renters are a different story. (Anecdotally speaking, a high percentage of local freeway dwellers seem to be renters.) San Diegans, it seems, will put up with a lot in exchange for affordable rent. It’s not just noise, though, that forms the downside of the calculus; in some cases, it’s also the quirky incident — dangerous or merely inconvenient — that one encounters near a busy highway. In the gritty, urban neighborhoods that house most of the county’s freeways, shit happens — shit not ordinarily encountered on the tame, orderly streets of places like Scripps Ranch, San Carlos, and Rancho Bernardo, to name a few.

Roxanne Lopez knows all about the inconvenience, but she won’t be vacating her Golden Hill apartment anytime soon. She says, “I thought I’d hate it, but I like it.” Lopez, who works in medical billing, moved to a small (10–12-unit) complex off 25th Street in April 2009; returning to San Diego after a stint in Fresno, she looked at a dozen or more places before settling on her two-bedroom, one-bath residence — the best deal she could find. It’s inner city all the way; the other tenants speak only Spanish, and homeless people congregate next to an adjacent overpass. Yet, she claims that she’s seen no serious crime — so far.

As one would expect, the wire-mesh fence between her place and the 94 freeway doesn’t impede the sound or exhaust residue emitted by traffic 50 feet from her front door; unless the windows are closed, she can’t hear, and the dust is fearsome. The sound of metal-on-metal from collisions is a frequent companion, as are the bellowing commands from police loudspeakers and sirens. It’s espe-
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:
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North County Clinical Research
760-639-4378

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

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?
- In overall good health
- Male or female between the ages of 18-55?

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 all 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

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. 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 to you or your insurance company. 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 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

Infants & Toddlers

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.

North County Clinical Research

San Diego Reader February 25, 2010 41
fresh from closing time

3:00–4:00 a.m. — when it peaks around specifically bad on weekend nights — she notes that it peaks around 3:00–4:00 a.m., when it peaks around especially bad on weekend nights. Lopez says that, despite the drawbacks, her location gives her an affordable home with convenient access to not only the 94 but the 805 and 15, and the trolley stop a few blocks away. She appreciates that it’s a quick jaunt for her to Petco Park, works at Petco Park during the season, she was effectively frustrated. To to get to a job interview, pleaded with the officer to have the bus moved, but, she says, “He didn’t care.” She didn’t get the job — but still recommends freeway-side living. It all comes down to access and affordability.

Easy access to jobs and schools also means access to air pollution — and not just the mundane, if heavy, dust that most people mention. Indeed, if the numbers of research studies and articles are any indication, it would appear that exhaust fumes are perhaps of greater concern than noise. Photochemical air pollution, the nearly ubiquitous smog plaguing Southern California for decades, has long been thought to exacerbate pulmonary disorders and make breathing more difficult for even the healthiest; anyone who’s ever done heavy-duty aerobic exercise on a smoggy afternoon can attest to that. But the pollutant levels that give rise to “smog alerts,” “poor air quality days,” and other familiar earmarks of So Cal smog aren’t typically measured on freeway shoulders; by the time ozone, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide — the holy trinity of vehicular emissions — pass through the sensors, they’ve been mitigated (in varying degrees) by the atmosphere. People living next to a busy freeway, however, benefit from no such filtering.

When it comes to inhaling pollutants, kids, especially those in low-income families, are hit hardest by freeway emissions, say researchers. And it’s not as if the mechanism that results in respiratory distress remains unidentified. Dr. Elisa Nicholas, a pediatrician who focuses on childhood asthma, explains in an interview that “exposure to pollutants decreases the amount of allergens necessary to trigger an asthmatic response.” But she also stresses that there’s no easy solution — one can’t simply “legislate away” the problem. Nicholas, project director of the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, states that it would be counterproductive (not to mention impractical) to bar people from living near freeways. “Poor people have to live somewhere. I wouldn’t want to see displaced, homeless people. We need to further reduce emissions — we have the technology.”

Want to trigger asthma or worsen an extant case? What about impeding lung development, and function in later life, among kids? If so, particulates are the way to go — the trate cellular tissue in the lungs and enter the circulatory system. The Particle Center (funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board) also states that proximity to the freeway is of vital importance in determining the degree of danger. The Particle Center’s studies — conducted in the Los Angeles...
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Vishal Verma, MD and Vinita Parekh, DDS
les area (which would seem equally applicable to San Diego) — showed that the highest concentrations of ultrafine particles occur within 50 meters of the freeway, drop to half that level at 50–90 meters out, and, after 300 meters or so, decline to the “ambient” level of the surrounding community. However, studies by other groups have pointed to wider hazard zones for the freeway-close.

Although there seems to be a general consensus among scientists that exposure to pollutants is greatly increased as one approaches the roadway, there is less agreement as to how far out the hazards extend. Perhaps the most comprehensive (i.e., largest study group and longest study period) investigation to date was a project undertaken by physicians associated with the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. Focusing on asthma and lung development, the researchers tracked 3677 children for eight years, starting at age 10. They concluded that by the age of 18, kids living within 500 yards of a freeway had, on average, a 3 percent deficit in the amount of air they could exhale and a 7 percent deficit in the rate of exhalation. (The former rate rose to 9 percent in the smoggiest areas of Southern California.) Moreover, the study revealed that the asthma rate among kids living a quarter of a mile from the freeway was 89 percent higher than for those living a chain-link fence."

“...The only thing separating us and the freeway is a chain-link fence."

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mile away. As for long-term implications, the researchers noted with alarm that those who start adulthood with impaired lung capacity are, as they age, much more likely to suffer respiratory and cardiovascular diseases than the general population.

No matter how definitive or potentially frightening the studies, there seems to be little awareness, and even less concern, among those who live near the belching tailpipes. I spoke with Joey York, an affable, articulate woman who lives with her husband and children on Mariposa Street in La Mesa. York would seem to personify the maximum-exposure freeway dweller. “I live ON the 125 north,” she says. “The only thing separating us and the freeway is a chain-link fence.” She also happens to be an asthmatic — with an asthmatic child, to boot — and says that the dust is so bad that she and her husband never open the windows. If they wash their cars, she adds, “They’re filthy again within two days.” Yet, she admits, when it comes to health effects, she “hasn’t thought about it” but “would look into it.”

*   *   *

In many cases, freeways come to the people and, depending on one’s perspective, either bring sorely needed improvements to local transit or mercilessly slice through neighborhoods. In other instances, developers choose to build near existing freeways and homebuyers (at least initially) are happy to opt in. For an example of the latter scenario, drive south on the 163 toward downtown. Right before you get to Mission Valley, after passing the hospitals on the left (using the Mary Birch stork as a sentimental form of GPS), you’ll find, just past the Genesee exit, a curious little pocket of homes of fairly recent vintage, all of which stare point-blank at the freeway.

Viewed from the adjacent 163 (albeit at 70 or 80 miles per hour) these homes, at the southern dead end of Hanford Drive, appear to be
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respectable, middle-class, single-family dwellings, scarcely different, architecturally speaking, from thousands of other tract houses that pepper the county. But there’s something jarringly incongruous about the neighborhood, something that leads to the inevitable question: Who would build homes here — and who the hell would buy them? I’d pondered as much on many occasions, thinking: do kids hit baseballs or fling Frisbees onto the freeway? Do the local mutts get squashed under the wheels of semi-trucks? Do neighbors congregate to watch spectacular accidents or high-speed chases? I decided to look into it — dipping my toes into the waters gently at first — by snooping around online.

After a short time Googling “Hanford Drive, San Diego,” I discovered that one of these homes, a 1278-square-foot joint at 1850 Hanford, was up for sale for $275,000. The aerial photo showed an unremarkable dwelling situated, according to a superimposed red arrow, 50 yards from the freeway. Invited to take a “virtual tour” of the interior, I took note of the

Googling “Hanford Drive, San Diego,” I discovered that one of these homes, a 1278-square-foot joint at 1850 Hanford, was up for sale for $275,000. The aerial photo showed an unremarkable dwelling situated, 50 yards from the freeway.
Perhaps they weren’t moving after all — maybe they were renters. Didn’t the sales ad mention an “investment opportunity”? Shortly thereafter, a cryptic message read, “This listing has been deactivated.”

Officially speaking, the 1700–1800 blocks of Hanford Drive are part of Linda Vista, where ramshackle, frequently decrepit houses — cheaply built during the post–World War II housing boom — are the norm. However, unlike their depressingly dilapidated cousins just to the west, and in contrast to many freeway-side dwellings in San Diego, these homes, which sold new for $80,000 or so, date only from 1984. But, as I discovered firsthand, their chronological age is as deceptive as the view from the freeway.

To get to the “new” Hanford Drive homes, one must traverse the tawdry heart of Linda Vista, which I did with some trepidation. The streets are narrow, lined with dented cars and strewn with abandoned shopping carts from nearby Asian markets. The pavement is rough and the homes, rougher still — fitted, in many cases, with a wrought-iron or chain-link fence in the front yard. As I approached my target, I noticed that mine was the only white face around; the locals were largely Vietnamese and Mexican.

Once there, I walked the street, checking out the ambient noise level (high) and the noise wall (low); it can’t be much more than four feet high. There were a handful of people out and about. Most were performing home repairs or working on older cars and pickups on the street. As for the houses themselves — considering that they’re scarcely a quarter-century old — they proved to be surprisingly run-down, protected from intruders by iron-mesh screen doors and supplemental deadbolt locks. The ambience is one of premature decay; lush lawns, mature trees — the typical earmarks of middle-class suburbia — are absent, as are any other signs that the residents spend much time out front. Maybe there just aren’t as many residents on “new Hanford” as there were back in 1984; padlocked doors and Fan-
nie Mae foreclosure notices are a clue. Turnover is the norm here. Nonetheless, at least one man who lived there 2½ decades ago still lives there — but just barely, as he hangs on by the skin of his financial teeth.

“Peter B.,” as he asked to be called, has “aged in place” along with his forlorn neighborhood. He told me, “I’m one of the originals, and I’m hoping to die here, but I guess we’ll see.”

Putting aside the desperate and choice-bereft, as well as the pragmatic folks who speak of affordable rent and ease of access, there are people who actually dig the action. No doubt, in this age of reality television, You Tube, and other nakedly voyeuristic forays into the blood, guts (and warts) of un-airbrushed life, what could be more real than a gory traffic accident right on one’s doorstep? Nothing staged — just snapped limbs, severed arteries, the floridly titled “jaws of life.” Bring it on, baby!

Heather and Joe Schmidt enjoy the show, and to prove their commitment to the freeway-side lifestyle, they bought a house “a few inches” from the 78 freeway in San Marcos. Putting aside the fact that their place, an otherwise unremarkable detached home, was a “great deal,” the Schmidts appreciate the emoluments of residing next to a highway. For most passersby, the 78 corridor presents a view of commercial and industrial sprawl, along with the freeway-side lifestyle, they bought a house “a few inches” from the 78 freeway in San Marcos. Putting aside the fact that their place, an otherwise unremarkable detached home, was a “great deal,” the Schmidts appreciate the emoluments of residing next to a highway. For most passersby, the 78 corridor presents a view of commercial and industrial sprawl, along with
the occasional vestige of North County’s agrarian past; not a few commuters would call the area prosaic, at best. But the Schmidts beg to differ; with their second-story blinds pulled open, they enjoy a sort of roadside reverie as they watch a sort of roadside action on the train tracks. After that, they enjoy a second-story blinds opened, they enjoy a sort of roadside reverie as they watch a sort of roadside action on the train tracks. After that, the blinds. It was like a collision and opened late 2008; we heard a loud noise. It was about a year ago — so close that, numerous times, she’s been nearly rear-ended when backing out of her driveway by cars speeding down the off-ramp. Not surprisingly, with the steady stream of Marines hurrying to

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the base, there’s no front-yard play for Torres’s niece and nephew (aged 2 and 6); their outside activity is limited to the back yard, where Dad has erected an inner fence to prevent the kids from getting too close to the road. Supplemental picket fence or not, it’s still too loud for friendly get-togethers. Torres laughs. “When we have visitors, they’re, like, ‘It’s SO LOUD. How can you live here?’ ”

It’s not just loud, she says, it can also be blazingly bright at all the wrong times — courtesy of Caltrans, whose construction crews come out to frolic amid the rumble strips after sundown. To the detriment of the locals’ slumber, the men in reflective vests take no chances when it comes to safety. Setting up portable light towers such as the “Nightbuster 5000” — a formidable array of four 1000-watt metal halide lamps — the workers stand around and smoke their cigarettes in the glow of a man-made solar eclipse in reverse. Torres complains, “The whole house lights up and you can’t sleep.”

Despite the noise and the light, to say nothing of the occasional oil spill, she remains steadfast: “I really like it here. There’s a nice ocean breeze, and it’s interesting to see different, random things.”

“I said to Torres, ‘You mention ‘random things.’ Does anything stand out?’ She said, “Do you remember the big fires we had in October 2007? They closed the freeway from a few miles south of here all the way to the Border Patrol check-point, I think. Anyway, I walked out onto the road with my boyfriend and my brother, and we all lay down on the pavement and looked up at the sky.” Wasn’t she the least apprehensive that the cops would suddenly open the road? Didn’t she feel vulnerable, back flat to the interstate?

“No,” she replied, “I wasn’t worried about that. I was thinking, ‘I’ll never get the chance to do this again in my life.’ ”

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Rob Hurlbut, a San Diego photographer and creator of theworldisraw.com, captured video footage of trolley officers brutally taking down a man for smoking a cigarette at a trolley station. Hurlbut shot the video at 8:20 p.m. on Saturday, September 5, 2009, at the 12th and Imperial transit station.

Hurlbut’s video shows two officers restraining the smoker from behind while a third trolley officer attempts to gain control by sitting on the man’s head. You can hear the man pleading with him to stop because the officer is hurting his head scars, which he alleges he received from brain cancer treatment. The two officers behind the man are holding his arms, and he doesn’t appear to be struggling or posing any threat to the officers or nearby passengers.

Hurlbut’s video raises a couple of questions: Why did they decide to arrest the man for an offense that is citable? And why did the officers attempt to prevent Hurlbut from filming the incident?

Smoking is outlawed at all San Diego Metropolitan Transit System trolley stations and bus stops, and smokers can be fined up to $75 for their first offense, not includ-

“My only concern was with being hassled as a photographer.”

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he put it out, that [the trolley cops] didn’t want to let it go.

Hurlbut claims the smoker was not yelling (until he was on the ground, anyway), threatening, or otherwise displaying an aggressive attitude.

“I would describe him as being cocky, arrogant, and somewhat perplexed by the whole situation. He was saying things like ‘Why are three cops around me for smoking?’ and ‘What are you gonna do?’ But he wasn’t raising his voice.

He was as confused as I was.”

Hurlbut added, “I would actually draw a comparison from what happened to him to what happened to me in the last part of the video. The way the trolley cop was addressing me, and the questions I was asking him, were identical to what happened to the smoker. It was an ‘even though I might be wrong, why are you making such a big deal out of it?’ situation.”

At the video’s two-minute mark, a female officer looks at Hurlbut, and then says something to her colleagues. This causes three other trolley officers to turn around and look at Hurlbut. The female officer says something to the trolley officer who had been attempting to

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Aeria Chang, M.D.

San Diego Reader February 25, 2010 55
physically block Hurlbut from filming at the onset of the video—she points at Hurlbut and sends the officer over to him. This officer approaches Hurlbut and asks to see his pass.

The officer repeatedly tells Hurlbut, “We don’t want you taking pictures,” Hurlbut asks if he is in violation of any law. The officer never says Hurlbut is in violation of the law but continues to state, “We don’t want you taking pictures.”

The officer also warns Hurlbut that taking pictures is “against our rights.” He cuts himself short after starting a sentence with “You can’t”—

“I took this then, and now, to believe that the trolley police are fully aware that photography is legal,” states Hurlbut. “So they resist saying ‘You can’t take pictures’ and cover themselves legally by replacing it with ‘We don’t want you taking pictures.’”

In attorney Bert Krages’s Legal Handbook for Photographers, he states that the general rule in the United States is “anyone may take photographs of whatever they want when they are in a public place or places where they have permission to take photographs.” Photos cannot be taken on someone’s private property without their permission or of members of the public who have secluded themselves in places where they have a reasonable expectation of privacy (such as dressing rooms, medical facilities, and inside their homes).

Although Hurlbut wasn’t breaking the law, he stopped filming for fear the officers might confiscate his camera.

“I already had what I felt was some great footage. If I was arrested for continuing to film them, they would have been able to remove the memory card from my camera, and I would be left with nothing. I was not afraid of being arrested, I was afraid of having my footage confiscated or destroyed.”

About five minutes after Hurlbut ceased filming, a trolley cop approached Hurlbut and asked to see his pass. The officer took Hurlbut’s pass, and while examining the pass, asked Hurlbut where he was headed. When Hurlbut answered he was headed to La Mesa on the orange line, the officer told him to wait over by the trolley. As Hurlbut walked over to the track the officer had indicated, the officer told another officer nearby to make sure Hurlbut got on the next trolley.

“The track he wanted me to wait by is farther away from their SUV and the trolley cop’s activities in general,” said Hurlbut. “I interpreted the exchange to mean that something would happen if I wasn’t on the next trolley. I took his meaning to be that they wanted me to clear out of the station. I caught the 8:34 p.m. trolley.”

In response to recent assaults against transit security officers, the 10News I-Team began an investigation into Heritage’s practices in July of last year. According to a contract they obtained, the Metropolitan Transit System’s contract for security with Heritage is for five years with a maximum pay-out of $25, million, beginning in 2006.

While unarmed officers earn an hourly wage ranging from $7.50 to $10.76/hour, armed officers make from $10.50 to $12.73/hour. Armed Lieutenants earn between $13.40 and $23.48. Armed Lieutenants can bring in up to $25.23, while captains can earn as much as $32.34 per hour.

Several trolley officers spoke to 10News under the condition of anonymity and claimed Heritage did not provide proper training for its employees. Two officers who spoke to 10News’ Mitch Blacher said officers who carry guns are not trained to handle critical situations.

“It’s dangerous for the officers and, to some extent, the public,” one former officer stated.

State regulations require all security guards to have a minimum 40 hours of training. Ken Moller, president of Heritage Security Services, said their transit officers receive 164 hours of training, and those carrying weapons must be requalified every quarter.

Following the incident, Hurlbut emailed Heritage Security Services a link to the video, asking for a comment, but he never heard back. Ken Moller (kmoller@heritagesecurity.com), President of Heritage Security Services, also ignored several requests to obtain a comment for this story.

NBC 7/39 News interviewed Hurlbut on September 18, 2009, about the incident and did a brief segment that same night on their 11:00 p.m. newscast. Moller did comment for NBC, stating, “We have no right to tell people they can’t shoot down there. My officers were wrong in telling him that. And I put that word out as soon as I saw the video. It’s a public place, and people can certainly shoot video down there if they want to.”

Moller did not mention the excessive force used against the smoker.

Hurlbut also emailed MTS and received the following reply from Belinda Fragger (belinda.fragger@sdmts.com). “Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Your email has been forwarded to MTS Trolley for handling. MTS case #14141.”

Hurlbut never heard back from Fragger or MTS.

San Diego Reader’s request to view the incident report from that evening was denied by Tiffany Lorenzen, general counsel for Metropolitan Transit System, based on the California Public Records Act, which exempts documents from disclosure that are either:

1. Records pertaining to current litigation to which the public agency is a party;
2. Records of complaints to, or investigations conducted by the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice, and any state, or local police agency.

Lorenzen did not confirm MTS’s reason for refusing to disclose the incident report.

Now that the video has been seen and questioned, Hurlbut hopes some answers follow.

“Heritage Security and MTS need to have transparency regarding the rights of commuters. It should be as easy for the public to address and fix problems they have with trolley guards. We, as the general public, have the right to know what exactly their job is and what they are and are not permitted to do.”

You can view both videos (the one Hurlbut shot and the NBC 7/39 segment) at the following address: theworldisraw.com/illegal-photography.

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Automotive Karma

Where will you be when your automotive karma wears out? I know exactly where I was: on the 15 south, going to work, January 8, 2010.

It happened in an instant. For only a second the oil light flashed and then disappeared. Of course, I rationalized that I would check and top off the oil when I arrived at work. However, within three miles my car was ticking like a bomb. By the time I got to work I had a full-blown knock. I realize that they call them idiot lights for a reason, but they should have idiot lights for dummies — a light that doesn’t wait so long to come on. Then perhaps the oil level wouldn’t be so critical.

I topped off the oil and put in some Lucas oil additive, but to no avail. The knock was still there. Not exactly opportunity knocking. Unless you consider major engine work an opportunity. I nursed the car home, taking side streets, until I absolutely had to get on the 15 going north. When I arrived home, I got out of the car and ceremonially kissed the ground, thankful that I made it home in one piece. That’s when I discovered the radiator leak. Just a pinhole, really, but the water poured out like a rushing river.

We added a radiator stop-leak, topped off the coolant, and did an oil change. The good news is, the radiator stopped leaking, and the car runs. The bad news is that the car still has this gosh-awful knock. You know, like the drums in one of those seedy strip clubs in the movies. Boom, klinka, boom, klinka boom boom boom. So, for the next week, I drove my husband’s truck to work. His truck ran great for the first four days. Then it appeared to hesitate going into

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gear. Just a little pregnant pause and then the transmission would engage.

That's when it happened again. While commuting to work in rush-hour traffic, on Friday, January 15, my automotive karma disengaged again. My exit was coming, so I started to merge to the right. The truck became confused and decided that it was safer to be in neutral. I had to make a fast decision: die in the middle of rush-hour traffic (did I mention I was in the number-two lane?) or attempt to make my way to the shoulder. I opted for the latter.

Flashers on, and with the truck rapidly losing momentum, I started to make my move to the sanctuary of the shoulder. The problem was that my fellow commuters were obviously in too big of a hurry to allow me the courtesy of a clean escape. I began to make my move, all the while rediscovering my religious beliefs.

Thanks to a woman in a compact car (she ran interference for me), I made it to the shoulder before the truck came to a complete stop. Within minutes, a tow truck appeared, and thanks to the State of California, I was towed off the freeway to the safe haven of a park-and-ride. It was nice to see my tax dollars at work, actually doing something for me.

The towing service was free. The mechanic was exactly five miles away, so my Auto Club tow was free, too. When I left the truck at the mechanic’s, I was afraid to turn and look back, lest my truck turn into a pillar of salt.

San Diego Reader
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limitations precluded that, unable to award me the entire

whelming and I won the case.

no one ever said they were sorry. It was revealed that I

to small-claims court, but after imploring my neigh-

bors for seven years, what

e else could I do? At a later

board meeting, the lawyer who had been retained by

the board made it a point to speak to me personally in

front of everyone present and said that the judge didn’t

understand the situation and

had been granted the rebate unfairly. I stood up and asked

him if he would like to meet me in small-claims court and
tell that to the judge. He declined.

Last spring I received an

offer to sell my unit for three
times what I paid for it in 1998. I couldn’t pack fast

enough, I now live in a rental in Banker’s Hill. Being a board
member empowers too many people to act out against
neighbors simply because they can. Maybe they should

find other hobbies.

David Peters
Banker’s Hill

Jail Jewel

I want to thank E.A. Barrera and commend him on the

great work he did to compile and write the story “Please,

Put Me in Jail” (“City Lights”), which appeared in the Feb-

ruary 18 edition. That was a

great bit of investigative work

and written well.

Gary C. Goldman, Ph.D.

Oceanside

You Idiots!

Re “It’s all about the money” (“Under the Radar, Febru-

ary 18”).

What was the point in this article? Does the author think KPBS operates on air

and tax dollars alone? If so, he’s sorely mistaken and very bad at research. Yes, it’s about

the money. Duh.

Name Withheld

via email

Appalled!

Re “Psycho Willie vs. the Pyrate Punx” (“Blurt,” Febru-

ary 18). Is this type of language really appropriate to have so easily accessible to

children on the internet? I am totally appalled that I even read this language off of Yahoo.com

local news! It is quite obvious that the San Diego Reader has no editor.

Name Withheld

via email

It’s News To Me

I live and work in Borrego

Springs. Just about every
detail in the article (“City

Lights: “A Town Left Dry,”

February 11) was unknown to

me despite the very good

local paper coverage on the

subject. Excellent reporting.

Jane Morley

Borrego Springs

Poem Prize

Thank you so much for the article on San Pasqual Win-

ery (“Crush,” February 18). People in La Mesa are very

excited to hear that we are here. However, nowhere in the article does it mention our

cell phone number, or hours. I am wondering if you

can include it in the online article and perhaps mention it in the next issue. Tasting

Room and Gallery: 8364 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-462-1797. Winery: 5151

Santa Fe Street, Suite H, San Diego (only open Saturdays, noon to 4:00 p.m.).

Brenda Nason

via email

San Diego Star

Re “Back in the Spotlight” (“Movie Review,” Febru-

ary 4). I am a loyal reader and

thought you might be inter-

ested to know that the sub-

ject of the Dear John movie

just released is a San Diego native and resident. The story is based on the experience of Todd Vance, who grew up in San Diego, attended San Diego State High School, etc.

Both his parents are area res-

idents as well.

I haven’t seen the movie, but I am friends with Todd’s dad and we have been watch-

ing this story unfold. Todd was also the author of a book, Peskin’s a couple of years ago. The author of the Dear John book recognizes Todd on his website.

Sharon Sulzner

via email

No Visible Progress

Your article “The Mad Hat-

ter’s Council Meeting” (“City

Lights”) by Susan Luzzaro in the Reader January 28 was an excellent article. I know that there are numerous areas of Chula Vista that deserve a serious opportunity to be redeveloped. Nobody wants to look at the problem objectively, nor do they have any confidence in the Redevel-

opment Agency.

I do not want my property to be designated in an area for redevelopment not only due to the stigma of the designation of being “blighted” but because of increased property taxes to pay for the redevelopment.

The Chula Vista Redevel-

opment Agency has a very poor track record and it appears to exist primarily

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San Diego Reader February 25, 2010

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for the financial benefit of the members of the agency. The fact that between 1990 and 2006 the agency received $15,047,299 in tax increment money, over a third paid agency staff and very little on visible redevelopment. I agree with an article written in the San Diego Union-Tribune which stated that "their record is one of abject failure." Most of the money is spent on staff and consultants and very little on visible progress in the areas being taxed. The Chula Vista City Council should be ashamed taxed. The Chula Vista City spent on staff and consultation. " Most of the money is record is one of abject failure."

Pedro Ivan Diaz Webster

System Leaves Bad Taste
Re "I Never Thought I’d Become a Welfare Queen" (Cover Story, January 7).

I joined AmeriCorps VISTA in August. This was after I graduated in May and remained unemployed for 3 months. As an AmeriCorps member I was encouraged to get on food stamps, as my income is set at the poverty line (that’s approximately $6/hr). My experience has been confusing, infuriating, and ultimately a complete waste of time. As it stands right now I am not receiving food stamp benefits because my income exceeds the limits (that’s right, $6/hr exceeds the income limits). I was told there was a mistake made and I currently owe $256 in overpaid food stamps. My case is in review, and I could owe as much as $800. This is all on my poverty-level income and comes as I’m saving to move across the country and start graduate school.

I just think people should be aware of how difficult it is to be on food stamps and how horrid the system is in San Diego. I’ve been working with the San Diego Hunger Coalition on policy reform and will be starting my master’s in social work in the fall.

Hope via email

Mari is an actual patient & mother of 5.

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TRIPPING THE PAST FANTASTIC

The theme for the 17th-annual ConDor science fiction/fantasy convention is “Steampunk, Retro Future, and Early Fantastic Fiction.” The schedule includes concerts, a masquerade with music by Steam Powered Giraffe, anime, and CosPlay (costume play), a writers’ workshop, film festival, art show, scavenger hunt, vendors, and more. See SPECIAL, page 68.

KIMEKOMI DOLL CLASS

First created in Kyoto in the 18th Century, kimekomi dolls are created by tucking cloth into grooves carefully carved into a doll body as a base. Make your own kimekomi girl doll during this two-day workshop. See SPECIAL, page 68.

DANCEONFILM

The San Diego/Tijuana DANCEonFILM Festival promises an “international collection of experimental short dance films.” This program, held at CECUT in Tijuana, includes The Last Martini, Little East [Outside the Box], Gabrielle, Dot Dance, Sunscreen Serenade, and more. See FILM, page 70.

DOGGIE STREET FESTIVAL

Bring your canine friend, or come in search of one, to this party at NTC Promenade, “dedicated to increasing pet adoption.” More than 30 breed-specific rescue groups and shelters will be on hand with orphan pups. Also on offer: animal advice, food, pet products and services, and entertainment. See SPECIAL, page 68.

THE MARRIAGE BED

Diversionary Theatre presents Nona Shephard’s comedy about a radical lesbian feminist who, when granted the right to marry her partner (a lawyer who remains closeted to her Hindu family), considers the pros and cons of legal matrimony. See THEATER, page 114.

PADRES POTENTIAL

San Diego Padres president and chief operating officer Tom Garfinkel visits the Downtown Information Center to discuss the state of the team as a new season approaches (followed by a question-and-answer session). It starts at noon, so feel free to bring your lunch. See LECTURES, page 74.

STEM CELLS FOR DUMMIES

What are stem cells and what do they do? Dr. Larry Goldstein, UCSD professor of cellular and molecular medicine, discusses his new book and answers your questions. See IN PERSON, page 72.

BEND IT, SHAPE IT, SCULPT IT

If “hands-on” isn’t the most effective way to learn, it certainly can be the most fun! Children 5 to 12 can take one of the San Diego Museum of Art’s “Art Explorations: Exploring Sculpture” classes and participate in activities inspired by the museum’s collections. See FOR KIDS, page 72.
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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

The National Gandhi Museum in Delhi, India
By Derek Ray
The National Gandhi Museum in Delhi is the place to visit in India for anyone with an interest in Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi.

What a fascinating, serene visit this was after another harrowing ride through hectic Delhi traffic. A young child greeted me with a broad smile at the door, perhaps intrigued by the rare sight of a Westerner. A group of students took turns shaking my hand and greeting me with a friendly "hello."

A collection of memorabilia includes photocopies of 25,000 letters, notes, and documents, as well as many photos chronicling Gandhi’s life. The Charkha gallery includes several hand-cranked spinning devices that Gandhi used to make thread and yarn. His personal items, including mattress, pocket watch, spectacles, walking stick, bowl, hand fan, spinning wheel, lantern, and...continued on page 66

Piran, Slovenia
By M’Liss Hinshaw
This aged European town on Slovenia’s small stretch of Adriatic Sea coastline has a Mediterranean-like character — quiet and more relaxed than nearby Trieste or Venice, Italy.

We walked the ocean boardwalk, taking in the Adriatic’s rolling waves, watching them head toward the border of Croatia to the south. We then darted between small streets with little food stores, ice cream and trinket shops, and gazed up at the unique houses stacked atop the hillside in colorful arrays.

Our driver-guide, Rok Puppis (RokPuppis@gmail.com), a native Slovenian, explained the history and geography of the area, which enriched our experience in this haven undiscovered by tourists.

Lunch at one of the many seaside restaurants featured locally grown products, and we dined on fresh produce, olives, pasta, mussels, and delicious vegetables sprinkled with sea salt.

Coastal Slovenia still a secret
Exhibits chronicle the life of Gandhi

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Smalls: A grouping of young coconuts on a tree in Jamaica
leapbaby: The journey home from Big Bear
island602: Hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, there are photo opportunities at every turn and spirits lurking behind every tree.

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

Hummingbirds, attracted to sources of nectar by red-colored flowers, are swarming over San Diego County’s backyard gardens, scrub-covered coastal hillsides, and areas of the Anza-Borrego Desert now in flower. Red monkey flower is a favorite source of nectar along the coastal strip, while blooming chaparosa and ocotillo play the same role in the desert.

February’s Full Moon, on Sunday, the 28th, rises dramatically over the mountains to the east at around 6:20pm, some 40 minutes after the time of sunset. Watch its bubble-like disk materializes in the almost-dark sky. The following morning, you can watch the moon fade in dawn’s glare while sinking into the Pacific. When observed near the horizon, the full moon often seems to be larger than life. The effect, called the “moon illusion” is purely psychological, which is to say “it’s all in your head.”

Very Low Tides this weekend, associated with the full moon, will open up opportunities for tidepool gazing. The four lowest tides of the coming days are: Thursday, February 25, at 1:06pm (-1.2 feet); Friday at 1:37pm (-1.5 feet); Saturday at 2:22pm (-1.5 feet); and Sunday at 2:57pm (-1.3 feet). Very high tides will also occur within that string of days, most notably on Friday at 6:58am (+6.6 feet); Saturday at 7:45am (+6.3 feet); and on Sunday at 8:31am (+6.2 feet).

Basic Birding: Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6919. Saturday, February 27, 8:30am; free. Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 S. Coast Hwy. (CARLSBAD).

Borrego Desert Birding: Anza-Borrego Desert boasts distinctive selection of birds; focus on finding some familiar resident species including cactus wren, verdin, white-winged dove, phainopepla, and winter visitors during Audubon Society outing. Bonus — desert wildflowers! Bring water, snacks for jaunt with “varied but easy walking.” Meet at east side of Christmas Circle. 619-282-8687. Saturday, February 27, 8am; free. Christmas Circle, Palm Canyon Drive at Borrego Springs Road. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

India continued from page 64

a few books are exhibited. These and his meager clothing were about the extent of his material possessions. Also displayed is the bloodstained dhoti Gandhi wore when he was assassinated. (The dhoti is a Hindu loincloth; Gandhi wore one as a means of identifying with the poorest Indians.)

Another striking aspect of the museum is the collection of artwork: sculptures, paintings, sketches expressing the nation’s love and reverence for their great leader.

Directly opposite the museum is the Raj Ghat, a memorial to Gandhi. The spot marks the site of his cremation on January 31, 1948. His ashes lie in a square black marble tomb. You’re requested to remove your shoes as you walk around the inner area of the memorial.

Indira and Rajiv Gandhi (no relation to Mohandas) were two more recent rulers of India who were also assassinated. They were cremated here and have shrines honoring them as well. An eternal flame burns in a copper urn.

The largest of the Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman, boasts gorgeous white-sand beaches, amazing diving and snorkeling experiences, duty-free shopping, a chance to wade in the ocean surrounded by stingrays, and the opportunity to visit the world’s only green sea turtle farm. Snorkeling in the clear azure waters made me feel like I had waded into an aquarium. Brightly colored fish of many species drifted all around.

Stingray City, which is actually a sand bar, allows you to wade into waist-deep water to feed and interact with these gentle beings. At Boatswain’s Beach Turtle Farm in George Town, you can observe sea turtles in their various stages of development.

If you want to tell your friends you’ve gone to Hell, visit the tiny village of that name. You can have your postcards postmarked from Hell. Early settlers described the desolate area as hellish, thus the name.

Grand Cayman is a colony of the United Kingdom, so if you rent a car, remember to drive on the left.

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

EAST CANYON LOOP
Explore the best of the Santa Clarita Woodlands in the Santa Susana Mountains of L.A. County.
Distance from downtown San Diego: 150 miles
Hiking length: 6.5 miles • Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

The road’s shoulder so as to keep away from the light automotive traffic that still exists here. After a probably tedious (on foot, at least) 1.5 miles, you reach Weldon Canyon Road, which crosses over Interstate 5 on a narrow overpass. Make a right at Coltrane Avenue on the far side of that overpass, and continue 0.3 miles to Weldon Motorway (a fire road) on the left. The fire road’s initial ascent is excruciating, but the uphill grade soon moderates.

The scenery turns gorgeous as you climb, especially during the early morning on many a day, when the entire San Fernando Valley lies unseen beneath a marine-layer blanket of clouds. To the east, the rounded summits of the San Gabriel Mountains rise into a sapphire sky, sometimes flecked with cirrus clouds. Near at hand, note the coast live oaks and a small number of bigcone Douglas-firs dotting the slopes.

At 2.2 miles, there’s a private road on the left; stay right and proceed along a narrow ridge with dramatic dropoffs on both sides. Some California walnut trees can be seen here. At 2.9 miles (elevation 2468 feet) there’s a rest stop with a shade ramada overlooking the east canyon drainage to the north and east. Continue following the same narrow ridge — essentially the south rim of East Canyon — until you reach a junction of fire roads at 4.3 miles. A left turn here could take you to Mission Point and O’Melveny Park to the south (described in this column just two weeks ago). You go right, however, and begin a long and sometimes steep descent into East Canyon. More fine bigcone-Douglas fir s dot the way, their wand-like limbs reaching wide.

By 5.7 miles, you arrive alongside East Canyon’s trickling stream, and enter a strip of gorgeous riparian/oak-woodland. Keep going; your starting point was 1 mile ahead.

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

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
By Jan Austin
As winter’s chilly arms embrace us, my thoughts drift back to sun-drenched days on Grand Cayman’s pristine beaches. Relaxing with a strawberry daiquiri in one hand and an engaging novel in the other, my days there were long, leisurely, and sun-kissed.

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.
Hike Lakeside River Park Join Canyoneers to explore some of the 100 acres earmarked for restoration as wetlands and upland habitat. Meet leader in parking lot. 619-255-0171. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Lakeside River Park, Mapleview Street and Channel Road, (LA JOLLA)

Know Switzer Canyon? Learn about common native plants, their names, their benefits to our habitat during California Native Plant Society walk. Wear sturdy shoes. 619-668-3281. Saturday, February 27, 9:30am; Sunday, February 28, 9:30am; Wednesday, March 3, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, (SAN CARLOS)

Wildflowers and Critters Naturalists lead walk through oaks, grasslands, chaparral, riverfront “bursting with colors, smells, bird songs, and critters.” Learn local history, native culture, geology: 619-668-3281. Saturday, February 27, 9:30am; Sunday, February 28, 9:30am; Wednesday, March 3, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, (SAN CARLOS)

Tidepooling for All at False Creek Join naturalist Dan Cannon on new, moderately paced walk through southwest section of ranch. Learn about flora and fauna of residents, reserve’s recent and ancient history, bit about geology: 760-839-4680. Sunday, February 28, 9am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive, (ESCONDIDO)

A Thousand Ways to Draw a Tree” Valerie Samuel Henderson leads “expressive drawing workshop” with drawing trees as the theme. Focus on “imagination, spontaneity, and invention.” Do many quick sketches using memory, observation, imagination. Materials fee: $10. Registration: 619-223-0058. Sunday, February 28, 10am; $62-$72. 16 and up. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 DeCatur Rd., studio 206, (POINT LOMA)

“Asian Arts in the Garden” Celebrate arts of Asian horticulture with displays, lectures, demonstrations. See Japanese-style floral arrangements, bonsai, tray landscapes, more. 858-722-4970. Saturday, February 27, 9am; Sunday, February 28, 9am; free-$12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, (ENCINITAS)

San Diego Audubon Society. There may be some plants ing to do, preparation in bird and butterfly garden. Work gloves, tools, water, snacks provided. Required reservations: 760-295-1548. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, 2475 Hutchison Street, (NORTH PARK)

Hike Point Loma Natural History Preserve with Friends of Cabrillo National Monument leads a moderate-paced hike to Point Loma Light House and Cabrillo Monument. 858-534-7380. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free-$12. Cabrillo National Monument, Cabrillo Hwy., (BAYSIDE)

Peninsular Roadsides Cleanup Foundation’s Clean and Green team tackles trash, debris dump sites along river. Join group near Kahala Travel. Dress in clothes that can get dirty, wear closed shoes. 619-297-7380. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Kahala Travel, 3838 Camino del Rio North, (MISSION VALLEY)

Pierre Bovet Adobe Tour Hike out to explore riparian habitat of Carroll Canyon with anthropologist Will Bowen, and visit ruins of Pierre Bovet Adobe. Find out why many such adobes were left to deteriorate, learn about Bovet and his family, their place in San Diego history. Bring water, sun protection, good hiking shoes. 858-684-3219. Sunday, February 28, 7:30am; free. KumeAyaa Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail, (LA HONDA)

Rattlers and Rainfall See if rattlesnakes are out when naturalist Jack Pomerey leads a moderately strenuous, approximately four-mile hike. Learn “some basic facts about SD’s rainfall.” 760-839-4680. Saturday, February 27, 8:30am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive, (ESCONDIDO)

Tidepooling for All at False Point Learn about ocean critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts tidepooling led by aquarium naturalist. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Sunday, February 28, 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 lifecycles. Look for wildflowers. Wear footwear suitable for wet/muddy conditions. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way, (CARMEL VALLEY)

Walk in the Park Join naturalist Dan Cannon on new, moderately paced walk through southwest section of ranch. Learn about flora and fauna of residents, reserve’s recent and ancient history, bit about geology: 760-839-4680. Sunday, February 28, 9am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive, (ESCONDIDO)

Vernal Pools and Wildflowers Tour one of SD’s newest nature preserves with Diana Gordon; learn about rare Southern maritime chaparral, vernal pool lifecycles. Look for wildflowers. Wear footwear suitable for wet/muddy conditions. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way, (CARMEL VALLEY)

Zephyr Dragonflies See rare dragonflies of the butterfly garden. Work gloves, tools, water, snacks provided. Required reservations: 760-295-1548. Saturday, February 27, 9am; free. Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, 2475 Hutchison Street, (NORTH PARK)
Rhyme & Verse 1989
– Ron Koertge
Because AIDS was slaughtering people left and right, I went to a lot of memorial services that year.
There were so many, I’d pencil them in between a movie or a sale at Macy’s. The other thing that
made AIDS tolerable was the funny stories people
got up and told. About the one who died: the time he
hurled a mushroom frittata across a crowded room,
which green huarchus he refused to throw away,
the joke about the flight attendant and the banana
that cracked him up every time.
But this funeral was for a blind friend of my wife’s
who’d merely died. And the interesting thing
about it was the guide dogs; with all the harness
and the sniffing around, the vestibule of the church
looked like the starting line of the Iditarod.
But nobody got up to talk. We just sat there,
and the pastor read the King James version. Then
he said something we would see Robert and he us.
Throughout the service, the dogs slumped beside their
masters. But when the peet-sist stond and launched
into a screechy rendition of “Abide with Me,” they sank
into the carpet. A few pet-paws over their ears.
Someone whispered to one of the blind guys; he told
another, and the laughter started to spread. People
in the back looked around, startled and embarrased,
until they spotted all those chunky Labradors
flattened out like animals in a cartoon about
steamrollers. Then they started, too.
That was more like it. That was what I was used to
– A roomful of people laughing and crying, taking off
Their sunglasses to blot their inconsolable eyes.

Ron Koertge is a young-adult fiction writer and
American poet. “1989 appears in Koertge’s collection
Geography of the Forehead, published by the University of Arkansas Press, and is reprinted by
permission. Photo credit: Herb Rabin

Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4690 Palm Avenue, (LA MESA)

“Heart Matters” Enjoy cooking
demonstrations, wine-tasting,
fitness demonstrations and exhib-
tions (4-6pm), educational lectures (6-
7pm). 800-258-2723, Thursday,
February 25, 4pm; free. Alvarado
Hotel Conference Center, 6650
Alvarado Road, SAN DIEGO
(ESPONDA)

“Past, Present, Future: M E”
This art project was created by
members of East African Youth
Organization and San Diego Asian
Youth Organization. Participants
portray their lives, reenacting
their past, present, and their
hopes for future through individ-
ual and collective art pieces.
Event includes silent auction of youth’s
artwork, cultural performances,
hopes for future through individ-
uals, coffee and dessert with artists

LOCAL EVENTS

Saturday, February 27, 10am; $50.
San Diego, CA 92186-5803. Or fax
to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at
SDReader.com by clicking on the
event section.

San Diego, much February 25, 2010

HPR “Sampler” Program
Dance, music, cultural costumes
promised when House of Pacific
Relations hosts “sampler program.”
Food for sale. 619-234-0739, Sunday,
February 28, 2pm; free. House of Pacific
Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Harmony Through Flowers
Ohsaka School of Ikebana hosts
37th annual flower show and
bazaar in honor of late instructor,
Harmonization Center, 200
Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

Exist 2010 Art Show
Enjoy live
art, music by the Washington Pro-
jects, coffee and dessert with artists
including Sarah Gay Jr., Kelli Mur-
orling, Kelli Murhollar, Sarah Shennan,
and Cachero. Donation ($5) benefits
A.R.T.S. 858-831-7899. Friday, Feb-
uary 26, 8pm. Presence Church,
7066 Miramar Road, (MIRA MESA)

Fond of Fountains? Create a “peaceful water fountain” during a
series of four two-hour classes guid-
ing participants through process
of creating table-top water fountain.
Fee includes 25 pounds of clay,
glazes, firings, pump, hose. No ex-
perience necessary. 760-622-9169.
Wednesday, March 3, 6pm; $175. 3, 13
and up. Fire and Mud Studios, 740
Metscalf Street #29. (ESCONDIDO)

Gray Whale Season Returns!
Outings hosted by Birch Aquarium
at Scripps and San Diego Harbor
Excursion boast Scripps natural-
ists on hand to share information
about gray whales, the ecology,
and history of San Diego Bay and
Scripps Institution of Oceanogra-
phy. Detect, listen to whale and
dolphins sounds in real time using
state-of-the-art research equip-
ment from Scripps Institution
of Oceanography, Dolphins, sea lions,
marine birds make guest appear-
ances. Registration: 619-234-4111.

Doggie Café Take your friendly,
on-lead dog to socialize with other
canines. Trainers offer training tips
on keeping dogs calm, civilized
around distractions. One dog per
Reservations: 619-299-7012 2230,
Friday, February 26, 4pm. Casa del
San Diego Humane Society and SPA,
5500 Gaines Street. (UNDA VISTA)

Doggie Street Festival Bring your
canine friend to party at Pre-
ble Field (Cashing Road between
Dewey Road and Roosevelt Road)
dedicated to increasing pet adop-
tion.” More than 30 breed-specific
rescue groups, shelters on hand with
adoptable dogs. Also on offer:
animal-related products and ser-
tices, entertainment.
Friendly dogs on leash welcome.
619-276-1412, Sunday, February 28,
9am; free. Teachers College Center
promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

Taste of Judaism! “Design your
own!” Fresh, “3 Session Classes” Held From 7-9 pm.
TASTE! 2010

Customs, Life-Cycles, Holidays and Traditions
THURSDAYS, MARCH 4, 11 & 25
TEMPLE EMANU-EL (BIRD ROCK AREA)
THURSDAYS, APRIL 15, 22 & 29
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL (UTC AREA)
SUNDAYS, MAR 29, 9 & 16
YOUNG ISRAEL OF SAN DIEGO (SAN DIEGO AREA)

For more information on these and other classes please call
UJFF Outreach at 858.737.7152 or 858.571.3444 or ujff@ujff.org
Or sign up online at www.jewishcenter.org/school/good
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KOOZÁ

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San Diego Reader February 25, 2010
Tell me about Linhead.

“It’s the author’s perspective on growing up in a mill town in the ‘50s — the social life of the town. The mill built these houses around the mill itself, and the employees lived in them with their families. They’d pay $25 a month or less in rent. He remembers it as a happy life. His dad was very proud of what he did — as far back as the author could remember, that’s what his family did. But he didn’t work at the mill. He went out and became a baseball sportscaster.”

Was baseball part of the mill community?

“Oh, yes. There were teams at each of the mills in the area, and they would play each other. It was a bigger social thing — it pulled everyone together. Some famous baseball players came out of it. It was a big part of mill life.”

Do you have a favorite author?

“Probably Lilian Jackson Braun — The Cat Who... series. The Cat Who Sniffed Glue, The Cat Who Blew the Whistle, The Cat Who Came to Breakfast. The books are lighthearted mysteries about a millionare bachelor and his two Siamese cats, Koko and Yum-Yum. The cats give him clues — he interprets their behavior. There’s no bad language, and there’s no heavy romance — it’s all light-hearted. It’s very easy reading; I don’t like anything heavy or deep. I had two Siamese cats when I started reading the books — that’s what drew me to them.”

What book was most life-changing for you?

“I grew up in the south in the late ‘50s, early ‘60s, a time of turmoil for blacks. And I remember learning about the slaves and the freeing of the slaves. It just opened my eyes to the everything. The books I remember best are the ones about abolitionists — John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman.”

Do you read any magazines or newspapers?

“No. My boyfriend reads the newspaper incessantly, but I don’t. I’m not an avid reader. I say I’m too busy, but I know if I didn’t work as much, I don’t know if I’d read more or find other things to do. I read Linthead because I’d had eye surgery, and I couldn’t do anything but read. I thought do read cookbooks and gardening books. I’m looking forward to getting Pat Welsh’s Southern California Organic Gardening.”

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.
Kicking It “In the summer of 2006, thousands of soccer players around the globe were training hard to compete in the World Cup…the Homeless World Cup.” Film screening in conjunction with “One Book, One San Diego” community reading campaign. 619-236-5817. Thursday, February 25, 2pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Mighty Uke Why do so many people of different nations, cultures, ages, and musical tastes turn to the ukulele? Directors Tony Cole, Margaret Meagher traveled the world to answer the question. See their resulting documentary, then enjoy concert by “premier ukulele” player James Hill. Tickets: 760-438-5996. Sunday, February 28, 7pm; $12-$15. Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Rudo y Cursi ArtPower’s “Sport Stories/Tribeca Film Festival” continues with 2008 film starring Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal. 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, February 25, 8pm; $8. Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego/Tijuana DANCEonFILM Festival Enjoy “international collection of experimental short dance films” following “latest dance filmmaking production technology from feature films to virtual worlds.” Program in Studio Theatre includes Becoming, Dot Dance, Entanglement Theory, Sunscreen Serenade, others. 858-405-9555. Friday, February 26, 7:30pm; $8-$12. San Diego State University, 5500 Campus Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

FOOD & DRINK

“A Magic Touch of Balsamic” Cooking class with chef Nadia Frigeri. Fee includes food, beverages, appetizer. 858-578-2665. Thursday, February 25, 6pm; $49. Cooking With Class, 8290 Miramar Road. (MIRAMAR)

“Beer and Cheese Regional Pairing: Pacific Northwest” Resident “beer and cheese sleuth” Bill Sysak “tracked down some of the best the Pacific Northwest has to offer.” Enjoy several rounds of ales, cheeses crafted by our Northwestern neighbors. 760-471-4999. Tuesday, March 2, 7pm; $35. San Diego State University, 5500 Campus Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

“Master Pairings: Around the World” Take “tempting tour of beer and cuisine from around the globe” through tastes of five different nations. Five-course dinner with chef Alex Carballo, Bill Sysak guiding guests “through an evening of exotic food and exceptional beer.” 760-471-4999. Thursday, February 25, 7pm; $39. 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1999 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

“Beer and Chocolate Pairing” “Partnering of chocolate and beer together is an experience that is simply magical.” Enjoy truffles by Guanni Chocolates alongside brews to bring out “best in both.” Mariella Balbi, chocolatier and owner of Guanni, on hand to introduce her creations. 760-471-4999. Sunday, February 28, 2:30pm and 5pm; $30. 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1999 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Tequila Tasting Sampling session presented by Corzo tequila. RSVP: 619-858-8228. Thursday, February 25, 6:30pm; free. Fred’s Mexican Cafe Old Town, 2470 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

FOR KIDS

“Give a Day, Get a Day” WitKids and the Dinner Garden host event promising bags of seeds for family, friends, neighbors. Learn to garden with recyclable materials. Master gardeners on hand to answer questions about seeds, planting, more. 619-677-2236. Saturday, February 27, 9am. Amici Park, State Street and West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

“Pretty and Pink” Meet radiantly pink animals, learn how they show their love for each other during Kindernights and Kindermornings program. Hear “heartfelt stories,” make a heart-healthy edible necklace while sipping on pink lemonade. Fee does not include admission to zoo. Required reservations: 619-557-3969. Friday, February 26, 7:30pm; $8-$12. San Diego State University, 5500 Campus Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

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Spiritual Refuge

“Sheep and Goats” page 154-155

February 26, 6:30pm; $12-$15. 5 and up. San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Rhythm, Rhyme, and Ragtime Classics 4 Kids and Classics Philharmonic Orchestra offer look at engaging stories behind favorite musical masterworks for “Center Stage: Performances for Youth” series. 800-988-4253. Friday, February 26, 11am; $2. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Disney’s Alice in Wonderland Christian Youth Theater presents musical tale of Alice and her adventures in wonderland. 800-696-1929. Friday, February 26, 6pm; Thursday, February 25, 7pm; Sunday, February 28, 2pm; $10-$15. Escondido Charter High School, 1868 East Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Grease Pacific Ridge School performance of the classic musical performed by students in 7th through 11th grades. 760-918-0792. Friday, February 26, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 27, 7:30pm; Sunday, February 28, 3pm; $10. San Elijo Middle School, 1600 Schoolhouse Way. (SAN MARCOS)

Nobody’s Perfect This new musical performed in spoken English and American Sign Language, based on book by Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin, presented by Kennedy Center’s Theatre for Young Audiences on Tour. 858-748-0505. Saturday, February 27, 7pm-$5.25. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

Bend It, Shape It, Sculpt It “Art Explorations: Exploring Sculpture” classes for families with children 5-12 years old. Participants engage in studio activities inspired by museum’s collections. 619-232-7931, Wednesdays, 1:30pm; through Wednesday, March 31; free. 5 and up. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

I Think I Can Help Eddie the Engine deliver a birthday present to Bunny Rabbit during The Little Engine That Could puppet shows by Big Joe Productions. 619-544-9203. Thursday, February 25, 10am and 11:30am; Friday, February 26, 10am and 11:30am; Saturday, February 27, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, February 28, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Wednesday, March 3, 10am and 11:30am; $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

God’s Nine Hidden Truths Mysteries New Maps Known


Selections from the Achenbaum’s Erika and Fred Torri Artists’ Books Collection: Mary Ellen Long, books may also be seen through Saturday, April 3, 858-454-5872. Friday, February 26, 6:30pm; free. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

Locals Only Opening reception for exhibition by Brad Burkhardt, Kim Byers, Susan Maciulli, David Chang, and Michael Starkow, Maura Voets. Saturday, March 5, 7-9pm in variety of muscles through Thursday, April 15, 619-534-9120. Saturday, February 27, 5pm; free. Edgeware Gallery, 4186 Adams Avenue. (BERKSHIRE PALM)

All’s Well That Ends Well Heading to Oceanside’s Center for the Arts, the Baroque Players present a new Pushkin adaptation of William Shakespeare’s comedic tragedy. 760-761-0792. Friday, February 26, 8pm; $20-$25. 10 and up. Founda- tion Yoga, 140 Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (SOLANA BEACH)

Live Come, Live, Live! Headliner is Dat Phan (Last Comic Standing), with Christian Spicer and R.J. Dharmi. Preshow by music jam Lisa Lunsford (7:15pm), show at 8pm. No drink minimum. 760-595-5466. Sunday, February 28, 7pm; free-$20. Sun and up. Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue. (HUNTINGTON TALMADGE)

Think a Little, Laugh a Lot Comedian Tim Lee’s show blends stand-up comedy with science and “humorous” PowerPoint visuals. Lee “uses scientific phenomena and tools to explain everything from the hair that collects on a bar of soap to how his standards drop rapidly with aging.” 760-720-2460. Saturday, February 27, 8pm; $20. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2828, State Street. (CARLSBAD)

Festival of Local Authors Carlsbad and North County authors discuss their works during panel discussion moderated by au- thor Tallie Tampon (Blood Matters and Booked for Travel mystery se- ries), 11am-noon, Participating au- thors: Joseph Dave Bicarti (Tina of Vietnam), Jewell E. Carney (shadow of Las Vegas), Brix McDonald (Riding on the Wind), Erica Miner (Forever Friends), Tom Morrow (The Beacon on Kill Devil Hill), Orin D. Parker (Return to Bagh- dadd), Bob Richard (The Last Man Standing: Running with Wolves), Louise Watkins (Sweet Justice). Meet authors in coated green chapel. 7am-6pm, 858-660-2012. Saturday, February 27, 11am; free. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Apple Turnover Murder Culinary mystery author Joanne Fluke signs books, 858-248-4777. Saturday, February 27, 2pm; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7601 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 302. (KARCHER MESA)

Raw Energy Holistic esthetician/ aromatherapist/author Stephanie Tourles discusses her new book. Learn all about 124 raw Food Recipes for Energy Boosts, Smoothies, and Other Snacks to Supercharge Your Body. 858-459-0347. Tuesday, March 2, 7:30pm; free. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Stem Cells for Dummies What are stem cells and what do they do? Dr. Larry Goldstein — UCSD pro- fessor of cellular and molecular medicine and director of UCSD’s Stem Cell Program — discusses his new book, answers questions. Signing follows, 858-755-3753. Tuesday, March 2, 7pm; free. BookWorks, 2670 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

The New Adobe Home Michael Byrne and Dottor Larson plan lecture, signing of their book focusing on “use of adobe through a variety of …homes in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico.” 619-297-9327. Thursday, February 25, 6pm; $15-$38. Adobe Chapel, 3963 Conde Street. (OLD TOWN)

Author Signing Gary Mittovich author of East of San Diego: The Lost History of the San Diego Police Department, signs books. 619-593-5119. Saturday, February 27, 2pm; free. Borders Books and Music. (EL CAJON)


Global Day of Commedia dell’Arte Commedia dell’arte (“comedy of craft”) is professional form of theater that began in Renaissance Italy. Festivities include presenta- tion on characters of Commedia dell’arte; followed by improvisation session featuring audience participa- tion; performance of Flaminio Scala, Commedia dell’arte; followed by improvisation on characters of Commedia. 760-795- 8710. Friday, February 26, 2pm; free. MiraCosta College Community Learning Center, 1831 Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Got Arts? Grossmont Union High School District hosts Visual and Performing Arts Festival in Cuyama College’s Art Center. Expect an art exhibit, variety of musical, theatrical, and dance performances showcasing artistic achievements of the students. Food sales, art workshops, more. 619-644-8000. Saturday, February 27, 8am; free. Cuyama College, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway. (CUYAMA COLLEGE)

Jam Session Panelists from mu- sic industry round table plan con- cert with rock, pop, blues, jazz in Concert Hall (building 2400). Tickets: 760-795-6615. Friday, February 26, 7:30pm; $5. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Kooza Cirque du Soleil “combines two circus traditions — ac- robatic performance and the art of
clowning” — to tell story of “The Innocent,” a melancholy loner in search of his place in world. Show highlights physical demands of human performance in its splendor and fragility, presented with emphasis on slapstick humor. 800-450-1480. Thursdays, 8pm; Fridays, 4pm and 8pm; Sundays, 1pm and 5pm; Tuesdays, 8pm; Wednesdays, 8pm; through Sunday, March 21, $21-$125. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Magee Park Poetry Reading
Local poetic light Brandon Cesnmat reads from his work for Magee Park Poets. Open reading follows. 760-602-2400 x8149. Sunday, February 28, 2pm; free. Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Master Your Money
Author Shay Oliviaria plans workshop on “Five Things You Should Do to Master Your Money,” answers questions, signs Money Matters: The Get It Done in 1 Minute Workbook. Learn methods to increase credit scores, decrease debt, “live a powerful financial life.” 619-527-3405. Tuesday, March 2, 7pm; free. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Open-Mike Night
Musicians, singers (including karaoke), actors, poets, comedians invited to entertain. Purchase requested. 619-299-9360. Sundays, 8pm. Café Libertalia, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Piano Concert
Encinitas School of Music presents annual piano recital. 760-943-9480. Sunday, February 28, 2pm; free. Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Screenwriter and Author

Show and Tell
Enjoy this “upgrade to the traditional story slam”; storytellers, performers allowed to read from scripts, take the stage with rehearsed stories. 619-282-0437. Saturday, February 27, 8pm; $5. Lestat’s Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Songs of Irish, Scottish, American Heritage
Golden Bough — rooted in tradition of Celtic music — leads audience on musical journey from old world to new. Tickets for “Free First Wednesdays” series available on first-come, first-served basis, one hour prior to curtain. 800-988-4253. Wednesday, March 3, 4pm and 7pm; free. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Stress-Free Tuesdays
Comedy show by Ed Greer and Juan Iglusias. No cover before 7:30pm. 619-708-7975. Tuesday, March 2, 7pm; free-$5.21 and up, U-31, 3112 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Visionary Poet
Rachel Galvin reads from her new collection of poems, Pulleys & Locomotion, in Love Library room 430. 619-594-6724. Monday, March 1, 5:30pm; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

LECTURES

“A Touch of Insight” Polly Nooter Roberts of UCLA’s department of world arts and cultures discusses “Tactility and Transcendence in African Art.” Lecture traces complex aesthetic practices linking tactility to attainment of inner vision, using examples of Luba art from Democratic Republic of the Congo and other cultures of central and west Africa. 619-251-7038. Saturday, February 27, 2pm; $7-$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)


“Corporate Restructuring in the 21st Century” Kazuhiko Toyama — CEO and representa-
chronicles "harrowing saga from surviving Nazis onslaughts in Euro- pe to contributing to America’s lunar exploration" for Life at Mira Costa senior living group, in room 106B (2:30pm). Talk follows MiraCosta faculty member David Lewis on "Fredric Chopin — The Man and His Music" (1pm). 760- 721-8124, Friday, February 26, 1pm; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANIDE)

"Intelectuals and Social Movements" Brian Holmes fo- cuses on "Doctorate, Debate, De- fense, Empire, Popularity: "Public Culture" series in Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. 858-822-7755, Thursday, February 25, 6:30pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA Jolla)

"M(other)land" Talk art talk in the Visual Arts Facility Performing Arts Space by Bay Area video artist laurel woods in conjunction with her exhibit on view in University Art Gallery. "These works both re- flect and question the quintessent- ially American impulse to draw on fusion and myth to make sense of individual identity in a frag- mented world." 858-534-2107, Tuesday, March 2, 6:30pm, Univer- sity of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA Jolla)

"Making Monsters" Explo- ration of horror genre in Southern California continues with talk by Encinitas-born E.L. Katz, writing and producing for filmmakers like Sam Raimi. Sibling Peter Katz has produced independent horror films, is involved with "necrocin- ema," a process using brain-scan- technology to explore viewer reactions. Talk moderated by Prof- essor Martha Stoddard Holmes in Arts 111. 760-750-4011, Tuesday, March 2, 6pm; free. CSU San Mar- cos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

"Spirituality for the Future" Go "Beyond Fundamentalism with Joerg Straube. Ex- plores faith development, spiral dy- namics, militant atheist versus mil- itant fundamentalist, agnosticism, pantheism. Donation. 619-298- 9978 x0104. Wednesday, March 3, 6:30pm. First Unitarian Universal- ist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (OCEANIDE)

Stochastic Shocks, Bargaining, and Power: A Talk by Jonathon Bas of Harvard University plans lecture in Social Sciences Building room 104. "His current research focus is on the sources of subopti- mal behavior in international crises, environmental causes of conflict and war, and statistical models of strategic behavior." 858- 822-5297. Thursday, February 25, 12:30pm; free. University of Cali- fornia San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA Jolla)

"The Perpetual Cross" David B. Loy, legal director for local ACLU, speaks about Soledad cross case when San Diego Association for Rational In- quiry meets. 619-421-5844, Sun- day, February 28, 7pm; free. Pow- behrs Community Center, 4065 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

"What is a Tanager?" SDSU bi- ologist Kevin Burns chronicles Using DNA to Understand Trop- ical Birds" for San Diego Audubon Society meeting. Burns will discuss how DNA sequences are helping to reveal what species belong to tanagers, which do not. 858-723- 7800 x100. Friday, February 26, 6:30pm; free. Joyce Beers Commu- nity Center, 4065 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

"Who Owns the Data?" The "Exploring Ethics" series contin- ues with panelists considering the question. RSVP: 858-822-2647. Wednesday, March 3, 5:30pm; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (LA Jolla)

Art Talk: Tara Donna- van Artist Tara Donavan plans gallery talk, tour through her exhibition. She "creates astonishing visual experi- ences that stretch the poetic won- der of close looking and bigger thinking about the everyday ma- terials that surround us." Included in museum admission. 858-454- 3541 x198. Saturday, February 27, 2pm. Museum of Contemporary Art, 800 W. Har- mon and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)


Home Grown: Seeds and Transplants Master gardener and compost consultant focuses on "getting started in the garden." Learn varieties, advantages of be-inning with seeds or from trans- plants, setting up your garden. 800-362-4167 x4. Saturday, Feb- ruary 27, 2pm; free. El Corazon com- post facility, 3210 Oceanside Boulevard. (OCEANIDE)

How, When, Where, Why? Recommends the cultivation of Leg- al Marijuna" class covers "clin- ical applications, legal medical conditions, safety, side effects, and making the most of your valuable experience." 858-864-8773. Thursday, February 27, 5:30pm; $5-$10. Lux Art Institute, 750 South El Camino Real, (ENCINITAS)

Be Successful! SDSU’s African Student Union hosts 35th annual high school conference for all high school students. Expect work- shops, tours around SDSU and high school college, pre- sented in Aztec Center. Talent show with step teams, other entertain- ment. In-person registration ends February 22, 8am; 760-753-1982. Sunday, February 27, 9am; $18. and up. Instant Imprints, 9808 Wallpas Street. (MIRA MESA)

Know Your (Civil War) History? Civil War author Tom Heinman- toler — whose interest in the war began with a Gettysburg visit and discovery of Civil War ancestors — plans talk, Bring pizza, salad, dessert, or drink. 619-297-4366, Monday, March 1, 6pm; free. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 211 Camino Del Rio South, (SAN DIEGO)

Life’s Turning Points Psycholo- gists associate turning points with transitions and stages of human development as defined, explored by Erik Erikson. Lessons learned from career, education, culture. Class series explores how life's turning points are inextricably linked to "check your fitness level for the month of February!" 858-272-4710, Saturday, February 27, 8:30am. Mission Bay Drive, (PACIFIC BEACH)

Sunset Drive Tennis Club 2010 Women’s Season Kick-Off Tournament. 619-688-6536. Saturday, February 28, 8, 10:34am. De Anza Cove, 3000 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Mission Bay Women’s Tennis Club registration deadline is February 26. Include name, address, phone number, and check for membership fee. 858-690-5310, Monday, February 27, 8am; $15. Mission Bay Visitors’ Center, 2688 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Race Judicata Proceeds from sixth annual "Legalism - A Night Under the Law" Project directed by California Western School of Law. 773-550- 8930, Saturday, February 27, 9am; $30-$35. De Anza Cove, 3000 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Running Clinic in the Park Ex- ercise physician/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.

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**S P O R T S**

Seaside Slope Metro Hundred Pedal 61 miles with Knickerbikers to "check your fitness level for the long rides of spring." Route includes snack stop at Vinaka in Carlsbad, lunch at Kealani’s in Encinitas on return. No one left behind. Park in designated spaces in Mission Bay South Shore boat ramp parking lot, 858-227-4710. Saturday, February 27, 8:30am. South Shore Park, 502 Sea World Drive, (PACIFIC BEACH)

Backcountry Bikin’ San Diego Bicycle Touring Society bicyclists head out for all day ride to Oceanside, Valley Center, Lilac, more. Bring money for lunch in Valley Center. 619-688-6536. Sunday, February 28, 8, 10:34am. De Anza Cove, 3000 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Mirror Image vs. Threat! American Wrestling Alliance pres- ents "Friday Night Live." Card boasts matches including heavy- weight championship bout be- tween the "Mirror Image" Ricky Mandell and Threat; Todd Chan- dler vs. Aerial Star; Matt Twisted vs. Johnny Lower; others. 819-569- 0356, Friday, February 26, 7pm-10pm. $10-$13. Unity Lodge, 3366 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Mission Bay 5K Enjoy out and back course over flat terrain pro- viding "great view of the ocean. " Proceed from sixth Mission Bay 5K. 858-969-5310, Saturday, February 27, 8am; $15. Mission Bay Visitors’ Center, 2688 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Sockers versus Drillers! San Diego Sockers host Edmonton’s team for soccer match. 866-799-4625. Saturday, February 27, 6:15pm; free-$19. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Starlettes versus Derby Divas! San Diego Roller Derby’s Starlettes’ flat-track roller derby team takes on Inland Empire Derby Divas. 858-560-9349. Saturday, February 27, 7am-$19. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

SINGLES


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MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center "In Bronze and On Canvas: The Art of Mehl Lawson and Jeffrey R. Watts" is exhibition of Western sculptures by Lawson, impressionistic paintings and realistic drawings by Watts. Closes Saturday, February 27.

Museum features exhibits of local history and fine arts, striving “to preserve and celebrate the spirit of Bonita in its two spacious galleries.” Stories of Bonita’s 100-year history are told with artifacts, photographs. Displays include Native American culture, lemon orchard period, events of the flood of 1916, and transformation of family life by technology. 4355 Bonita Rd., 858-267-5141. (BONITA)

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum "Spring exhibitions include Seth Augustine’s "Chimerica Drearly," described as "a visually dramatic installation re-reflective" 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 work by 23 members of Allied Craftsmen. Each artist demonstrates innovative techniques, designs incorporating wood, clay, wire, fabric, metal, gold, 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 referencing the potential of the human mind to produce equally compelling and intricate structures.” All three close Sunday, July 4. 340 North Escondido Blvd., 760-893-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Camargo Railroad Museum Showcases more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880’s “Jim Crow” segregated passenger cars. Interpretive 1-hour train rides offered each weekend (11am, 2:30pm) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. 31123 ½ ¾th Ave, 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

A museum contrasting the evolution and creation worldviews. 10945 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (BAY)
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San Marcos Historical Society Museum  
270 West San Marcos Blvd., 760-744-9025. (SAN MARCOS)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park  
Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-shows throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 1666 San Pasqual Valley Rd., 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum  
The museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as “the only one on view in San Diego.” Also on exhibit: model of an 1862 settler’s cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display, 29200 Cole Grade Rd., 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

William Heath Davis House Museum  
Museum is said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego. The house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber “salt box” family home shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. 410 Island Ave., 619-233-4692. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Archaeological Center  
Center hosts monthly archeological-themed lectures, workshops and family events on second Saturday of each month. Museum is dedicated to curating and sharing archeological collections with public for educational, scientific, cultural use. 1666 San Pasqual Valley Rd., 760-291-6370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum  
More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum’s permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl, 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions  
Ongoing exhibits include “Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight,” “Surfing in San Diego,” exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement. 2131 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2540. (SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Maritime Museum  
“San Diego’s Navy,” based upon book by same name written by Bruce Linder, is said to be “the only comprehensive exhibit depicting the extraordinary contribution the Navy has made to the history of the San Diego region.” The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego’s waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna-fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark Star of India, the 1888 San Francisco ferryboat Berkeley, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht Medea. The HMS Surprise, used in film Master and Commander, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: the USS Dolphin, also known as the “world’s deepest-diving submarine”; and a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the last conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the earth’s oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Dr., 619-234-9135. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man  
Who are we? Where did we come from? The museum is different, are we all related? “The Genographic Project” aims to unravel the tale that genes can tell: where we originated. Exhibition is mounted in partnership with National Geographic Society. Permanent anthropology exhibit “Footsteps Through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” features “more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine).” 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

San Dieguito Heritage Museum  
The museum offers informative displays on the North County coastal history including Native Americans, early homesteaders, and recent times, as well as photographic collections and archives. 450 Quail Gardens Dr., 760-632-9711. (ENCINITAS)

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve  
Nature center’s building is a “green” facility made from recycled materials, using solar panels, irrigated roof plants, recycled water. Facility features an array of interactive exhibits exploring the natural and cultural history of the San Elijo Lagoon, one of the few remaining coastal wetlands in our area. Guided nature walks offered every Saturday (10-11am), 2710 Manchester Ave., 760-436-3944. (CARLSBAD)

San Marcos Historical Society Museum  
270 West San Marcos Blvd., 760-744-9025. (SAN MARCOS)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historical Park  
Commemorates battle between U.S. and California militia. Narrated slide-shows throughout the day, telling the story of war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 1666 San Pasqual Valley Rd., 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)
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Rembrandt All Over

Above Christ’s head hovers a puny oval halo, drizzled with light.

In the late 1640s and 1650s, the Netherlands’ prosperous Golden Age dimmed. Hundreds of businesses failed, and a major recession enfeebled the entire society. Even Rembrandt, renowned and rich, hit a wall, partly of his own construction. He’d bought the equivalent of a tycoon’s mansion beyond his means, spent lavishly to acquire an art collection he really couldn’t afford, and expected the art market to continue to reward his tireless genius. Instead, his many tuition-paying students flooded the market with work that competed with their master’s, his client list shrank, he defaulted on his mortgage, and by 1656 he was bankrupt. The handsome inheritance he might have received when his beloved wife Saskia died in 1642 was contingent on his not remarrying, and when he did take up with another love, Hendricke Stoffels, she (and by implication her non-husband) was publicly chastised by Calvinist elders for her loose ways. And Rembrandt’s painterly manner, so dominant for so long, was quietly falling from favor.

During these bad times, he still produced great work, in particular a series of etchings on New Testament subjects. He had market incentive: prints were quicker and easier to make and sell than paint-


gings. In a compact selection of the “Gospel” etchings currently at the Timken Museum, the museum’s director, John Wilson (drawing from the holdings of San Diegans Robert and Karen Hoehn), has made a smart equivalent for our own lean times. The etchings are compelling because he was forcing demons and aren’t badgered by tendentious wall labels — and each work is a busy country of intricate spacing between them, on pale gray walls that drains down looks like a tightly strung instrument, confusion, fury, catastrophe — the celestial light that kicks up the prints’ dark radiance. You don’t feel hurried and aren’t badgered by tendentious wall labels — and each work is a busy country of meaning.

The Old Masters chose religious subjects (as certain young masters still do) because they’re fraught with action, character, conflict of all kinds, and because they release urgent passions. When scriptural events or personalities elicit feelings specific to the artist’s own life experience (Fra Angelico’s piety, Lippo Lippi’s worldliness, Caravaggio’s carnal voracity) the work carries an explosive charge. Rembrandt’s Shakespearean curiosity about human nature, transformation, inwardsness evidenced by physical expressiveness, and the demons fate sends our way is played out in his paintings. The etchings are compelling because he was forcing more stringent medium (scores and scrapes on copper plate) to yield more physically expansive, pictorially complex imagery than his predecessors. Rembrandt gets you lost in the wiry surges and mass-attack actions of line, and in his scenes from the life of Jesus you feel that personal emotional propulsion is pitching his imagination to starting extremes.

Consider Christ Preaching. Christ is a saddened, fatigued street-corner preacher, and the crowd Rembrandt assembles around Him is a mildly tranquillized Shakespearean rabble: a few bored, hungry faces; a kid fooling around in the dirt, indifferent to the news-bringer; and an old woman so distracted by her own misery that she looks slightly deranged. Above Christ’s head hovers a puny oval halo, drizzled with light. And Rembrandt’s black lines create such light! In a crucifixion scene, thicketed cross-hatchings and curvilinear swells create a storm of confusion, fury, catastrophe — the celestial light that drains down looks like a tightly strung instrument, the entire scene a heaven-and-earth sound box.

Etching calls attention to the mechanics of scene-engineering. In The Descent from the Cross by Torchlight, Rembrandt makes Christ into animal mass difficult to maneuver because of its dead weight. (His head and dangling arm are sorrow-heavy.) You’re made to realize how much care it required of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to get the body down from the cross without further mutilating it and that the come-and-go torchlight made the removal all the more precarious. In Christ Presented to the People [Ecce Homo] Rembrandt makes Christ nearly a shrunken wretch next to the self-important Pilate. Rembrandt organizes the stage action — or, rather, inaction, since the surrounding onlookers seem so impassive — around the civic-center porch they stand on. His staging suggests a sacrificial altar, a dry-run Golgotha tricked out as a kind of City Hall appearance. As Mr. Wilson says in his snappy, succinct catalog essay, Rembrandt was depositing all kinds of personal anger and grief into works like Ecce Homo, but there’s also an ethereal tenderness in, of all things, Christ on the Mount of Olives (The Agony in the Garden), in which the angel’s wing, raised like an accusing hand above the disciples sleeping in the background, is also cocked to protect the desolate Jesus but won’t — can’t, really — shield Him from the ominous soldiers sketchily visible behind the wing.

This is Rembrandt-in-So-Cal season. The Timken is part of an ad hoc consortium of museums, including LACMA, the Norton Simon, the Armand Hammer, and the Getty, that are showing works by Rembrandt and Netherlandish artists close to him. The San Diego Museum of Art’s From Rembrandt’s Studio: The Prints of Ferdinand Bol picks up where its 2003 exhibition, The Age of Rembrandt: Etchings from Holland’s Golden Century, left off. It

Rembrandt’s Recession: Passion and Prints in the Dutch Golden Age

Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park
Through Sunday, May 2. For additional information, call 619-239-5548.

From Rembrandt’s Studio: The Prints of Ferdinand Bol
San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park
Through Sunday, March 7. For additional information, call 619-232-7931.

MORE ADS
revisits Rembrandt’s etchings in relation to those by his most gifted student, Ferdinand Bol, born in 1616 and one of many assistants who worked in the master’s studio. Bol did that for about six years then established his own practice as a painter. He produced only 22 known etchings, but they so boldly flashed the technical finesse he learned from Rembrandt (who, unstoppable as usual, made over 300) that his work was sometimes mistaken for Bol’s name in place of Bol’s.

The SDMA exhibition isn’t meant to be a horse race. Rembrandt was Rembrandt, but there’s enough of Bol’s work to impress us with his gifts and outline the dynamics of borrowing and imitation that churned between the two of them.

One rarity, the only known impression of Bol’s Saskia with Pearls, adapts Rembrandt’s 1634 etching of the same title (not included in the exhibition), and, since it’s unsigned, the attribution is still a little shaky, but the floating ringlets and curlicues are signs of Bol’s later style, though it’s a style closely tied to Rembrandt’s. Bol built on the master’s techniques to develop his own oscillating effects in fabrics, and mid-1660s Netherlandish art adored rich stuffs and exotic costumes. All painters made “tronies,” portraits of subjects dressed in fictive, historical dress, the more opulent the better — Rembrandt’s studio must have looked like a wardrobe trailer on a film set — and they fancied scenes of substantial women leaning out windows or half-doors. My favorite Rembrandt used to be a painting of Saskia looking out a Dutch door — it’s in the Art Institute of Chicago — until experts determined that Rembrandt didn’t paint it. It’s still one of my favorite pictures, but my favorite Rembrandt it can no longer be. Anyway, Bol made a sensuous etching of a woman leaning out a window offering passers-by (i.e., us) a pear and her come-up-and-see-me-some-time allure. The pear’s curve repeat the U-shaped necklace dangling above a scooped-neck dress that’s doing its best to contain the rotund, voluptuous fall of her breasts.

Bol possessed impressive gifts, and he learned much from Rembrandt’s way of cross-hatching tonal zones and mass. Rembrandt’s work, though, is more finely modulated passage-to-passage, from cavernous shadow to the wily delicacy of beads, women’s hair, and textiles. And the gift of representing human character can’t be learned. You either have a feeling for it or you don’t. Bol didn’t quite have Rembrandt’s way with eyes as repositories and instruments of feeling. In his best etchings, the eyes seem to look inward even as they look out on the world. In Self-Portrait with Saskia, Rembrandt depicts himself in a dashing feathered hat — he’s a world-beater, full of beans, more than a little arrogant. Saskia stands behind his shoulder, demure, calmly self-contained, but her look is custodial: her man may be the player, but she’s the stake-holder.

Rembrandt was the more audacious, but and Bol and both pushed etching toward finer textural expressiveness and subtler lighting. The buoyant angel in Bol’s Gideon’s Sacrifice floats upon the earth dressed not so much in a seraphic gown as in a sketchily outlined phantasmal whiteness. And the drypoint lines and crosshatching in Rembrandt’s St. Jerome in a Dark Room strain bright window light through tattered curtains toward a wall’s scoured surface that gradually darkens to nearly monotonous darkness: in the middle zone sits Jerome, his mediating human intelligence operating in the middle passage between vague light and storm-cloud darkness. The closer you scrutinize these things, the more lost you become in the tumbling of line and mass. Their energy feels like a desirable contagion.

GALLERIES

“John Henry” Opening reception for exhibit of “stuff” by rising San Diego artist David Adey, who transforms Main Gallery “in a trib-
Oh, so embarrassing! I’ve known for a long time that Soleil @ K had changed chefs (the opening chef moved on to another local restaurant), but it took an abominable snow job by Wolfgang Verkaaik (restaurant-ad manager and soi-disant “food critic” for the daily paper) to spur me to action. Last fall, chef Eddie Fincher arrived from the Grand Hotel and the Del Mar Country Club, and his menu claims to focus on natural proteins and local produce. Well, these may be near clichés of the new San Diego cuisine, but, hey, they’re a lot better than old SD cuisine — or even the spotty cooking I ate when I reviewed the restaurant shortly after its opening. Sweetening the pot, current offerings include a three-course prix fixe (no choices) for $30. Little as I trust Verkaaik (whose culinary literacy displays itself in at least one misspelled dish nearly every column), I thought I’d give Soleil a shot.

Turns out, yet another downtown hotel restaurant is coming through with fine ingredients, intelligent preparations, and sensitive, expert cooking. The guys in this kitchen are all obviously seasoned pros. How rare is that?

The dining room is chic, with a glassed-in open kitchen visible through an inner wall and walls of windows facing the street. There are a few leather(ette?) booths sized for two or three, but it’s mainly tables and punishing chairs with hard, lacquered woven-rush seats. (Oddly, the patio chairs have cushions over those seats.) In the center are two long wooden communal tables, for parties or, presumably, singles willing to party. Each table has a server (or, presumably, singles willing to party with strangers. That Thursday night, after about half the seats were occupied, but the noise level was minimal, even with a large family group in the middle of the restaurant, including a few exuberant kiddies.

The cocktail list is heavy on martini and cosmo variations, but I’m not a cosmo gal. While posse ant kiddies.

Middle of the restaurant, including a few exuberantly seasoned pros. How rare is that?

The starter on the prix fixe was a mound of smoked-salmon shreds sprinkled with chopped chives, accompanied by shredded mild cheese and chopped raw sweet onions served on the side, along with a heap of pita triangles. Not mind-blowing but tasty — that traditional Eastern European onion garnish was the key.

The dinner’s first sensational dish (of two) was tempura lobster. Since there’s no lobster entrée on the menu (and fearing more awful “knuckle-meat”), I inquired about its ancestry before ordering. It’s cold-water lobster from Canada. The lightly battered crustacean meat proved tender, succulent, and generously garnished with creamy-gooey wild-mushroom risotto enriched with truffle butter. This substance, tasting exactly like the high-priced spread made by New York’s great D’Artagnan French food emporium, was loaded with genuine truffle flavor, the very stuff that drives Périgord’s truffle-snuffling pigs (and yours truly) wild with desire. “I would rather eat one entrée and flavorful enough for a whole dinner’s worth of entrées”.

Now, I wished I’d gambled on the lobster cream soup with lobster dumplings — no such thing as too much lobster, if it’s good lobster. Instead, I hedged my bets with bouillabaisse — a tomatoey broth filled with slices of mahi, bass, salmon, scallops, and shrimp, none overcooked. A thick slab of lightly toasted bread (no discernible rouille, alas, merely a waft of red pepper) lounged at the rim of the pool,
dangling its ankles in the liquid. It wants to be pushed in and dunked; it won’t squeal. Not a great bouillabaisse — short on fennel flavor, saffron, and shellfish — but mildly pleasing as a starter.

The kitchen includes a wood-burning oven, and about a third of the starter choices consist of artisan flatbreads (think pita) with various interesting toppings. That evening’s special featured pesto, mushrooms, roasted tomatoes, mozzarella, Parmesan, and Italian sweet sausage — hey, a mini-pizza! The sausage was the spoiler: neither sweet Sicilian fennel sausage nor Neapolitan hot sausage, as I’d hoped, but some bland thing cut in rectangular slices that looked and tasted like gyro meat. There are better topping choices, such as heirloom tomatoes and fresh mozzarella. Or turn to the plethora of imaginative salads.

Starter portions (along with entrees) are generously sized for sharing. Jim was by now set on bringing his boss here for an appetizer-grazing meal, which might include filling choices such as a rib stack, lamb lollipops, or duck-confit spring rolls.

The wine list is odd. There’s top-shelf supermarket favorite Edna Valley Chardonnay (regularly $10, retail) selling for $36, and Clos du Bois Chard ($9 a bottle at supermarkets) selling for $9 per glass, even if they’re both three years old (BFD). But you’ll find loads of these familiar bottlings running about $36 here, plus a few “special occasion” aged reds and bubbles priced a great deal higher. Our St. Supéry Sauvignon was crisp, clean, swell with the starters; the Bridlewood Syrah for the entrees was mellow and user-friendly but shallow for a Rhone grape. Give me a mulligan and for a few bucks more I’d order the Wild Horse Paso Robles Merlot ($40) or the organic Raymond Reserve Merlot ($52).

The knockout entrée was the Sea Ranch grass-fed rib-eye steak ($34), a triumph of animal husbandry and cooking. Semi-coherently I’d ordered it “very rare — not actually dripping-blood-raw but really red, y’know?” Charming waitress Ashley relayed this to the kitchen, and the cook seemed to read my mind. The steak was thin but flawless, well seared outside and rich red inside, and the soulful flavor of grass-fed meat took it to a different realm from just more boring beef. Here was an atavistic thrill rarely encountered in these days of Cryovac-aged, corn-fed coconut-potato caille — pure, deep beef flavor. I almost wanted to kiss the cook and the rancher who raised the animal, and even smack a big wet one on the steer himself, but for the fact that his canvoodling days were done. The red-wine reduction sauce reemphasized the intense flavor. Garnishes included fried leeks and a cake of creamy au gratin potatoes, plus a few baby carrots and broccoli. The table talked turned to how most steakhouses are overpriced disappointments, compared.”This just washes out the beef at Ruth’s Chris,” said Michelle.

This being a Gaslamp restaurant, prone to convention- eers and tourists who send back perfect fish for more cooking, I remembered to say the magic words when ordering the horseradish-crusted black sea bass. “We’re not Yankees, we don’t want it desert-dry — we’re coastal, we want it tender.” Ashley and the kitchen got that one, too. The bass was a tall, moist monolith of steaky white fish, very lightly bread-crumb crusted — but I didn’t really taste any horseradish. It came with a mound of terrific creamy polenta with a pleasant savoriness, most likely a splash of crème fraîche. Broccoli spears and carrots were the token veggies.

The prix-fixe dinner’s porcini-dusted scallops (most likely decent dry-pack, not day-boat or diver) were cooked tender, displaying their natural hint of sweetness, but the crust was a bust. The mushroom room powder was burned deeply bitter, as senseless in the context as instant espresso. Once that burn hit the surface of the hot skillet, the only proper garnishes for the dish would be wooden stakes or silver bullets. A tarragon cream sauce (a keeper) clung valiantly and vainly to the scallops, trying to soak away the touch of evil. And was the silky, bithive heap of mashed sweet potatoes supposed to be the good fairy with an antidote to the poison? (Who decided sweet yams would go with scallops?) Asparagus and cherry tomatoes were present, too. As Tommy Lee Jones said in The Fugitive, contemplating a train wreck: What. A. Mess.

The sweet potatoes unfortunately recurs, this time as a gratin, with roast Maple Leaf duck, glazed with lavender honey. They shouldn’t have. (Duck is not Thanksgiving turkey.) And neither should the carrot-broccoli veggie garnish, repeated from the bass entrée — the identical tedious veggie combo you’ll find in about half the varieties of Lean Cuisine.” A restaurant this potentially good shouldn’t be serving something so close to old-time “Sysco medley.” Soleil claims to cook Modern California cuisine, so you expect and crave more interesting vegetation — don’t we grow it all right here? (With the food average teetering at 3.7, the blah veggies resulted in a loss of a half-point in the overall rating.)

The duck’s ultra-sweet sauce and rich meat cried out for earthy, dark contrasts — a heap of wilted arugula, celery-root mash, braised baby turnips, or maybe broccoli or broccoflower. The duck skin was soft and flabby, although I rather liked the thin layer of soft fat underneath. The meat was tough. I’m not sold on Maple Leaf brand duck, which most local restaurants use — guess I’m still spoiled by the availability of fresh little local Muscovy and busty, skinny-legged Moulardes at the supermarkets and Asian grocery up north.

The dessert for the prix fixe was competent, ordinary vanilla crème brûlée with fresh berries. Jim chose Krispy Kreme bread pudding, the decadent donuts melted into a custard. Maybe Krispy’s moment is over: we all craved a sharp hit of cinnamon to brighten up that familiar, cloying vanilla-Crisco-cholesterol flavor. More sophisticated choices include chocolate babycakes, lemon meringue tart, and Florentine cookie basket, not to mention a plate of four exciting international cheeses with fruit garnishes.

The menu says, “The spirit of community starts with sharing.” The portions drive home that motif. (I got six good dinners out of the doggie bags.) Even with the small flaws, we’d been eating very well. Emmy, who’d just read that week’s Tom Ham’s review and paid attention to prices, voiced the moral of the story: “I can’t believe that anybody would rather eat mediocre food, view or no view, when for the same price or less, they can eat delicious food here.” At the end, food only costs us about $44 per person (reviews are spurger as than reality, of course), but the large portions can easily halve that price for moderate eaters who take home goodies to enjoy on the next watery weeknight when cooking seems unimaginable.

*Note: Now and then I like to mention discoveries of decent-tasting, not-too-evil store-bought food products to fill in when you’re too tired to cook or go out. Latest find is Kashi frozen dinners. Not as tasty as Michael Angelo’s Eggplant Parmesan or Nancy’s Quiches (or whatever Trader Joe’s is offering this month that you’ll never see again), but filling, virtuous, not awful. The calorie and carb counts are about the same as mainstream frozen “diet dinners” (e.g., Lean Cuisine) but for about 10 ounces, rather than six or eight. Big-brand diet dinners typically offer two ounces of soggy or dry meat-protein, and gooey sauce sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup, plus a stick of broccoli and four ounces of “empty carbs” (mash or white rice), and always leave me hungry. Kashi offers a huge heap of interesting, healthy whole grains (plus the same skimpy two ounces of protein and insipid gravy as the bad guys, but minus the corn syrup). You’d think you were back in the 70’s eating hippie stir-fry — except, after nuking, their typical understated Asian sauces are easy to re-season with shots of Thai or Vietnamese fish sauce, lime juice, soy sauce, sesame oil, hot pepper oil, and/or a complex Caribbean-style hot sauce like Jump Up and Kiss Me. After that, they could even pass for faintly ethnic food.

Sad and sadder gossip: “Tan me hide when I’m dead, Fred, tan me hide when I’m dead. So we tanned his hide when he died, Clyde. And that’s it ‘hangin’ in the shed” at big, splashy Bondi, Australia’s giant foothold in the Gaslamp. Seems as though in hard times, size counts, mate — and the bigger they are, the harder they fall. But the dissolution of another, foodie-beloved biggie is a shock: The Marriott abruptly decided to tear up Arterra, firing the chef, sommelier, and restaurant manager in one swell foop, if my reliable informant has it right. The corporate suits want to remake the restaurant into something else entirely. What that might be remains a mystery, but don’t be optimistic. I’m thinking franchise, the way they did downtown, replacing Molly’s with Roy’s. Hey, Chef Maitland — email me when you get your next gig. I like your cooking!■

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San Diego Reader February 25, 2010 81
A Little Rock, A Little Bite

“The secret’s in the steaming,” he says. “Makes the bun tender.”

It’s 11:00 at night, downtown Tijuana. “Only, only Marcelino, Only, only pan y vino…” Carlos Ubario Macias sings merrily. He’s sitting on the stool next to me, out on the street at Marcelino’s tiny counter. “That’s from a popular Spanish movie that came out in 1950,” he explains.

“Marcelino hasn’t been around that long, have you?” Marcelino laughs. But he doesn’t lift his head. He’s busy at his cutting board, making up a torta.

I’m in a good vibe here. Spent the past hour in El Dandy del Sur, two steps down the hill, just past El Chez, a nightclub that does rock on Friday and Saturday nights, hoping to lure American kids back.

Dandy and Chez may not have the gringos yet, but this Friday night, it feels like all tijuanenses are cramming into this little section of Sixth Street where it plunges down between Revolución and Madero. It’s just a bunch of off-Broadway bars, eateries, dance places, and a couple of cheap hotels, but now — no question — something’s happening.

I’d never noticed Marcelino’s place till tonight. Saw a crowd in a pool of light around this hole-in-the-wall called “Tortas de la Sexta.” It’s small but smart, with red-tile frontage and a woman security cop, says best eats are at a no-name place next to the Salon de Baile La Estrella dance hall, across the street.

I’m tempted but feel loyalty to Marcelino now. Besides, a torta will go down easy. So, a moment later, I’m back two doors up, at Tortas de la Sexta, flopping down on one of Marcelino’s two stools, right next to Carlos, the guy who’s serenading him. “And now you’re hungry?” Marcelino says. “Only thing is, you must eat it while it’s hot, or the bun goes flat. Okay?”

“Fine,” I say.

“There’s your choice,” says Marcelino, pointing to a list on the wall. They’re about 35 pesos, maybe $2.60 each. Main selection’s between ham, beef tenderloin, vegetarian, and portobello, meaning stuffed with mushrooms. Or, “La Especial,” which is ham and beef tenderloin and cheese.

I get the special and an agua fresca — orange — (12 pesos, $1). Marcelino is right: the torta’s so light and the insides are so liquidy, it’s almost a drink. “The secret’s in the steaming,” he says. “It makes the bun tender.” I put some chipotle salsa on it, and that heats it up and makes the beef and ham and cheese more interesting.

“You can thank the emperador Maximiliano for that telera,” Carlos says. “The emperor brought French bread here in the 1860s. My family was French, too, but they came earlier. My ancestor, Juan Carlos Ubario, landed in 1788. But to this day, with 160 million people in Mexico, there are only 16 people with the name Ubario. It is very rare.”

“Wow,” I say. “You are one in a million.”

“One in ten million, my friend.”

Carlos says his family raises fighting bulls in Agua Caliente. “I’m up here to be near my sons, who are studying in the U.S.,” he says. “I prefer Mexico, but I want to be near them.”

“Eat,” says Marcelino, “or it won’t be any good.”

“Only, only Marcelino, Only, only pan y vino…” sings Carlos, again.

I chow down.

“No rush,” says Marcelino. “I am here till 7:00 tomorrow morning.”

“Ever see any trouble?” I ask.

“No really,” he says. He brings out a little digital video camera. “But if there is, even if I see the police not behaving well, I take pictures. It was the city that supplied me with this camera.”

Uh-oh. Cinderella time. Midnight’s gonna chime, and I’ve got that last trolley to think about. I could have downed one more of these tortas. Can’t tell if it’s the atmosphere or the taste. The cheese — okay American cheese — the tomato, the avocado…there’s nothing all that Mexican about it, except for the steamed telera bun. But, just like TJ’s street hotdogs, it feels special. When I get back up to the corner with Revolución, I turn. I can just hear Carlos, still singing in that pool of light.  

The Place: Tortas de la Sexta, Calle 6a (Flores Magón), between Revolución and Madero

Type of Food: Mexican

Prices (approximate): La Especial torta, with lomo (beef tenderloin), ham, avocado, American cheese, tomatoes, mayonnaise, 36 pesos (about $2.70); ham torta, 2.60; beef tenderloin torta, 2.60; vegetarian torta, 2.60; portobello (mushroom) torta, 2.60

Hours: Noon–9:00 p.m., Monday–Tuesday; noon till 2:00 a.m., Wednesday–Thursday; noon till 7:00 a.m., Friday–Saturday; closed Sunday

Buses: Mexicocoach, San Ysidro to Tijuana

Nearest Bus Stop: Mexicocoach terminal between Sixth and Seventh Streets, on Revolución
RESTAURANT LISTINGS
A complete searchable list of over 1400 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.

Allied Gardens
Brothers Family Restaurant 5150 Waring Rd., Allied Gardens, 619-287-0880. All the staples: country-fried steak and eggs, pork chops with eggs, Grandma Jennie’s pancakes with ham, bacon, and sausage — even hefty beef or tuna or turkey sandwiches with soup. Inexpensive.

Alpine

Fred’s Old Fashioned Burgers 2734 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, 619-445-1264. You get a bang for your burger buck, from the junior burger to quarter-pounder and half-pounders to Fred’s three-quarter-pound “monster burger.” Even the BLT sandwich comes loaded with six slabs of bacon. Inexpensive.

Baja
From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Cien Años Calle Jose Maria Velasco #1407, Tijuana, 664-634-3039. Mexican haute cuisine, with complex sauces based on Mexican ingredients including tropical fruits, nuts, and chili peppers. Treats: mushroom-studded king beef, chocolate-flavored mini tacos, posole with crabmeat. Moderate.

Happy Face Restaurant In Plaza Yvo Tijana (near Yellow Cab parking area), Tijuana. Breakfast (all day) includes chilaquiles with chips doused in cheese, a thin steak, frijoles, rice, chips, salsa, coffee, and a house salad. Inexpensive.

Manzanilla Boulevard Teneriente Azueta #139, Ensenada, 664-175-7075. Sophisticated “new” Mexican cuisine at this Euro-style bistro features seasonal menus with fresh-caught seafood, locally grown vegetables, and mesquite smoke from the wood-burning grill. A spectacular rib-eye steak, tender and intensely beefy, is a constant. Moderate.

El Nido Boulevard Benito Juárez #67, Rosarito, 661-812-1430. In a restaurant full of cages of birds (and a patio with free birds a-winging), enjoy sublime mesquite-grilled aged steaks, quail with garlic sauce, or venison — especially the savory machaca de venado (meat strips with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Mostly moderate; cash only.

Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, Tijuana, 664-855-8579. This café may have the best tortas (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salami, tomato slices, fresh-scooped avocado. Inexpensive.

Salon Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel (south end of Blvd. Benito Juárez), Rosarito, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel’s all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. Somewhat expensive for the area.

Banker’s Hill
Alex’s Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Ave., Banker’s Hill, 619-231-2912. The re-born Alex’s (now in the Mr. A’s building) is a deli rightly famous for its Original Philadelphia Cheese Steak Sandwich. Inexpensive.

Hexagon 695 Laurel St., Banker’s Hill, 619-236-0647. This urban spin-off of Rancho Bernardo’s French Market Grille offers provincial “bougeois cuisine” (snails, frog legs, bouillabaisse) nearly identical to that of the mother ship — including the inconsistent nightly quality. Moderate to expensive.

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Ave., Banker’s Hill, 619-239-8176. All-day breakfasts and sandwiches, and at dinner, while there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom style) are the order of the day. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Bay Park
Bay Park Fish Company 4121 Ashlon St., Bay Park, 619-278-3474. Go big (surf ‘n’ turf can cost you thirty-
$9 for $20 worth of Lebanese food and drink

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese Deli
in North Park

$20 for $45 worth of food at Paradise Grille in Del Mar

“Best New Restaurant”
– California Restaurant Association.
Borrego Springs

Olde Homestead Fudge Co., 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs, 760-767-5772. The chocolate walnut fudge is delicious, but the masterpiece when in season is the Date Shake — a cold quaff that’s an embroil on a hot afternoon. Inexpensive.

Pabito’s of the Desert 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs, 760-767-5753. The most authentic dishes come from the Specialties section of the menu, including a good pork in green chile sauce, enchiladas, and chilaquiles. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Cardiff

Beach House 2330 S. Coast Hwy., 101, Cardiff, 760-753-1321. Branch of a beachy mini-chain. Great oceanfront view, but stay with the simplest foods — burgers, steak, unfussy eggs. Weekend branch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive.

Carlsbad

Fidel’s Carlsbad 3083 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-729-0930. It’s not upscale modern Mex, but who gives a firey fajita when you can order just about any traditional SoCal-Mexican dish and know it’s gonna be good? Inexpensive.

Vivace 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. First-class ingredients enliven skillfully executed Italian haute cuisine — think Medici princes, not mamma mia. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas) to very expensive.

Carmel Valley

Jimbo’s, Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-793-7775. Organic grocery chain with prepared foods to go. Best deals at the hot case are usually the daily specials, like vegan seitan stew (a low-fat meat substitute) or Shetland’s jerk turkey in fig sauce. Inexpensive to moderate.


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San Diego Reader February 24, 2010

F or 83 years, we’ve made it our business to spoil you. And we’re ready to do it once more. What’s new? Everything but the unparalleled ocean view. Our dining room has a fresh look and refined ambiance. Enjoy our deliciously crafted menu of California Cuisine, infused with a subtle Mediterranean touch by Chef Sean Eastwood. Your table awaits.

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misrize (lamb cooked inside thin mango skin) and pancita, similar to haggis. Inexpensive.

The canopy (spicy beef tartare) is good, the gored gored (meat in spicy butter) is excellent. Vibrant veggies, too. Inexpensive.

Super Cocio 3627 University Ave., City Heights, 619-384-8244. Mexican house specialty pepper for the restaurant. There's complex meat or poultry stews made without border compromises. The dinner entries change daily from a rotating repertoire of about 100. Inexpensive.

College Area

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Avarado Rd., College Area, 619-265-0218. A full range of European Jewish specialties including deli meats and smoked fish, house-baked breads and pastries, huge sandwich and dinner entries (including lovely Russian skin) and an ethnic sampler plate. Moderate.

The Living Hope and Bistro 5900 El Cajon Bl., College Area, 619-286-8434. Additional locations in Old Town, Point Loma, La Jolla. City National City. This Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with good breakfast fast food in huge quantities. Try "The Works" salmon. Inexpensive. Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Bl., College Area 619-287-3356. There's a special roll takes barbeited whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is filled with whitefish and garnishes. The Johnny roll shows otopos at its most tender. Inexpensive to moderate.

Coronado


Burger Lounge 922 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-6835. Additional locations in Kensington and La Jolla. Their Tallgrass beef is juicy, tastes sweet, and comes only from grass-fed cattle. Inexpensive, if you avoid extras like fries and union onions. Lill' Piggy's Bar-B-Que 1201 First St., Coronado, 619-522-0127. They call themselves "Memphis style" and indeed cook their meats and tender chicken in a barby-fued smoker. Consistency problem — some days you taste smoke, other days not a whiff. Local delivery available. Moderate. Primavera Ristorante 932 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-0454. Classic fine Italian cooking with creative nightly specials. Stuffed pastas are made in-house and rolled thin, gnocchi are exquisitely light, and entrees are more interesting than the appetizers. The asso bico is outstanding, as is a summertime seasonal "three cheese" pizza. Delish. Village Pizzaria 1206 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-522-0449. Moosowie Creamery owner David Spatafore decided to set up a cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white tablecloth, dancing, singing Chiante瓶 eatery where locals and families and amateur sports teams can come in and pig out on great pizza and calzone. Inexpensive.

Downtown


Croce's 802 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-4355. Live music, come in and pig out on great pizza and dinner. Seasonal, creative menu, but sit down for the best food here, like the shrimp camarones fritas and white garlic cream sauce. Fun people-watch ing from window tables. Expensive.

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar 807 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-233-4300. The real Buster surfed the world — Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Osho Bisso, Puerto Rico. Here is a surfer-pub dish from each of those waters, not one of them authentic. Bay View. Prices cover the waterfront.

Le Cake Château 1152 Seventh Ave., Downtown, 619-325-9977. This true French patisserie offers golden croissants, gorgeous pastries, and terrific fillings like croquembouche (glazed ham and cheese sandwich covered with a Mornay sauce) and crepes with seasonal fruit and sweet cream cheese. Inexpensive.

Cheese Shop 427 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-2303. Aliso 2165 Avenue de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Not much retail cheese anymore. They still have all-cheese sandwiches but now specialize in overstuffed giant roast beef sandwiches. Inexpensive.

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisi ne 750 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-236-9326. Enjoy grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stew rice dishes, and appetizers like kek ravi l (soukad), leek or meat turnovers (paalaw). Moderate.

City Pizzaria 1152 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-351-0955. Definitely West Coast pizza, with specialties like the Ranch Chicken pie with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken with pineapple, red onion, BBQ sauce, and mozzarella. Inexpensive.

Croce's 802 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-4355. Live music, come in and pig out on great pizza and dinner. Seasonal, creative menu, but sit down for the best food here, like the shrimp camarones fritas and white garlic cream sauce. Fun people-watch ing from window tables. Expensive.

Zodiak 416 S. St., Downtown, 619-232-5103. Live music, come in and pig out on great pizza and dinner. Seasonal, creative menu, but sit down for the best food here, like the shrimp camarones fritas and white garlic cream sauce. Fun people-watch ing from window tables. Expensive.

Depot Café and Wine Bar 922 Orange Ave., Downtown, 619-286-5630. Definitely West Coast pizza, with specialties like the Ranch Chicken pie with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken with pineapple, red onion, BBQ sauce, and mozzarella. Inexpensive.

Osteria Panevino 722 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-351-9759. The glory days have passed, but starters (mazzearella campagnola, fritti misto) still shine, and pastas can be excellent. Osso buco with marrow is a host entree. Try the lemon torte, leave the cannoli. Expensive. on up.

Marriott Hotel, 333 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-239-7997. Also 8670 Genesee Ave., La Jolla, 858-455-4166. Our outpost of top Hawaiian chef Roy Yamaguchi’s ever-expanding chain, serving Pacific Rim fusion and sushi on a large deck. If you can afford it, end with the signature chocolate soufflé. Very expensive.

Royal India 329 Market St., Downtown, 619-269-9999. Standard North Indian Sikh menu. The lunch buffet costs a bit more than rock bottom, but is a decent deal if you care about fla vor — none of the dishes have that sludge-same taste that many cheap buffets. Moderate to expensive.

Safad 828 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-338-0088. Also 613 Pearl St., La Jolla, 858-351-0463. Great Persian food, better at the more adult-oriented L.L. bean branch. Try skewers of chicken or ground mint gremolata with rice or salad, or alfahl polo rice, dried cherries and, Infusional fusion menu. Very expensive. Moderate.

Suite & Tender Hotel 1047 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-513-3003. Celebrity chef Christopher Lee officially released (phoning it in from Manhattan). Cocktails are more creative than the corpor ate faves. "Pick your system." Fine raw bar and surf "n' turf combos won't rock your world. Expensive.

Toulouse Cafe and Wine Bar 238 4th Ave., Downtown, 619-233-0788. This chubby bistro/coffee wine place offers reasonable breakfasts with organic coffee and croissants, and elegant happy-hour specials on bites, wines, upscale beers. Inexpensive to moderate.

Tula's 1 Park Boulevard (next to the Marriott Drive), Downtown, 619-564-3333. "Farm to fork" local-grown dinners in a cozy, minimal setting with, in ingredients, and first week of the month offers a bargain prix fixe exploring a national cuisine. Vibrant stand and, if you could, hash dishes could make a great grazing meal with a view. Expensive, not very.


**E n c i n i t a s**

Bubby’s Gelato 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3563. Sand-wiches include ingredients requiring Mediterran-ean combinations. Gelato is twice as rich as Haagen-Dasz and features bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and chocolate cinnamon. Inexpensive.

Kim’s Restaurant 745 First St., Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Viet-namese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. Huge menu highlighted by Vietnamese house specialties and seafood also includes a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes. Moderate.

**P o t a t o  S a c k  C a f é 1 2 0  W. J S t., Encinitas, 760-436-1282. You’ll find generosity here, of the North County-bang-loose-suffer kind. You can split a plate for no charge, get bottomless coffees, endless fries (French or “American cottage fries”), “manhole-cover size” pancakes (weighting as much as their name implies), good pork chop breakfasts, great lunch burgers, and huge trees to sit under.**

Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant 3176 Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-5001. The focus is vegan and vegetarian, but they’ve added fish and a garlic-chicken pizza. Most popular item: falafel burger (made of garbanzo beans) on a bun with melted cheese. Inexpensive.

Swami’s Café 1163 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. There are standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black-bean burrito, but the emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofutti, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Inexpensive.

**K a z u m i ’ s 5 0 3 7 W. J S t., Encinitas, 760-682-4054. Kazumi’s simple but imaginative rolls are distinctively seasoned to flatter the particular fish’s flavor. For families, the Ultimate Boat is a huge, encyclopedic platter of sushi, cruts-thin enough to fold in a V and eat on the run. Better yet: get a whole pie to enjoy at leisure. Neighborhood delivery available. Inexpensive.**

**H o b  N o b  H i l l  B r e a k f a s t, L u n c h  & D i n n e r $2 o f f e n t r è e 2271 First Avenue • 619.239.8176 A San Diego landmark since 1944 • Reservations accepted Minimum entry $10. Good for up to 2 people. Not valid on weekends or holidays or with other offers. Offer good through 3/11/10.**

**E s c o n d i d o**

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 W. Mission Ave., Escondido, 760-489-6420. Omelets are light, thin crepe-like eggs wrapped around mounds of elaborately thick sauces. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crepes, potato cazzeroles, humongous burgers, and sandwiches. Inexpensive.

Hernandez’ Hide-Away 19320 Lake Dr., Escondido, 760-746-1444. The margaritas (rocks, not slushy) are terrific, on a par with Baja’s best. The food is a standard menu of Cal-Mex specialties. A pleasant “enchilada pie” is as good as any Midwestern mom’s. Inexpensive to moderate.

**G o l d e n  H i l l  Pizzeria Luigi 1137 25th St., Golden Hill, 619-235-3909. Also 2121 El Cajon Blvd., North Park, 619-294-9417. Real New York pizza, with just-right sauce and crispy-garlicky chicken pizza. Most popular item: falafel burger (made of garbanzo beans) on a bun with melted cheese. Inexpensive.**

Swami’s Café 1163 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. There are standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black-bean burrito, but the emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofutti, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Inexpensive.

**A l i  B a b a  R e s t a u r a n t 4 2 1  E Main St., El Cajon, 619-442-3622. Chaldean patronized, rackety gastro-pub’s menu. At night, multiethnic chefs step in to cook up a pan-Asian panoply.**

**La C as ta 1 2 4 7 C St., S t., El Cajon, 619-531-0044. Some of the best chorizo con huevos (spicy pork sausage with eggs) in town. Most delicious is watching Anglo city-hallers trying to love the house-made menudo (tripe soup). Inexpensive.**

J. Wok 744 Market St, East Village, El Cajon, 619-231-1088. Beave attempt to fuse Asian and American foods. Sit on the sidewalk or inside under the tiger (a great mural by local artist Mark Richmond). Try the “Modern Mix” side of the menu—with, say, Korean BBQ getting the Puffy treatment—or the “Traditional” side, with standards like pad thai. Open daily; lunch till late. Inexpensive.

Lotus Thai 906 Market St., El Village, 619-595-0113. Also 3781 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-298-8272. The chefs are from northwest Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of that region—a zestiness, a love of strong citruses and herbs—evokes the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Low-moderate.

Neighborhood 777 G St., East Village, 619-446-0002. This mainly male-dominated, racy gay-pub-like men’s centers on fine half-pound burgers, plus steak tartare, sweet potato fries with blue cheese curds, creative deviled eggs, mac ‘n’ cheese, and big, interesting salads. Inexpensive to very low-moderate.

Pokez Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E St., East Village, 619-752-7669. Hipster atmosphere and mainly Mexican vegetarian fare (with some carnivore dishes like shockingly good-portioned chicken fajitas). Inexpensive.

Zanzibar Café 707 G St., East Village, 619-230-0125. Also 976 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-272-4762. Casual food until 11pm or later. The thre-ee-egg breakfast scramble is great. So are the avocado-feta cheese omelet and eggs Benedict with non-Canadian bacon, and the indulgent blueberry buttermilk pancakes. Inexpensive.

**H i l l c r e s t  A l ’ a d d i n ’ s  M e d i t e r r a n e a n  R e s t a u r a n t 1 2 2 0  C l e o d a l N e w o r k A v e., Hillcrest, 619-574-1111. Also 3420 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Clairemont, 858-573-0000. Middle-Eastern favorites (burrumus, tabbouleh, kebabs, shaw-erma, etc.). Hillcrest branch offers more authentic Lebanese flavors. Inexpensive to moderate.**

Café on Park 3831 Park Blvd., Hillcrest, 619-293-7275. The place looks trendy, but don’t expect PC food. Plates overflow with hearty American fodder. Breakfast especially popular, with huge elaborate scrambles and the prize plate of ’49er miners who struck gold: the Hangtown Fry, marinated oysters in scrambled eggs. Moderate.

Crest Café 623 Robinson Ave., Hillcrest, 619-295-2910. “Hearty Homemade Comfort Food” is both the boast and the cuisine, including Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, steamed veggie basket, and 11 types of burger (including salmond). Open early to midnight, daily. Inexpensive.


Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. Kazumi’s simple but imaginative rolls are distinctively seasoned to flatter the particular fish’s flavor. For families, the Ultimate Boat is a huge, encyclopedic platter of sushi, cruts-thin enough to fold in a V and eat on the run. Better yet: get a whole pie to enjoy at leisure. Neighborhood delivery available. Inexpensive.**
Pappalecco 1602 State St., Little Italy, 619-238-4590. Copy of a café in Pisa that three brothers created there and now here. Meals are mostly saludable-carbohydrate-combo. Of this, a tea is expertly grilled, and the Italian sours (from Pete’s Meat, up the block) are zesty. Moderate.

Mission Beach

National City

Ocean Beach
Roots 4976 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-9900. Tiny vegan-organic eatery offers crunchy wraps like the Thai Peanut and the Arti (arichoke hearts, feta cheese). Interesting wraps include portobello mushroom octopus, mussels topped with melted cheese, roast beef au jus. Plus gorgeous salad bars, adequate salads. Inexpensive.

North Park
Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego 2633 El Cajon Blvd, North Park, 619-295-0156. Now, as in the ’30s, chicken pie comes with chicken meat covered in white gravy and accompanied by mashed potatoes, veggies, casserole, a roll, and dessert. Inexpensive.

Oceanside
Azafar 1001 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, 760-435-0150. Cuban cuisine. Try house-baked breads, the tender roast pork with garlicky mojo sauce, or the traditional Cuban pressed sandwich oozing ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles. Inexpensive.

Pacific Beach
The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise St., Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. Classic French dishes — pâté, ratatouille, calf’s liver — in a bistro atmosphere. Start off with escargots or muscles and hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Fish, dessert pastries and cheese plate. Moderate to expensive.

Point Loma
Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Ave, Pacific Beach, 858-272-6868. Classy Chinese all-you-can-ratatama offers great surf ‘n’ turf possibilities, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or crab and roast duck. Or choose mouthwatering or caramel yuzu Japanese charcoal grilled ed (onage) on rice. Inexpensive.

Kono’s 704 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach 858-488-1669. Chow down on a patio on the pier at this inside-outside prototypical Californian surfer hangout. You’ll find locals al fresco here for generous breakfasts and burgers. Inexpensive.

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Dr., Pacific Beach, 858-272-5100. Right on the boardwalk with sea view, the prime rib, surf ‘n’ turf, and tournedos are expensive. But for the big prices, try the beach burger or seared ahi salad. Baked and hand-formed, a real treat for a moderate dinner.

Zanzibar Café 876 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-272-4782. Also 707 G St., Downtown, 619-238-0125. Casual food until 11pm or later. The three-ege breakfast scramble is great. So are the avocado, foie gras, and eggs Benedict with non-canadian bacon, and the indulgent blueberry butter muffins. Inexpensive.

La Fachada

La Pestreria Mexican Restaurant
1780 National Ave., National City, 619-295-0333. The specialty at this tourist favorite is Mexican family style, including sweet potato fries, a big burger oozing ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles. Inexpensive.

Mira Mesa
Gateway to India 9520 Black Mountain Rd., Mira Mesa, 858-386-3522. Friday or Saturday, it’s crowded with Indian families coming for the all-you-can-eat buffet of Punjabi and Guajarati specialties, including also curry, chule (garbanzo beans), bengan bartha (eggplant), and sensational Asian-mango desserts. Inexpensive.

Mission Hills
Gathering Bar and Grill 902 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-260-0400. Familiar comfort fare, like the Southwest burger (avocado, jack cheese, and salsa) or the Monte Cristo sandwich. Owner does magic card tricks around 6pm some evenings. Inexpensive.

Mission Valley
24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant 8787 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017. Hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Better yet, breakfast around the clock. Inexpensive to moderate.

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find it mind-boggling that photographers, who all supported SDGossipScene, would pull out all at the same time.”

According to Canales, her site covering the local club scene was contacted by five photographers “asking to please stop usage of their photos due to it conflicting with their photography…. SDGossipScene is currently on pause until other actions can be taken.”

Canales’s final post on the website blames one particular photographers “asking to talk behind your back, but I’m not like that. I’m telling you right now, you are not going to fuck this up for me.”

The two subsequently had a Facebook battle that included publicly posted messages from DeCamp. “You’re getting imagery for free. Perez [Hilton] pays tens of thousands of dollars for an image… This is serious business for me, the other photographers, the DJs, and the bar owners. A lot of people talk behind your back, but I’m not like that. I’m telling you right now, you are not going to fuck this up for me.”

“I can’t have my photos published on your website anymore. I’m getting a lot of complaints from the scenester girls I photograph and it’s conflicting with my brand.”

Canales says that her reposted photos from other websites can benefit both photographers and venues.

“Without club-photography, you can’t be seen.” She hopes to restart the website by bypassing photog permissions altogether. “Club promoters [and] owners can release club photos to SDGossipScene, since they pay the photographer for club photos.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

That’s So Un-Punk

“Vinnie Udo did not start Diatribe,” says guitarist Julius, who cofounded the influential all-vegetarian, antiwar punk band with bassist Sean in 1984. “[Vinnie] provided vocals for the band for approximately one year…. He was fired from the band in 1986. I hold the trademark to the band name, and I also composed all of the band’s songs.”

Udo, aka Vinnie Fono, recently announced he was resurrecting Diatribe, with himself as the only former member of that band. “None of the other three original members were asked if they wanted to participate,” says Julius. “I emailed him. He did not respond to my request to served with cease-and-desist letters by me.”

Contacted via email, Fono says, “Julius is against us doing this because he has nothing to do with music or the scene…. The band broke up shortly after I was kicked out. He says he composed all the songs, but when we started, I was playing drums, developing the songs, and doing the vocals. We never had any kind of agreement. We were an anarcho band, anti-big-music corporations. When we toured, we didn’t any proof to that claim…. He is really being un-punk, unlike how we started out.”

Julius says he may relaunch Diatribe himself. “It would depend on the willingness of the original members,” he qualifies, saying he’s still in touch with them. So would he ever consider a reunion that includes Fono?

“It would be unlikely.”

— Jay Allen Sanford
# FIRST THE RING. THEN THE BRACELET.

## MARCH 18 – 30

**Championship Event Kick-off March 29 at noon!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event #</th>
<th>Tournament</th>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Championship Event @ Noon</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<td>Tue 3/30/10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Last Chance No-Limit @ Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 3/30/10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Championship Event Final Table @ Noon</td>
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Mario's New Hat

One thing that’s clear from the start is that Mario Escovedo is not all that comfortable talking about himself. After 13 years of playing guitar and fronting the Dragons, he’s had enough time in the spotlight. Instead, he’d rather talk about his latest project, the bands he represents in his new life as Requiemme Management and Booking.

Why the name? “The regular spelling of requiem,” he says, “means a song of mourning performed as a memorial or for a dead person. It reminds me to keep the past the past and to keep moving forward, plus it sounds cool and gives you the impression that there’s some big corporate office downtown and not some guy working on his home computer somewhere in Normal Heights.”

Escovedo started Requiemme in 2008 with one band and grew into an eclectic roster of bands old and new, soul and rock, punk, and indie. Consider the Dogs, the Zeros, Mad Juana, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds, Darlings of Chelsea, and Maren Parusel.

“One thing I don’t want to have,” he says, “is a punk roster or a rock roster. I have to love the music. My roster has gone along the lines of my taste, which is very eclectic.”

For example, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds.

“When they were just starting out and you’d walk into the Tower bar, it felt like the real deal. It was a special thing to be around that music.” The result, he says, is that her blues became an unlikely hit with the indie-rock crowd, and he’s okay with that.

The Escovedo surname represents a small dynasty of music-industry eclecticism. Was Mario Escovedo’s music career a given?

“No. Actually, there was pressure for me to not go into music,” he says. He got a late start. He didn’t buy his first guitar until he was in college. And after the Dragons — his most successful band — was finished, so was he. Escovedo sold his amp and guitar and with the exception of a few reunion shows, he hasn’t performed since.

“But now,” he says, “I get something back out of seeing musicians further themselves.” He still works a day job as an assignment editor for KFMB-TV news, a position he’s held for 24 years, “I get off work at 3 p.m., and I go to work on Requiemme.” Escovedo works alone out of his house and says he logs 18- to 20-hour work days.

“It’s something that started out as an idea of helping Sami in Mad Juana, to picking up [more] bands and getting to where I’m now doing bookings.”

Requiemme’s artists will be showcased this coming March at the annual South by Southwest music-industry conference.

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28
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CALIFORNIA CENTER
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7:00PM DOORS · ALL AGES
TICKETS AT CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
ESCONDIDO TICKET OFFICE
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SUNDAY MAY 23
BALBOA THEATRE
868 FOURTH AVE · SAN DIEGO · 5:00PM DOORS · ALL AGES
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ESCONDIDO TICKET OFFICE
CHARGE BY PHONE 800-988-4253

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AS LOW AS $10!

CHARGE BY PHONE: 800.745.3000
ALL DATES, ACTS & TICKET PRICES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. A SERVICE
CHARGE IS ADDED TO EACH TICKET PRICE.
San Diego and disco-pop and emergent trio 094-95  2/23/10  8:05 AM  Page 94

Poster boy Chris Carrabba and his Boca band. He’s 63 now and still working the world. “Just Disagree”) checks into Anthology for two in first. Word: this is one of them don’t-miss-a-lick, slack key.”

Moves easily from screaming Stratocaster to sweet guitar encores. If his far-left socio-politicking gives you pause, his tunes will goose your bum-bum. Touchies will give it up at Soda Bar with Mexi glam-pop peeps the Great room to see a show, too.... Or go get punk’d with the Toasters, Los Kung Fu Monkeys, the Fabulous Rudies, Bucket of Fish, and them dama fine Mayors of SexyTown...while Hot Outrun the Wagon and the Gang and The Gang at Casbah.

Thursday 25

Down with Liberty, Up with Chains. D.C. artist and internet talk show host Ian Svenonius’s Chain and the Gang will do time at Casbah tonight. Svenonius (Nation of Ulysses) is an interesting cat, and this is interesting stuff, like angsty (your angel, not his) beat poetry over loose grooves and cocktail jazz. If his far-left socio-politicking gives you pause, his tunes will goose your bum-bum. Austin’s rural garage-rockers Austin’s rural garage-rockers with the Pigmies will set the stage.... Whistle Strop has a fun-filled bill with old-pop acts Rafter and Lion Cut and disco diva Lizeth Santos’s Smile Now Cry Later. Celebrate what would’ve been Johnny Cash’s 78th birthday bash at Belly Up with the best Cash trib act I’ve ever seen, Cash’d Out. Country skunks Pushin Rope and Off the Wagon will set the Solana Beach stage.... Che Cafe’s got some eclectic folkie poppy rockers with Vision of a Dying World. Miss Erika Davies, Greg Page, and Logan Green. And Red Tiger chases Wirepony into Bar Pink.

Friday 26

Acrobatic bluesman Guitar Shorty brings his thing to Humphrey’s Backstage Friday night. The 70-year-old Texan’s the real deal. Get your hands on Shout! Factory catchall The Best of Guitar Shorty. The Long and Short of It for the proof and the puddin’. Shorty shuffles and walks and will throw in a stage flip or two for good measure. Great room to see a show, too.... Or go get punk’d at Casbah by the Adolescents. Culled from the remains of Social D. and Agent Orange, these Fullerton skate rats have been working it on and off since 1980, joining punk revivalists such as Black Flag and Minor Threat on the hardcore front. Unlike those two bands, though, the Adolescents got a record contract right this year. Youth Brigade and ex-Atoms act the Watusi will set the stage.... Whistle Strop has a fun-filled bill with old-pop acts Rafter and Lion Cut and disco diva Lizeth Santos’s Smile Now Cry Later. Celebrate what would’ve been Johnny Cash’s 78th birthday bash at Belly Up with the best Cash trib act I’ve ever seen, Cash’d Out. Country skunks Pushin Rope and Off the Wagon will set the Solana Beach stage.... Che Cafe’s got some eclectic folkie poppy rockers with Vision of a Dying World. Miss Erika Davies, Greg Page, and Logan Green. And Red Tiger chases Wirepony into Bar Pink.

Saturday 27

Pop-poet Brooklynite Pepi Ginsberg’s got multiple personalities that swing from Suzanne Vega to Tom Waits. She’s dubbed her new one, East Is East, “psychadelic deer piss.” Mmm...drink up, it’s out now on Park the Van Records. She’s sharing the Soda with Mexi glam-pop peeps the Great room to see a show, too.... Or go get punk’d with the Toasters, Los Kung Fu Monkeys, the Fabulous Rudies, Bucket of Fish, and them dama fine Mayors of SexyTown...while Hot Outrun the Wagon and the Gang and The Gang at Casbah.

Sunday 28

Singer, drummer, guitarist Scout Niblett finds Bar Pink Sunday night. The English indie hit signed to Drag City for this year’s Calcination of Scout Niblett, another yummy Albeni-produced slow-dancer. With our own folkly experimentalists

Come join the fun! $2 OFF

Adult Night Skating Roller Skating Excitement Every night Tuesday 7:30-10:30 pm $8 Adult Learn-to-Skate Clinic Every Tuesday 6-7:15 pm. Coupon applies to season only: Skate rental and blade rental extra. Family Fun Saturday & Sunday "Starlettes" 7 All Day • 1:30-5 pm

Adult Night Skating Roller Skating Excitement Now every Tuesday 7:30-10:30 pm $8 Adult Learn-to-Skate Clinic 6 Every Tuesday 6-7:15 pm. Coupon applies to season only: Skate rental and blade rental extra. Family Fun Saturday & Sunday "Starlettes" 7 All Day • 1:30-5 pm

Happy Hour Specials

Mon-Sat 5-7pm & Sun 5-7pm-close

$.99 Nigiri (1 piece)
Albacore • Tuna • Salmon Snapper • Shrimp • Squid • Surf Clam $2.99 Rolls (6 pieces)
California • Philadelphia • Spicy Tuna • Veggie Hand Rolls $1.99
Salmon Skin $1.99
Spicy Tuna $2.49
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Happy Hour at Soda Bar

3/11 11:30pm (1 block south of Genesee, 1 mile north of USD)

20% Off all sight & beyond in downtown area. Eric $1.99
and Cynthia $1.99

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Sat & Sun 5-10pm

Happy Hour

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Order online and we'll deliver to you.
The Color and the Fast Notes

“I travel weekly to New York to study voice with...a faculty member at Juilliard.”

Twenty-year-old coloratura soprano Alize Rozsnyai has been singing since age two, graduating early from Rancho Bernardo High School in 2006 with an album entitled Sweet Sixteen already under her belt.

“I still live in San Diego,” says Rozsnyai, “which is my family’s home, while pursuing a bachelor’s of music in voice performance at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where I’m a junior. I also travel weekly to New York to study voice with W. Stephen Smith, a faculty member at Juilliard.

“In general, the gist of the opera singer’s education is as follows, though each singer’s path is different: undergrad degree in music, grad degree in music, enter a young-artist program with a regional opera company and get to know professionals and sing small roles, get noticed, sing in small opera houses, get a manager or win competitions in order to get a manager, and it just keeps building from there…”

“In the opera world,” explains Rozsnyai, “a coloratura singer is one who is able to sing many fast notes, such as scales, arpeggations, and ornamentation. Sometimes these are written in by the composer, and sometimes the artist will invent embellishments themselves.

“A coloratura is therefore a soprano who deals with these sorts of passages but also generally has a higher range than most sopranos, which extends as high as an F above high C. Most other types of sopranos will have high C as the highest in their performed repertoire.”

A classic example of a coloratura soprano role is the Queen of the Night in Mozart’s Magic Flute.

Rozsnyai mentions that she used to be known as Alize, though, “I changed the spelling of my first name in the fourth grade to be different from my mom Alize. Around then I started getting my own mail and payments from when I was in a play at the Old Globe Theatre.”

Rozsnyai’s late father Zoltén Rozsnyai was the music director of the San Diego Symphony from 1967 to 1971.

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?
1. Oriental Music Ensemble, Enam el Khilkhal. “The music is soothing, and it’s great to listen to the exotic instrumentation.”
2. Edith Piaf, The Voice of the Sparrow. “The upbeat nature of the song, ‘Milord’ puts me in a good mood before an audition. The lyrics refer to God as a friend you would help out, just walking on the street.”
3. “On a more general basis, lately I’ve enjoyed listening to Beirut, Venus Hum, Rufus Wainwright, Radiohead, IAMX, and Joanna Newsom.”

MUST-HAVE DVDS?
1. The Labyrinth. “From 1986, by Jim Henson and with David Bowie as the Goblin King.”
2. Beverly Sills: Made in America. “A biographical DVD about the soprano, with old home movies.”

FAVORITE QUOTE?
“Fear is in the eye of the beholder.’ I really think this is true. Whether or not your dreams can be accomplished is all up to you and how you interpret your obstacles. Even if you must fool yourself into thinking something is not as scary as it really is.”

WHAT’S SCARIER — SPIDERS OR MICE?
“I welcome them all into my apartment, as long as they maintain their living space apart from my food preparation. Animals had their homes here first.”

FINISH THIS SENTENCE: “IF I COULDN’T SING…”
“…I would definitely be a dancer.”

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?
“I recommend Dinotopia by James Gurney to anyone, though it’s found in the juvenile literature section. The illustrations are fantastic, and the principles can be applied to our own lives and how we treat each other and our environment, even though there aren’t any dinosaurs around today.”

FAVORITE OPERA ROLE?
“I enjoy portraying Marie from La Fille du Régiment by Donizetti because the story concerns a girl who is raised by an entire regiment of soldiers in France, and she’s practically a soldier herself, in every sense of the word. So many things about this opera are incredibly hilarious, if really played on.”

FAVORITE OPERA TRACK?
“Your Friendly Neighborhood Bar”

MUSIC
JAY ALLEN SANFORD

MUSIC
Alize Rozsnyai listens to Beirut, Venus Hum, Rufus Wainwright, Radiohead, IAMX, and Joanna Newsom

THE THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT ALIZE ROZSNAYAI?
1. “I really enjoy playing and experimenting with different instruments in my free time. I just received a theremin and a lap harp for Christmas, and I also have a banjo, though the day when I actually might play these in public might not come for a while.”
2. “I have a beloved cat named Zeke that I found in a Target parking lot, whom I take with me on airplanes and to and from school.”
3. “I have definite plans to live in a tree house that I’ve already made drawings of, and I’m working on a model of it.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT ALIZE ROZSNAYAI?
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FEB. 25 ALL AGES

FEB. 28

Surf Asylum

MAY 13

Manchester Orchestra

The Features

MAR. 12

Melissa Ferrick

JAY NASH

MAR. 6

Valentina

BRANDI CARLILE

The Ode To The Ghost

Traveling Show

GIL LANDRY

MAR. 11

Steve Aoki

5TH AVE. SIDE STAGE

MAR. 12

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Nally

MAR. 13

The John Butler Trio

April 11

Surf Asylum

February 25

Manchester Orchestra

March 12

Steve Aoki

March 13

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FEB. 25

FEB. 28

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**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**


**Anthology:** 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-395-0300. Thursday, 7:30pm — Dave Mason. Folk/pop/rock. $48. Friday, 7:30pm — Dave Mason. Folk/pop/rock. 10pm — Indie Fest Prexew. With Veronica May, DLP, Collective Purpose, and Nomas. Rock. $10. Saturday, 7:30pm — Acoustic Alchemy. Additional 9:30 pm show. Contemporary jazz. $14-$38.


**BlueFire Grill:** 2100 Costa del Mar Rd., Carlsbad, 800-854-5000. Thursday, 6pm — David Patrone. With Sky Ladd and Grant Clarkson. Jazz/lounge. Tuesday, Game Night $7 domestic pitchers!


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**Gallagher’s PUB**


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Contestants sign up by emailing... steven@pbbarandgrill.com, or in person at the Grill

HEAT DATES...
Wed, March 3
Wed, March 10
Wed, March 24
Wed, March 31

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No contest on...
Wed, March 17
St Patrick’s Day

860 Garnet Ave, Pacific Beach. Info: (858)2pb.grill / pbbarandgrill.com
Tuesday — The Appleseed Cast. Indie/rock. $10-$12.


Friday — The Adolescents. With the Fooks. Free.
Saturday — Moving Units. With Remains Forgotten. Metal/rock. $10-$12.

Friday — Clay Colton & the Bad Dabbers. With DJ Gary B. Acoustic rock.
Saturday, 8pm — The Full Monty. Classic & modern rock.
Sunday, 5pm — Billy Watson. Harmonica blues.
Wednesday, 6pm — Johnny B. Blues. Blues.

Dirk’s Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Serious Guise. Rock.


El Cajon Grand: 351 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-444-0949. Friday, 10pm — The Iron Maidens. Female Iron Maiden tribute band. Rock.
Saturday, 3pm — Barwine. Country/covers/rock.

Saturday, 9pm — Wickhouser. Rock.


Fixtures Visions for Living: 9340 Dowdy Dr., Miramar, 858-966-3600. Saturday, 6:30pm — Selasee. African drums, harmonicas, guitars mixed with Western sounds such as brass bands, hymns, European fox-trots, more. World.


Saturday, 8pm — Superfrekks.

with DJ Van from 11 pm to 2 am. Covers/pop.

Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill (La Mesa): 5300 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Nemesis. Covers/pop/hardcore. Free.


Saturday, 9pm — All Liquored Up. Free.


The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6pm — Missy Andersen. Blues/rock/funk.
Friday — Clay Colton & the Bad Blokes. With DJ Gary B. Acoustic rock.
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Sunday, 5pm — Billy Watson. Harmonica blues.
Wednesday, 6pm — Johnny B. Blues. Blues.

Dirk’s Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Serious Guise. Rock.


El Cajon Grand: 351 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-444-0949. Friday, 10pm — The Iron Maidens. Female Iron Maiden tribute band. Rock.
Saturday, 3pm — Barwine. Country/covers/rock.

Saturday, 9pm — Wickhouser. Rock.


Fixtures Visions for Living: 9340 Dowdy Dr., Miramar, 858-966-3600. Saturday, 6:30pm — Selasee. African drums, harmonicas, guitars mixed with Western sounds such as brass bands, hymns, European fox-trots, more. World.


Saturday, 8pm — Superfrekks.

With DJ Van from 11 pm to 2 am. Covers/pop.

Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill (La Mesa): 5300 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — Nemesis. Covers/pop/hardcore. Free.


Saturday, 9pm — All Liquored Up. Free.
THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 25
CHAIN AND THE GANG
STRANGE BOYS
HEAVY HAWAII
DJs MARIO ORDUNO,
BRANDON WELCHEZ,
CHUCK ROWLAND

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 26
ADOLESCENTS
YOUTH BRIGADE
THE WATUSIS

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 27
MOVING UNITS
THE DABBERS
BEATERS

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 28
FM 94.9 AND THE LOCAL PYLE
PRESENT A FREE SHOW
DOORS 7 PM
SCREAMIN YEEHAWS
THE FARMERS
BEHIND THE WAGON
THE FOOKS

MONDAY • MARCH 1
ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS
THE FASCINATION
THE HOUNDS BELOW
(JASON STOLLSTEIMER/VON BONDIES)
BIG BANG

TUESDAY • MARCH 2
SHRINEBUILDER
A STORM OF LIGHT
ARCHONS

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 3
THE APPLESEED CAST
PERFORMING LOW LEVEL OWL VOL. 1 & 2
DREAMEND

THURSDAY • MARCH 4
THE CLIENTELE
THE WOODEN BIRDS
TROPICAL DEPRESSION

FRIDAY • MARCH 5
LESLIE AND THE LYS

SATURDAY • MARCH 6
MIKE WATT AND
THE MISSINGMEN
THE HOT MOON
RATS EYES

SUNDAY • MARCH 7
ROCKY VOTOLATO
ADAM H. STEPHENS

MONDAY • MARCH 8
LAURA VEIRS AND
THE HALL OF FLAMES

TUESDAY • MARCH 9
LIGHTS ON
THE SO SO GLOS
SUNDAY TIMES

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 10
THE SILENT COMEDY
TRANSFER
MATA LEON
Friday, 8pm — Dashboard Confessional. Indie-rock/alternative.
Saturday, 8pm — George Thorogood & the Destroyers. Rock. $35-$57.
Sunday, 9:30pm — Guitar Shorty. Blues. $12.
Tuesday, 9:30pm — Zac Harmon. Blues.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
Thursday, 8pm — The Offbeats. Punk.
Friday, 8pm — Viva Hate. With Hard Times.
Saturday, 8pm — Papa’s Garage. Rock.

Java Joe’s at Café Libertalia: 3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-9360.
Thursday, 8pm — Rob Deez. With Megan Maples. Acoustic. $5.
Friday, 8pm — The Smart Brothers. Free.
Saturday, 8pm — Happy Ron. With the Scott West Band, the Winchester Friends, and Bianca Paris.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483.

Saturday, 8pm — Bad Landing.

Last Call: 8971 El Cajon Blvd., City Heights, 619-287-9505.
Wednesday, 9pm — Taters Invaders. Blues/funk/jazz. Free.

Sunday, 8pm — The Robin Henkel Band. Blues/soul, funk, jazz. $8.
The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
Sunday, 9:30pm — Zac Avi. Acoustic. $12.

The Marble Room: 535 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-5595.
Thursday, 8pm — The Rick James Trio. Jazz. Free.

Mcp’s Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-5280.
Thursday, 8pm — Harmony Road. Friday — The Offbeats. Covers/standards/rock.
Saturday — A-4 Way Street. Rock.


Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.
Friday, 9pm — Johnny Favorite. Rock.
Saturday, 9pm — Lexington Field. Acoustic/pop/world.

Moxie at Rolando Theatre: 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N, College Area, 858-598-7620.
Thursday, 8pm — The Mercedes Moore Blues Band. $5-$10.

New Village Arts Theatre: 2787 B State St., Carlsbad, 760-433-3245.

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4131.
Friday, 9pm — Stars on the Water.

Friday — Viva Hate. With Hard Fall Hearts, the Embalmers, the Loaded, and the Frighteners.

Friday, 9pm — Lexington Field. Acoustic/punk/world. Free.

The Mother Hips can sound a bit like the Eagles or the Byrds or even as psychedelics as Wilco. There are these nice, occasional arena-rock riffs, scaled way down to club size, and now and then some Beach Boys seep through the everyman’s bedrock of the Mother Hips’ sound.
I know this description appears headed toward the warm beer-and-a-shot glaze of blue-collar classic rock, but no. The Hips do their own liberal thing. Their songs are weighty moments that lodge in your memory, unlike the use-once-and-dispose-of sound that has overtaken much of the rest of indie rock. Solid, engaging recordings and lots of touring has earned them fans and gained the band critical acclaim. They didn’t get much in the way of radio play, but documentaries have been made about them. The problem is that they went on a long vacation right after they released what critics acclaimed as their best album, 2002’s Green Hills of Earth, and they stayed gone for about four years.
The Mother Hips formed while college in in the Bay Area. They were in the right place at the right time: they reached an audience that bought their self-released product and attended their shows in large numbers. They have had a few major record deals in their time but seemed to do better when left to run their own show. That makes them a true indie-rock band, at least in spirit.
The loyal fan base they left behind was still waiting when they returned and began writing, recording, and touring again. Pacific Dust, a continuation of their steady progression from country rock to roots rock, was released in the fall of last year. They may be the most famous California band that was never really famous.

MOTHER HIPS: Belly Up, Saturday, February 27, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $16; $18 day of show.

Friday — Viva Hate. With Hard Fall Hearts, the Embalmers, the Loaded, and the Frighteners.

Onya/Thin: 852 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-6699.
Thursday, 9:30pm — The Jon Goodhue Band. Rock.
Friday, 10pm — The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Alternative/rock/covers.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temescal Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
Friday, 9pm — Pop Vinyl. Dance/pop/Top 40. Free.

Patrick’s II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-5077.
Thursday, Friday — Papa’s Garage. Blues.
Saturday, 9pm — Family Style. Blues/rock.
Sunday, 9pm — The Bayou Brothers. Zydeco/blues/R&B.

Queen Bee’s Art and Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-235-5147.
Saturday, 8pm — Rob Deez. With the Hinges. Acoustic. $5.

RT’s Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
Thursday, 9pm — The Phromones. Blues/rock/soul.
Friday, 9pm — Helicopter. Rock.
Saturday, 9pm — The Phromones. Blues/rock/soul.

Tuesday, 9pm — Spot. Acoustic/rock. $3.

Ramada Inn: 5550 Kearny Mesa Rd., Kearny Mesa, 619-596-9777.
Friday, 9pm — Wild Rumour. 80s rock in the Lisbon Room.

TÉGÁN AND SARA
with Steel Train & Holly Miranda

Friday, Feb. 26 — Scarface (show postponed) Free Hip-Hop Show
Saturday, Mar. 13 – Comedy Show: Tommy Chunn & D’Militant • $5 @ door
Friday, Mar. 19 – Big Boi of Outkast
Wednesday, Mar. 24 – Hank Williams III & Assjack
Saturday, Mar. 20 – Event Vibe Presents ATB
Friday, Mar. 26 – Andre Nickatina
Saturday, Mar. 27 – Air • Friday, Apr. 2 – MMA Fight
Saturday, Apr. 3 – Spring Monkey & Mowers
Tuesday, Apr. 6 – San Diego Electronic Music Awards
Wednesday, Apr. 7 – The American-Nigz Indian Comedy Slam
Friday, Apr. 9 – Firehouse

WEST COAST HALL OF FAME

TEGÁN AND SARA
with STEEL TRAIN & HOLLY MIRANDA

MARCH 3
COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL
Eken Is Dead. With John Keawe.

Reviews from Our Readers

— Neil Innes.

A Doris Day tribute — Lucy Kaplansky. — Jimmy Webb. — Steel Horse. With the Rory Block. — Toad the Wet Sprocket.

February 25, 2010 — Michael Chapdelaine. — Open Mic. — Andre Nickatina. is good, not Trevor Davis & Dr. Houston Jones.

Reader Night. Hosted by Dave Booda.


Spoon: Transference

CD Review by Rollo Cabeza

Spoon started losing that choppy, melodic, bluesy swagger on their last album, Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga. The band lost the beat that dominated previous albums like Kill The Moonlight...the beat that made me slap the steering wheel while singing along in my car.

Transference has me convinced that the band is incapable of returning to what they once were. What made Spoon so good was that up-tempo, unforgiving beat mixed with Britt Daniel’s raspy vocals. The opening songs on Transference blend and get lost in a wall of reverb. Daniel sings instead of letting his gravely voice pelt the listener through the speakers.

As the album progresses, there are moments when Spoon shows signs of its former self. Songs such as “Written in Reverse,” “Got Nuffin,” and “Out Go The Lights” are examples of the band finding their stride. “Goodnight Laura” shows that Daniel and Spoon can still switch it up from faster songs to ballads. Transference is good, not great, if you are dedicated to the band’s earlier sound. It sure won’t make you act like a fool driving down the freeway.

Nellie McKay: Normal as Blueberry Pie

CD Review by Andrew Hamlin

First off, how normal is blueberry pie? Dwell on that awhile and get lable enough for a Doris Day tribute. Actually (here’s where lability shall prove helpful), you don’t need to know much about Doris Day to dig this disc. One open mind you’ll need and at least a starting tolerance for swing (the sound, not the Lindy-Hoppin’ revivalist dancers — I had my doubts about them too). Ms. McKay plays eight different instruments and always knows where to put everything. She makes it look easy.

True, her immaculate sonic palette doesn’t much hint at the perversity of her originals, which gargoyle any genre you could name from the Great American Songbook to on-the-one funk in the service of elaborate satire. Oh, yes, and almost everything in the booklet is about not eating or otherwise hurting animals (a cause dear to tributer and tributee alike). Then she calls out, “I’m feeling hot as Brian!” in the middle of “Crazy Rhythm.” At least I think it’s “I’m feeling hot as Brian!” You got a different idea, put your pie aside and let me know.


Tuesday, 7pm — The Zac Brown Band. Country/alternative/rock. $30-$40.
Metal on Metal  
Concert Review by Michael Caldwell  
Anvil frontman Steve “Lips” Kudlow addressed the audience early in the set: “I just want to thank each and every one of you for being here and for making our dreams come true.” With a kind crowd response, the Canadian trio launched into the title track from their album This Is Thirteen. The track’s plodding riff and slamming drums instigated the mass hoisting of hands high above heads in the universal symbol for “Metal!” As the waves of the last cymbal crash washed over us, the crowd roared approval. The three men onstage looked overjoyed, if a bit shocked, at the response. It was a rock and roll moment. The energetic “Bombs Away” followed.

Later in the set, Kudlow fiddled with tuning his guitar, saying, “I hate loose g strings” and lifted his eyebrows to alert the audience of the double-entendre. “Thumb Hang” lacked its swing, and the show was getting hung up as well. To the rescue came Robb Reiner with a solo that included each of his eight drums and as many cymbals. His bass drums made shock waves that rippled my sleeves. The band played “Mad Dog,” “Forged in Fire,” and their standard “Metal on Metal” before bidding San Diego goodnight.

Concert: Anvil  
Date: February 3  
Venue: House of Blues

Sax in the Stacks  
Concert Review by Tracy Ibarreta  
In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, tenor saxophone player Jessy J held a free concert at Borders in Carmel Mountain. The event was presented by smooth-jazz station 98.1 in support of the L.A. artist’s sophomore album, True Love. On-air personality Jay Weidenheimer served as emcee, providing family-friendly humor to the mostly middle-aged audience. The turnout was strong, with the majority of fans standing due to limited seating. I sat on the floor.

Jessy J pleased her fans by weaving and dancing through the crowd as she played her sensual songs, including breakthrough hit “Tequila Moon” and her current single, “Tropical Rain.” Without a full band, she was backed by prerecorded tracks. She charmed her listeners during a Q&A session, revealing tales of naming her first saxophone “Henry” when she was a kid, her USC days, diligently getting the attention of producer Paul Brown, and her previous saxophone getting split in half on the plane while on tour with Michael Bolton.

When asked if she came from a musical family, she replied, “My father is a great whistler!” Being a good sport, her father then whistled his rendition of “Tequila Moon.”

Concert: Jessy J  
Show date: February 8  
Venue: Borders in Carmel Mountain  
Seats: Front, seated on the floor

$75 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReadercritic.com
Bar Pink is located in the heart of North Park at 30th and University, elbow to elbow with trendy boutiques and eateries and one block west of the Ray Street art studio-galleries. Opened in 2007 as the Bar Pink Elephant — owners have since dropped the pachyderm from the name — the club was in the first wave of new businesses to revitalize this struggling district. Parking is available within a block or two.

Flannel and black-clad locals loiter in front of the bar, smoking cigarettes and talking about music, ex-girlfriends, and sushi. Inside, the dance floor is packed with shabby but calculated hipsters in scarves and considered (if not considerable) facial hair, hip-hop kids wearing Padres caps, and the occasional P.B. frat boy who mistakenly wandered over from upscale sports joint True North.

It’s too loud to talk over the opening band Black Hondo, so the crowd flails about drinking $2 cans of Tecate and mixed drinks with names such as Flirtini, Pink Princess, and Mangorita. Glittery pink bubbles cover the walls and dangle over a wide, well-stocked (cash-only) bar. A nimble bartender named Barbara distributes stiff cocktails and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon. Subdued red lights illuminate booths where dudes in beards and tattoos drink pits from Pink’s sensible selection of imports, domestics, and microbrews.

Two pool tables sit adjacent rundown bathrooms with broken stall-locks and large holes that appear to have been punched through the white walls.

Between bands, the DJ spins Sonic Youth, disco, funk, punk, and Prince while an amiable waitress circulates among chatty girls in moccasins and anime haircuts. Some step outside to smoke. Others slip off for a game of pinball, Pac-man, or Streetfighter II. In time, San Fran’s Dead Meat takes the stage and the only audible conversation is a drink order shouted over the psychodelic fuzz.

—Chad Deal

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SAT. 3/6:
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THUR. 3/11:
ACOUSTIC SHOWCASE FEAT. LIZ & JASON, KATIE LEIGH JOALBY, TIM MUDD DOUG MccARRON, STEVE HARRIS, WES DAVIS, LIL NICKY, JOHNNY Q
FRI. 3/12:
THE RNRs, 321 STEREO, RETURN TO SILENCE LISTEN ON MUTE, RETRO LUST THE SHAMEY JAYS
SAT. 3/13:
MAD LIFE, 30-30
FRI. 3/19:
MURDER FM DESPITE THE WOLVES

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
March 8 — The Robin Henkel Band.
March 10 — The Carlos Blues Experience.
March 10 — Stealing Love Jones.

Kensington Community Church • 4773 Marlborough Dr., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-1129.
March 17 — Gregory Page.

March 14 — Suzie Brown & Shane Corey.
March 28 — The Robin Henkel Band.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
March 10 — Daws.
March 13 — The Ruby Suns.
March 17 — Kalman Balogh & the Gypsy Cimbalom Band.

March 7 — 13th Annual Ould Sod Amnesty International Fundraiser.

Pala Casino: 35088 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
April 18 — Tony Bennett.

April 15 — Mark Knopfler.

April 24 — Leon Redbone.

San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
May 7 — Celtic Women.

March 21 — Hank III & Anjouk.

Soda Bar: 1615 El Cajon Blvd, City Heights, 619-255-7224.
March 23 — Kata and Kerretta.
April 6 — Kasey Anderson.

March 5 — Unearth.
March 6 — Scary Kids Scaring Kids.
March 7 — Attaboy.
April 8 — Lights.

Sprechels Theatre: 121 Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-9500.
April 21 — Pat Metheny.
April 24 — Norah Jones.

March 6 — The Cedar Tavern Singers.
March 16 — Scott Amendola.
April 6 — Kenny Wollesen.

21 or older. 2 drink minimum.

*Some restrictions apply. May be cancelled without notice. Open every day • 8878 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
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10 comedians.
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Plus up to 8 other comedians from Hollywood!
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SUNDAY

National headliner
Chris Clobber!!
Thursday, Feb. 25 • 8 pm

Call for details.
Gothic/Industrial. $3-$5. Thursday, 9pm: Club ‘80s. With DJs Bryan Pollard and Arojil. ‘80s/industr
deral/underground. 3054 University Ave., North Park. 619-293-3022.


Café Sevilla: Thursdays, 10pm: Café Sevilla: Thursdays. Live DJ. Paul Dumenil. Saturdays, 10pm: DJ Paul D. 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad. 760-726-4965.

El Cajon Grand: Saturday, 9pm: El Cajon Grand: Saturdays. Live DJ. 1001 Main St., El Cajon. 619.444.0949.

Fannie’s Nightclub: Thursdays, 9pm: DJ Mick B. Spins hip-hop tunes. Thursdays, 9pm: DJ Mics. Thursdays. Live DJ. 455 Main St. Top 100. 30th Ave. La Jolla. 619-643-4100.


The Coyote Bar & Grill: Thursdays, 10:30pm: DJ Swoll. Fridays, 10:30pm: DJ Gary B. Saturdays, 10pm: DJ Paul Dumenil. Saturdays, 10pm: DJ Paul D. 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad. 760-726-4965.


The Office: Saturdays, 10:30pm: Club 80’s. Featuring DJs Bryan Pollard, Adamantium, MasterBlaster, and Rosanne Red stalls. DJ at 7:30 pm. Spring Valley. 619-698-2204.

The Flame: Wednesdays, 9:30pm: Cookies with DJ Dirty Kurt. 3780 Park Blvd., Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.


Gaslamp Tavern: Thursdays, 8pm, Fridays, 4pm, Wednesdays, 9pm: C-Phil. 8th Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-272-7728.


House of Blues: Friday, 7pm: Push Pop with Pizazz. With Turbo Teen, Cepi, & DMNDWAVS. Dance. 10. 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays, 9pm, Saturdays, 9pm: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and 80’s. 15. 15 and up. 775 Metcal St., Escondido. 760-741-1271.


Lounge: Fridays, 9pm: Hot Latin Beats. Reggaeton, salsa, and merengue. 18 and up. Fridays, 8pm: Funky Fresh Fridays. Hip-hop/mash-ups. 18 and up. Saturdays, 9pm: DJ Dizy D. Spins hip-hop, old skool, and technolo. 18 and up. With guests DJ Blown. 98.9 Night. With guest DJs. 6191 University Ave., College Area. 619-546-1177.


Side Bar: Thursdays, 9pm: Ruby Room: Thursday. DJs. 232 22nd St., Downtown. 619-696-0946.


Tiki House: Tuesdays, 9pm: Tunes by Joe Marson. Every Tuesday. 1152 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach.


Boar Crossin’: Thursday-Saturday, 9-9pm: $3 Bud & Bud Light.
The Coyote Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 wells, beer, margaritas. $3.50 appetizers. 10pm-midnight: $3 beer, wine, well drinks. Saturday, 10-11pm: $3 beer, wine, well drinks. Sunday, 10pm-midnight: $3 beer, wine, well drinks.
Fenway’s Sports Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm: $3.50 domestic, well. $3.50 house wine.
Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $1 off all drinks.

Booze Mad: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells
Bertrand at Mister A’s: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7:30pm: $5 2nd drink purchase.
Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $3.50 wells.

Anna’s Bistro: Monday-Friday, 2:30-7pm: $5 2nd drink purchase.
Achiote Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3.50 domestics, $3.50 imports & house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.
Bertrand at Mister A’s: Monday-Friday, 2:30-6pm: $5 2nd drink purchase.

Mesticos, $3.50 imports & house wine, $3.50 Cuervo Gold hand-shaken margarita.

2-for-1 Wine, $3 pitcher.

85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

ALPINE
Donato’s Italian Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestics, $2.50 imports & house wine, $6 Long Island. $3 wells.

BALBOA PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $3.50 drafts, $4 wells, $5 house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.

BANKER’S HILL
Azuki Sushi Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $3 large Sake. $3 large Sapporo. $4 sushi rolls, discounted specialty rolls and appetizers.

BERTRAND AT ALSTER AL’S: Monday-Friday, 2-3:30pm: Specially priced cocktails, beer, wine, small plates on patio.

BAY PARK
Bay Park Fish Company: Every day, 3-5pm: $2 fish tacos, 25% off draft beers, wines by the glass, and appetizers.

BONITA
Saphra 18th Lounge & Hoolah: Tuesday-Saturday, 2-7pm: Two-for-one all well drinks. $4 six-piece chicken wings, falafel, or mozzarella sticks. $5 small hummus. 1/2-off hookah all day Tuesday.

CARDIFF
Besta-Wan Pizza House: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $1 pint, glass of house wine. $3 pitcher.

CARLSBAD
The Alley: Every day, 11am-7pm: $2.75 domestics.
Argyle Steakhouse/Golf Clubhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Drinks priced by the hour (4pm-$4, 5-6pm: $5, etc.), offering wine, beer, premium liquors.

EVENINGS COME ALIVE IN LA JOLLA
Join us for Happy Hour Sunday–Friday 4 to 7pm $3 bottled beer; $4 draft beer; $5 house wine; $7 specialty cocktails. Thursday through Saturday enjoy live music—jazz, latin and piano. Breathtaking sunsets and dramatic ocean views featured daily.

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Bar Bremen: Every day, 4-7pm: $3.50 Margaritas, $3.50 house wine.

Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $3.50 wells.

Coffeens, 1/2-off select appetizers.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $3.50 domestics.

Casa Mesticos, $3.50 imports & house wine, $5.50 Georgia Peach Kenwood wines; $5.50 Taxco Tequila.

Café Sevilla: Monday, 5-6:30pm: $1.50-2 price mohitos. Tuesday, 5-6:30pm: $1.50-2 price wine bottles. Wednesday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price margaritas. Thursday, 11am-6:30pm: 1/2-price sangria. Friday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price all drafts.

Candelas: Every day, 5-7pm: All drinks 1/2 price.

Carrillo’s: Every day, 4-7pm, 10pm-1am: $5 domestic, $7 imported beer, $3.50 imported beers. $7.99 hand-shaken margaritas.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestics, $4 imports. Saturday-Sunday, open-5pm: $3 domestics, $4 imports.

Beach House Grill: Everyday, 4-7pm: $3.50 domestic, $4 imported beers, $4 wells.

Clairemont
Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 7-9pm: $3 wells. Bud Light, Michelob, Draftr Ale. Discounted appetizers.
Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: Discounted draft beer. $3.50 house wine. Saturday, 4-7pm: Discounted draft beer. $3.50 house wine.
Cucina Italiana: Wednesday, 1-2pm: $3 off select wine bottles.
Joe’s Pizza: Thursday, 6-9pm: $2 any tap or bottled beer, glass of wine.
Viva Vino: Monday-Saturday, all day: $9.50 domestic.

CARMEL VALLEY
Tio Leos: Monday-Friday, 3pm: $3.50 pints, $4 wells, $5.50 house margaritas. $5 appetizers.

Chula Vista
Achioto Restaurant: Every day, 4-7pm, 2pm-7pm: 1/2-for-one drinks, $5 appetizers.

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Wednesday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3.50 off domestic, $4 imported beers, $4 wells. $5 well margaritas, $5 well martinis, $12 Bud Light pitcher, $14 house pitcher.

Brigantine: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off Bigg’s brew, Karl Strauss IPA, featured red and white wines, $4.75 house margarita, $5.50 house chardonnay, $5.75 house red wine, $7.50 Cuervo Gold hand-shaken margarita.

Chase Bistro: Monday-Friday, all day: $4 or $5 wine by the glass. $7.99 burgan/a.funk.

Coronado Boathouse 1887: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic beers. $5 wine by the glass, $7 specialty martinis.

Danny’s Pain Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3.50 domestic draft. $4 wells. $5 appetizer specials.

Primavera Ristorante: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 7pm: $2 off all drinks; $2 off daily food specials. Wednesday, 5-7pm: Wine night: 1/2-off all bottles, incl. champagne.

Yummy Sushi: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 pints, $4 large hot sake. 20-50% off appetizers.

DEL MAR
Brigantine: Every day, 4-6pm: $1 off Kenwood wines; $3.50 Georgia Peach Mezcalorona, chardonnay; $4 Alaska white ale, Brig Brew golden ale; $4 house margaritas.
Clubhouse Grill: Everyday, 4-7pm: $1/2-off draft beer, wine by the glass.

Brigantine: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5.40 Bud Light/Coors Light pitchers. $1 off all beer, wine.

Gold hand-shaken margarita. $4 margarita, $5.50 house chardonnay, $5.75 house red wine, $7.50 Cuervo Gold hand-shaken margarita.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestics, $4 imports. Saturday-Sunday, open-5pm: $3 domestics, $4 imports.

The Fish Market: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $3.75 draft. $3.75, $3.75 domestic, $8.95 imported beers. $4 fish tacos, $4 beer of the month.

Fuddruckers: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4.50 Bud Light/Coors Light pitchers. $1 off all beer, wine.

Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 7-9pm: $3 drafts, house wine, wines. Sunday, all day: $3 drafts, house wine, wines.

House of Blues: Every day, 2-7pm: $2 drafts, $3 wells & wines, $4 margaritas, 1/2-off select appetizers.

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

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks, appetizers (only in the lounge).

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine: Friday, 6 pm pomegranate martini. Saturday-Sunday, $6 cosmos.

Bella Luna: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5 house wine, 1/2-off appetizers.

Blue Point: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-off drinks, select appetizers. Discount on caviar, $1 oysters.

San Diego Wine and Culinary Center: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $3 house wine, wells, $7 Christopher’s Caree. Noon-9pm: tasting flights.

Urban Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 9pm-11pm: 3pm-7pm: $4 imports. $5 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. Beer, wine, and cocktails.

Willows’ Place: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Two-for-one all beers, $4 wells & house wine. 1/2-off all appetizers.

Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints, $4 craft beers, $4.50 goblets, $4.25 wells, $5.75 house martinis, $2 off wine by the glass, $6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.
Café Chloe: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4.75 house margaritas, $5 red wine, $7.50 Kamikaze. Saturday, 1pm-5pm: $4.50 house cocktails.

El Vitral Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 11am-6pm: $2 wells, $3 drafts.

Wednesday, 6pm-2am: $5 Jäger

Thursday, 6pm-2am: $3.50 house beer, $5 Jäger

Friday-Sunday, 6pm-2am: $3 house wine, $5 Jäger

Tuesdays, 6-9pm: $3 house beer, $5 Jäger

Saturday-Sunday, 6pm-2am: $3 house wine, $5 Jäger

Sunday, 6pm-2am: $3 house wine, $5 Jäger

90th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house beer, $4 house wine, $5 Jäger.

9pm-1am: $5 house wine, $5 Jäger

Kensington Caffe: Every day, 3-7pm, $3 pints, $4 house margaritas, all taps under $5.25.

Kensington Vino: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $5 fine wine, $5 appetizers.

La Jolla: Alfonso’s de La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

La Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Lai Thai Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Lakeside: California: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Lindsay’s: Bash Street: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Linda Vista: Mission Valley: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Lino’s: Hillcrest: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: $5 wine tasting.

Mira Mesa: Mira Mesa: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Mission Beach: Park & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Mission Hills: Mission Hills: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Mission Valley: Mission Valley: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

On the Rocks: Every day, 5-6:30pm: $3 house beer, $5 house wine, $7.50 Kamikaze.

Out of Africa: Every day, 4-7pm: $3.25 house wine, $3.25 Kamikaze.

Paradise Lounge & Grill: Paradise Lounge & Grill: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

Paradise: Paradise: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

Patio Lounge: Happy Hour: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

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Pickup: Happy Hour: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

Ranch House BC: Mission Valley: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Redfish: Redfish: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

Reservations: Happy Hour: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

Riviera: Riviera: Monday-Sunday, 7pm-12am: $2.75 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wine.

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Us and Them

“If you don’t come down strongly on these people, they’ll be asking for the earth.”

If there were no world outside their stately home, the Birlings would have it made. Arthur, the patriarch and former Lord Mayor of Brumley, England, might be up for knighthood. His daughter, Sheila, is engaged to Gerald Croft (son of Sir George, of Crofts Ltd., Arthur’s biggest competitor). It’s a match made in economic Valhalla. To celebrate, the family, including Arthur’s wife Sybil and tipsy son Eric, don tuxes and flowing silk dresses and dine in elegance. They share one of life’s “ah, yes” moments — care for a cigar? a smidge of port? — interrupted by a clap of thunder and a banging on the door.

No Birling, it turns out, is an island. An inspector arrives, unkempt of hair and beard, layers of tweed under a frumpy overcoat. A young working-class woman named Eva Smith, he says, committed suicide.

J.B. Priestley’s An Inspector Calls raises two initial questions: whodunit, and why has the inspector, named Goole (pronounced “ghoul”), come to the Birlings? Arthur just gave an impassioned speech about being responsible only to oneself and the masses be damned (“If you don’t come down strongly on these people, they’ll be asking for the earth”). What connection could the social elite have with a dirt-poor woman?

For Lamb’s Players Theatre, Mike Buckley’s stylish, Edwardian set requires a double-take. Stuffed animal trophies hang on deep-rose-colored walls. The furnishings bespeak refinement. But the floor — is that dirt? Impeccably polished shoes create heel-prints where a marble surface, like that checkerboard style in the foyer, would leave no trace.

The contrast between the décor and the clay underneath grows as the evening progresses. The inspector — and just who IS this guy? A Sherlock Holmes of the conscience? — retracts the family’s tracks in search of the culprit. “We don’t live alone,” he says with moral fervor. “We are members of one body.”

As played by Robert Smyth, Goole’s a cross between a bumbling Lt. Columbo and an avenging angel. Part of the mystery points to the inspector’s agenda, since he rambles from one person to the next. But Smyth subtly suggests that he knows exactly where he’s headed. As does costume designer Jeanne Reith, who has the tweedy earth tones of the inspector’s outfit blend with the dusty floor.

Smyth and wife Deborah Gilmour codirected An Inspector Calls, by J.B. Priestley
Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Avenue, Coronado
Directed by Robert and Deborah Gilmour Smyth; cast: Jon Lorenz, Jillian Frost, Colleen Kollar Smith, Glynn Bedington, David Cochran Heath, Lance Arthur Smith, Robert Smyth; scenic design, Mike Buckley; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Nathan Peirson; sound design, Deborah Gilmour Smyth and Patrick Duffy
Playing through March 21; Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-437-0600.

Who IS this guy? A Sherlock Holmes of the conscience? (An Inspector Calls)
this taut, trimmed (from three acts to 90 minutes) staging. The strong ensemble cast almost tells the story with their eyes alone. Sudden flashes of recognition, or entrapment, penetrate serene facades. These aren’t melodramatic asides or bug-eyed swoons: just looks reflecting a fear that things aren’t what they seem — and never were.

One of Priestly’s themes: people must act with consideration for others. As life, so in theater. The night I caught Lamb’s thought-provoking show, two people in the back row would NOT stop talking. As entitled as Arthur Birling, they commented on everything: When irate members of the audience turned and stared, or when members of the audience would NOT stop talking.

As the strategy works. Based on Euripides’ “The Trojan Women,” the play turns and stares, or when they commented on everything. As they fall asleep, they wake up to nose and said “shush,” the audience turns and stared, or when members of the audience would NOT stop talking.

The Coronado production, smartly directed by David Kebo and choreographed by Jennifer Rubio, hits inevitable lulls but does exactly that. They do exactly that.

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.

 Ain’t Misbehavin’: The Fats Waller Musical Show Fourthwall Entertainment presents the musical tribute to Thomas Fats’ Waller. Songs include “Honkey Tonk Rose” and “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” 619-817-8130. LAFAYETTE HOTEL & SUITES, 2223 EL CAJON BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS/WURTH, THROUGH MARCH 21.

Culture Clash in America CC is back with a show at once funny, satirically barbed, and quite moving. For years the Latino troupe has gone around the country interviewing diverse Americans, eliciting responses you won’t often hear on TV. In fact, you realize how white-bread TV’s become; inanimate objects assault the rack” by whatever means possible. One’s actions.

A Delicate Balance OnStage Playhouse offers Edward Albee’s portrayal of a comical couple taken back when longtime friends arrive at their door. Michael Thomas Tower directed. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 225 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA, 619-422-7787, 8PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 8PM SATURDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 27.

Hansel and Gretel Lyric Opera San Diego presents Engelbert Humperdinck’s musical, based on the children’s fairy tale. LYRIC OPERA SAN DIEGO, 2893 UNIVERSITY AVE., SUITE 1, NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 2:30PM SUNDAYS, OPENED RUN.

An Inspector Calls Lamb’s Players stages J.B. Priestley’s thought-provoking whodunit about the Birlings, a well-to-do family, and the world outside. Robert and Deborah Gilmour-Smyth directed. LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS/WURLITH.

Queenie, a vaudeville dancer and platinum blonde Jean Harlow look-alike, falls for Burrs, a clown. After three years of his abuse, she decides to throw a party and put him “on the rack” by whatever means possible. One’s actions.

putting her to sleep” cause their causes; inanimate objects assault people (be aware of sport coats bearing gifts); and fictions, like a toothy cartoon monster, can have a devastating chomp. Thierriere becomes an Alice in a dualistic Wonderland, like a photograph and its negative, and her stage, like space itself, is warped. Objects move backwards or upside down. At one point, Jaime Martinez, a life dancer and Thierriere’s co-contortionist, walks up a curtain. The evening has several lulls, in part because while some effects are magical, others don’t translate (prompting thought — what did that last one mean? — rather than wonder). Nonetheless, when Thierriere’s dancing with her ankles from a red sash, or rain on a dotted lace scrim pelt her, she not only makes the stage a Wonderland, she owns it.

The Country Wife Old Globe/University of San Diego Graduate Theatre Department presents William Wycherly’s Restoration comedy (considered at the time too outrageous to perform). Ray Chambers directed. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCALA PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, 8PM TUESDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28.

Our Lady of the Lake Old Globe/University of San Diego Graduate Theatre Department presents William Wycherly’s Restoration comedy (considered at the time too outrageous to perform). Ray Chambers directed. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCALA PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, 8PM TUESDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28.

La Jolla Playhouse presents Moncure March (1926), the late Jazz Age bash. As they fall asleep, they wake up to nose and said “shush,” the audience turns and stared, or when members of the audience would NOT stop talking.

The Coronado production, smartly directed by David Kebo and choreographed by Jennifer Rubio, hits inevitable lulls but does exactly that. They do exactly that.
Somewhere between Smyrna and Frog Level, North Carolina. While tourists visit the old州, a woman named Berniece, a patron saint of mental illness, tries to survive St. Dymphna’s, a treatment center for mental illness. Berniece’s sister, Lawrence, is a terrific Boy Willie. As Berniece, Turner Sonnenberg displays a deep empathy for Wilson. So does her top-notch team, the right hemisphere of the brain (which controls how we perceive space, recognizing faces, imagery, and also music). Sacks called the right side of the self and illustrated the humanity of his subjects, as does Sir Peter Brook’s adaptation. In New Village Arts’ staging, it’s clear that director Kristiianne Kurnitz move in with their grandmother’s ensemble cast. John Lapinski directs. The Old Globe Theatre has extended its run of this show.

Worth a try:

SMRT TICKETS

The Secret Garden
Patio Playhouse stages the popular musical version of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novel, celebrating its 100th anniversary. Geoffrey Cox directs.

North Coast Repertory Theatre, 899 C St., 100th anniversary. Geoffrey Cox directs.

The Tempest

The Vagina Monologues
V-Day San Diego presents a benefit performance of Eve Ensler’s monologues to increase awareness of women’s rights, organizations fighting violence against women. Kym Pappas directs.


The Coronado Playhouse presents Andrew Lippa’s musical based on Joseph Moncure March’s 1928 poem, about a violent, boozy 1920s party. David Kelso directed.

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Major filmmaker, minor films: Martin Scorsese, Roman Polanski, *Shutter Island* and *The Ghost Writer* respectively.

"Disturbing" would be one word for the Scorsese, maybe the best word. Leonardo DiCaprio, the director’s torchbearer now in four films, halfway to De Niro’s number, starts out green around the gills in a greenish image, literally seasick on a ferry in Boston Harbor, as well as unshaven with an unexplained Band-Aid on his forehead, en route to an Alcatrazzy asylum for the criminally insane. Partnered for the first time with a fellow U.S. Marshal out of Seattle (Mark Ruffalo), the two of them dressed like Joe and Frank on *Dragnet* in conformance with the 1954 period, he ostensibly has been summoned to the inescapable craggy island to look into a locked-room mystery, the disappearance of a shoeless female inmate from her barred and guarded cell (“It’s as if she evaporated straight through the walls”), leaving behind, besides her shoes, a cryptic note hidden under a floor tile: “The Law of 4. Who is 67?”

Our investigator has at the same time, however, an ulterior motive of sniffing out the homicidal arsonist who, he confides in due course to his new partner, lit the fire that consumed the investigator’s wife. She (Michelle Williams, an actress girlish enough not to embarrass the eternally boyish DiCaprio) will appear to him in dreams to proffer tips on how to proceed. And, on top of these visions, he experiences flashy flashbacks to his service in WWII, the liberation of Dachau, the botched suicide of the camp commandant (a gruesome bit of head-shot makeup), and the Wounded Knee or My Lai-like massacre of the Nazi guards: What would a Scorsese hero be without guilt? What would a Scorsese movie be, for that matter, without a bloody head?

The marshal’s stated aim is not to kill the arsonist (Elias Koteas, looking and acting like a younger De Niro, with an identity-blurring diagonal scar from brow to jaw) but rather a higher aim: to “blow the lid off” the secret Manhattan Candidate-style experiments on human guinea pigs purportedly funded by the House Un-American Activities Committee. In short, there is a lot going on, off the retreat route, the phone lines to the mainland, and for a time the electrical power, generating much more than a traditional Old Dark House—a whole Old Dark Penal Colony.

None of that, let me be clear, is particularly disturbing. Although all of it is likely to cause difficulty in swallowing, the locked-room part of it is actually appetizing if you have a taste for that kind of thing. What’s disturbing, by and by, is to see a director of Scorsese’s stature (not physical stature of course: picking up the Cecil B. De Mille Award at this year’s Golden Globes, he looked uncannily like Eugene Levy’s sawed-off Sid Dithers persona on the old *SCTV* comedy series) stooping to the unscrupulous bait-and-switch tactics that have become a vogue,

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To enter, visit the *Reader* website and click on “contests.” SDReader.com

Deadline to enter is Monday, March 1 at 1:00 pm. Limit one entry per person.

**GREEN ZONE** is rated R (under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian) for violence and language.

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.**

Seating is available on first-come, first-served basis and cannot be guaranteed. Theater is overbooked to ensure a full house.

**In Theaters March 12**
Shutter Island

Saying even that much is, I suppose, his colluding in it. and a genre is a label: the gotcha genre, the film, in consequence, that puts the critic from the get-go: the Master’s critical invocations of Hitchcock seem as it feels anticlimactic. (The predictable final revelation that feels as concocted knee-jerk paranoia and mechanical trystery is most apparent, not where he subjugates it to greater causes: the classics (Oliver Twist), the Holocaust (The Pianist), political torture front and center (Death and the Maiden) rather than, as it is here, political torture in the wings. He seems in these circumstances to raise the level of his game by necessity, as though he can’t count on his teammates, can’t coast.

His personality, his imprint, is in any event ever-present in the Scoopit-out bowl-shaped space, so open and ominous and oppressive, and in the off-center observations of people and places. Yet he feels no Scorsesean urge to throw in the kitchen sink, or even the spatula, the can opener, the coffee pot, the meat cleaver. Knife and fork will suffice. And when at last he elects to turn up the heat on the stove top — the brilliant device of following a preprogrammed computer route in the dead man’s car to a destination unknown, the prickly interview that awaits at that destination (“A less equable man than I” rasps a pedantic Tom Wilkinson, “might begin to find your questions impertinent”), and the black sedan with tinted windows lurking outside afterwards — the effect is delectable. A sustained tingle. It may not hold all the way to the end, but it comes close.

Leonardo DiCaprio

Shutter Island

Paramount Pictures presents [Phoenix Picture production.]

With Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley, Michelle Williams, Shutter Island, Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, and Max von Sydow. Directed by Martin Scorsese.

A Martin Scorsese Picture

REVIEW

THRILLING:

J.荎 ERRIS. CO 

Chicago Sun-Times

LEONARDO Dicaprio

S HU T T E R ISLAND

IS INTENSE, GRIPPING, DARK AND UNFORGETTABLE.

RICHARD ROEPER

richardroeper.com

SHUTTER ISLAND’ SIZES.

NO ONE WHO LIVES AND BREATHES MOVIES

WOULD DREAM OF MISSING IT.

PETER TRAVERS

Rolling Stone

115-122 2/23/10 5:46 PM

Page 116

San Diego Reader | February 25, 2010

James Cameron had in mind for his first feature film since Titanic twelve years before, a two-hour and forty-five minute “visionary” science-fiction epic that dishes up an allegory on globalization, a warm-over of the old science-versus-military debate, a dose of Noble Savage romanticism, a Capt. Smith, and Pacohantas culture-clash romance, an ecological message, and a tree-felling that insistently recalls the topping of the World Trade Center. There appears little doubt that Cameron drew upon all his monumental powers, yet happily those powers prove too feeble, too reliant on convention and stereotype, or if you wish to make it sound better, on tradition and archetypes, to ruin the fun. The powers themselves, with their rumble of self-importance and their straining for significance, are part and parcel of the kitschy fun. Sam Worthington, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi, Michelle Rodriguez. 2009.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HORTON PLAZA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14

The Book of Eli — Post-apocalyptic chic. In metallic monochrome, in sterilizing shafts of light, in portentous slo-mo, Denzel Washington safeguards the only extant copy of the King James Bible, with his archer’s bow, shotgun, pistol, and terrible sword: the new Messiah. One of many head-scratchers is why on earth the tin-pot town boss in the middle of the Southwest desert, lording it over a bunch of illiterate ruffians, 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.

FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14

The Blind Side — Soft warm cozy sports story from the maker of The Rookie, John Lee Hancock, about a headstrong black gentle giant, an irresistible force and an upstage figure, as if the foreground were a bump in the middle of the Southwest desert, lording it over a bunch of illiterate ruffians, 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.

FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14

The Crazies — Breck Eisner’s remake of a George Romero horror film, with Timothy Olyphant and Radha Mitchell. (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 2/26)
**Crazy Heart** — Jeff Bridges is pretty much the whole show, and a generous show it is. His Bad Blake, given name 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 T Bone Burnett, who with the late Stephen Bruton co-wrote the original songs in the crying-in-your-beer genre. But then too, the actor's speaking voice, a low rumble through a mouthful of marshmallows, 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 greasy stringy hair, the bedraggled beard, the shades, the leather vest, the paunch), in no part original but in every part authentic. With Maggie Gylleenhaal, Colin Farrell, and Robert Duvall; directed by Scott Cooper. 2009. ★★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; TOWN SQUARE 14; TOWN SQUARE 18)

**Creation** — Tracing the origin of The Origin of Species produces the sort of stuffy biopic that once would have starred Paul Muni. Granted, in those days the achievement of Charles Darwin would not have been summed up in such bellwether terms as “You've killed God, sir,” and this alone may be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of "You've killed God, sir," and this alone may be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even be sufficiently satisfying for the acolytes of Bill Maher. But the writing of a book, even ★★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; 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 catnip to anyone interested in classical and modern dance, or for that matter in artistic creation in any form, the process of bringing execution in line with conception. Veteran documentarian Frederick Wiseman provides no narrative thread and no commentary from within or without the picture frame, just random drop-ins on rehearsals (predominately), polished performances, conferences in the inner sanctum, costume and makeup departments, the cafeteria, the corridors, anywhere and everywhere, down to the lone custodian picking up trash in the baroque auditorium. At over two and a half hours, it would be difficult to say that it couldn't have been tightened. Illuminating as it all is, it would be equally difficult to say exactly where it could have been tightened. 2009. ★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

**Dear John** — Wartime romance beginning in the spring of 2001 (you know what's coming) and stretching up to the present, staggeringly basic and banal in its specifics, turning on a senseless withholding of information for the sole purpose of contrived misunderstanding and revealed nobility. It issues from a novel by Nicholas Sparks, always a harbinger of goofy absurdity, and the chief function of director Lasse Hallstrom, at one time a halfway serious filmmaker, is to pour sunlight, moonlight, and fireworks over it like syrup. The buggy-eyed Amanda Seyfried manages to convey maybe a month's worth of maturation over the decade-long storyline, but Channing Tatum makes a tepid military type, a strong, silent type, guarded, humble, a tad pent-up, a tad petulant, several tads chivalrous. He merits some sort of medal for his recitation of the "I am a coin" letter to his dying narcissistic dad. With Richard Jenkins and Henry Thomas. 2010. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Edge of Darkness** — Mel Gibson, in his first starring role in eight years, comes back strong, and gracefully aged, as a Boston police officer tracking down his daughter's shotgun killer. The detective work — the mistaken first assumption is that the detective himself was the intended target — is solid and followable, and it offers a fair share of ah-ha moments. (Nice one: the lack of the daughter's hair stepped on the coroner's slab later reads as radioactive on the Geiger counter in her personal effects.) If the investigation depends overmuch on bullish Dirty Harry tactics to move it along, at least it pulls up short of the overscaled action — the outrageous explosions, the Hong Kong combat — that has so numbed the 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 miniseries) would lead ultimately to matters of national security and nuclear weaponry. Ray Winestone, Danny Huston, Bojana Novakovic, Caterina Scorsone; directed by Martin Campbell. 2010. ★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**An Education** — A precious English schoolgirl of 1961 (a cellist, a Francophile, a devotee of the Pre-Raphaelites, a sneaky smoker for sophistication), on track for Oxford, gets rerouted by a shady older man who shows her the finer things of life: a Ravel concert, a Christie's auction, nightclubs, Paris. The foreseeable end is a bit of a slog, but the film in the early stages is very good on the pretentions 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 disguised in eyeglasses and pulled-back hair, is strictly stock; and the comic portrait of the heroine's hidebound dad, a same-aged fumbling suitor, and a blond bimbo (Alfred Molina, Matthew Beard, Rosamund Pike, in order) are sharp but narrow. Keeping things fully alive throughout, however, is Carey Mulligan in the lead, showing off, among 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. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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**From Paris with Love** — John Travolta, totally unrestrained, as a self-admiring U.S. superspy with the demeanor of a Hell's Angel ("Tell me that wasn't some impressive shot!"). 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. ★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

**The Ghost Writer** — Reviewed this issue.

**The Hurt Locker** — Fictitious count-down of the final six weeks in the twelve-month tour of an army bomb squad in Baghdad. The living and working conditions in a colorless wasteland appear per-
fectly credible, and the quasi-science-fictional details of the job — the spacecraft protective suits, the remote-control bomb-sniffing robot, the tangle of colored wires, the hide-and-seek triggers — are highly enlightening. And the defusing of bombs — the constant prospect of their blowing up in our faces — carries a guaranteed tension, as the defusing and its concomitant：resourcefully completed by a tag team of the direction of Jim Henson (the Muppets to take him away (she has been rehearsing. Specifics to take him away (she has been rehears-

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus — A Terry Gilliam exercise in excess, as dense, as heavy, as terrifying as a Christmas fruitcake. (Or as Brazil, The Adventures of Baron Munchausen, The Brothers Grimm.) The muffled narrative, revolving around an immortal 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 and the digitalized escape-scapes, a bit of Oz, a bit of Wonderland, a bit of Mid- dle-Earth, a bit of Maxfield Parrish crossed with Salvador Dalí. Just to make the weird weirder, all of it's apt to be shot in bulbous wide angles. Released nearly two years after his death in mid-shoot, this constitutes Heath Ledger's final screen appearance, a supporting role (given deceitful top billing) resourcefully completed by a tag team of Johnny Depp, Jude Law, and Colin Farrell, each of whom, uniformly dressed and groomed, appears more engaged in the role. In the last analysis it deposits a spot of tar-

It's Complicated — Romantic-comic triangle composed 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 chil- dren 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 of 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 de-

Labyrinth — In outline, it sounds like a children's story an adult could endorse and enjoy. But "in detail" is another matter. A self-absorbed teenager, put out at having to babysit her little brother, invokes the gob- lins to take him away (she has been rehears- ing a play coincidentally called The Labyrinth, about goblins stealing a child). To her chagrin, they do just that, and now she has to exercise some willfulness and fetch him back. The creatures, alas, are un- under the direction of Jim Henson (the Mup- pet man), or in other words are about as menacing as Wooburn's toy department; and David Bowie's Goblin King, with a Tina Turner-ish Kabuki haircut, is like an oblig- ing guest star on TV's The Muppet Show. Written by Terry Jones (the Monty Python man; photographed by Alex Thompson; with Jennifer Connelly. 1986. ★ (KEN, 2/27 MIDNIGHT)

The Last Station — Light sport made of a great figure, Tolstoy in his "eccentric" later years of anti-materialism, nonresistance, celibacy, vegetarianism, or, in short, Tol- stoyanism. Under the starry eye of the au- thor’s new secretary, a battle of wits, in- cluding a battle over the literal will, boils up between his leading disciple and his long- time wife, the latter not only behind the concept of giving away their private prop- erty："You all think he’s Christ, don’t you?" It remains for the most part a spectacle of disinterested amusement, although something deeper develops around the deathbed. Expertly, if theatrically, acted by Christo- pher Plummer and Helen Mirren, and archive footage of the real personalities dur- ing the closing credits affirms the studious- ness of the project. With James McAvoy, Paul Giamatti, Anne-Marie Duff, and Kerry Conlon; written and directed by Michael Hoffman. 2009. ★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE TOWN SQUARE 14)

Legion — The fate of the world plays out at a roadside diner in Paradise Falls at the edge of the Mojave Desert: theArchangel Michael and the Archangel Gabriel battle over the imminent illegitimate baby of a dirty-blonde hash-slinger. Bombastic horror film with idiotic dialogue："Either your child lives or mankind dies." Paul Bettany, Adrienne Palicki, Lucas Black, Dennis Quaid, Tyrese Gibson; directed by Scott Stott. 2010. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20)

The Lovely Bones — Fourteen-year-old rape and murder victim, marooned in "the in-between," a/k/a "the blue horizon" divid- ing life and afterlife, continues to watch over her family, friends, and the man she be- hended killer, a quintessential creep who doesn't yet realize she's dead and doesn't understand why she can't connect with the people she sees; or the flickering reflection of an unflickering candle flame by which the girl makes her presence known to her grieving father. But too much of the Other Side, in particular the claircunnion- ing of all the victims of the serial killer, is spoiled by the music-video vulgarity of the CGI. With Saoirse Ronan, Mark Wahlberg, Rachael Weisz, and Susan Sarandon; directed by Peter Jackson. 2009. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

North Face — Retro mountain film, set evocatively in the place and time of the bergfimine heyday, Germany in the Thirties：two uncommitted soldiers in Hitler's army, but committed mountaineers, join the pre- Olympics push to conquer "the last prob- lem of the Alps," the north face of the Eiger, alias "the Wall of Death." Though the fact- based events don't escape the sameness of mountain-dimming movies, they are smoothly laid out in palm-dampening de- tail, and torturously stretched to an operatic agony. With Benno Fürmann, Florian Lukas, Johanna Wokalek, and Ulrich Tukur; directed by Philipp Stollst. 2009. ★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; FROM 2/26)

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief — It would be hard to conceive a more painful introduction to Greek mythology. Or reintroduction, even more. Chris Columbus, who directed the first couple of Harry Potter entries, is look- ing literally for another lightning bolt — Zeus’s stolen one — in the quest of a dyslexic present-day teenager, the unknow- ingly bastard spawned of Poseidon, teamed up ad hoc with a same-aged demi-goddess and semigoat ("The politically correct term is satyr"); to retrieve his mother from Hades (located beneath the Hollywood sign), solve the mystery of the missing bolt, and aver- age an apocalypse. Under these circumstances, the language is appallingly banal even for a disguise: Stanley Tucci with a blond comb-over, facepiece, pant-on matching mas- tache, aviator glasses, and cotton-stuffed cheeks. Some of the depictions of the close- ness of the two realms are reasonably subtle and well done: the cold gray dreamscape occupied by the fresh murder victim who doesn’t yet realize he’s dead and doesn’t understand why she can’t connect with the people she sees; or the flickering reflection of an unflickering candle flame by which the girl makes her presence known to her grieving father. But too much of the Other Side, in particular the claircunnion- ing of all the victims of the serial killer, is spoiled by the music-video vulgarity of the CGI. With Saoirse Ronan, Mark Wahlberg, Rachael Weisz, and Susan Sarandon; directed by Peter Jackson. 2009. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

...delectably amusing... 'The Ghost Writer' is irresistible... this very fine film from welcome start to finish." — Manohla Dargis, THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Deliciously unsettling. A dark pearl of a movie whose great flair makes it Polanski’s best work in quite a while.” — Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

“One of Roman Polanski’s best, an addictive thriller. Dazzling.” — Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

“This will rival ‘Chinatown’! Simply brilliant!” — Nick Scholl, CNN RADIO

“The Last Station is a grand moral allegory, with the world in the grip of a spirit of death. Michel Hazanavicius has directed a film that may run out of place at times, but it is a film that knows how to make a great movie: you feel you are in the presence of something special.” — Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

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In Theaters March 5
 MOVIE SHOWTIMES
Showtimes subject to change. (Bargain showtimes in parentheses.)

CENTRAL

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Carmel Mountain 14
1620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2709)
Avatar (PG-13) (Fri.-Sat. 11:45, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45 P.M.; Sun. 10:45 A.M., 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45)
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) Fri. (1:00) 4:20, 7:05, 10:10;
Neighbors (R) Fri.-Sat. (2:00) 4:05, 6:30, 9:00, 11:25 P.M.; Sun. 11:45 A.M., 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

CLAIREMONT
Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)
Avatar (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:30) 4:15, 7:00, 10:00
The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 7:30, 10:00
In the Air (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 7:45
Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:05, 4:20, 7:05, 10:00, 12:05 P.M.; Sun. 11:45 A.M., 2:00, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35)

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15
781 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
The Book of Eli (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:25) 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (11:30, 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30)
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. 11:45 A.M., 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15)

Horton Plaza

Horton Plaza 14 (619-444-FLIM)
Downtown (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:20) 2:40, 5:20, 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:20) 2:40, 5:20, 7:00, 9:00, 10:30

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Oceanside Mission Marketplace
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405 Parkway Drive (619-401-3465)
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LA MESA
Grossmont Center 10
3500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264)

Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 3:00)
7:00, 10:15
Cop Out (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 2:25)
4:35, 7:25, 9:35
The Crazies (R)
Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:30, 3:50)
6:30, 8:30, 10:45
Crazy Heart (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 2:45, 5:25)
7:30, 10:25
Dear John (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40)
5:05, 7:30, 10:55
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:20, 3:45)
5:00, 8:00, 10:40
Tooth Fairy (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:00)
5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Valentine's Day (PG)
Fri. (11:00, 1:15, 3:45)
5:15, 7:30

NATIONAL CITY
Bonita Plaza 14
3020 Bonita Boulevard (888-236-3264)

Avatar (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:30) 7:05
10:25 Sun. (12:30, 3:35) 7:05
10:25
Cop Out (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:10, 2:20, 4:35, 5:25)
7:15, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15
The Crazies (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 4:40)
5:25, 7:10, 9:15, 10:30
Randy (PG)
Fri.-Sun. (10:35, 12:15, 3:00)
4:35, 7:15, 9:10, 10:30
Valentine's Day (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:30, 4:30)
5:00, 8:00, 10:15
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:20, 3:40)
5:00, 7:40, 10:10
Tooth Fairy (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 12:45, 3:15)
5:00, 7:45, 10:15

SAN MARCOS
San Marcos 18
1210 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)

Dear John (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:00)
5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Sun.: (10:00, 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00)
10:30
Why?: Attack Of The Eraser (G) Sat. & Sun.
10:30 am

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South Bay Drive In
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FALLBROOK
River Village 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-943-8784)

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Sun.: (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Valentine’s Day (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Sun.: (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)

LA COSTA
La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Aires) (760-399-4221)

NORTH INLAND
ESCONDIDO
Escondido 16
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Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Sun.: (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Valentine’s Day (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)
Sun.: (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15)

NORTH COAST
CARLSBAD
Plaza Camino Real
2885 Merrill Road (760-729-7409)

Cop Out (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 3:20, 6:00, 7:30)
9:55 Sun. (12:20, 3:00, 5:30) 7:30
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:30, 5:45, 8:45)
10:45 Sun. (11:45, 2:30, 5:45, 8:45)
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:30, 5:45, 8:45)
10:45 Sun. (11:45, 2:30, 5:45, 8:45)

OCEANSIDE
Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)

Cop Out (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:05, 10:15)
Sun.: (10:00, 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00)
Valentine’s Day (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:30, 3:45, 5:45, 8:45)
10:45 Sun. (10:15, 12:30, 3:45, 5:45, 8:45)

F L I G H T I N G
Flower Hill 4
2880 Via de la Valle (858-646-9245)

The Ghost Writer (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. & Sat. (10:15, 1:15, 4:00)
7:00, 10:00 Sun.: (10:30, 11:30, 4:00)
7:30, 10:30
Why?: Attack Of The Eraser (G)
Sat. & Sun.
10:30 am

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How to Engage in Hyperbole

The whole point of hyperbole is to go big. Tepid hyperbole isn’t hyperbole at all, just lame exaggeration or bragging.

Well, don’t overstatement of levels of hyperbole. I can be quite hyperbolic when I’m in the mood.

And I am in the mood.

Conversely often.

You can only engage in hyperbole for so long until you’ll be expected to prove one of your overblown claims.

It’s true that using hyperbole puts you at a certain risk, but if others retaliate with hyperbole, they assume the same risk.

You know nothing of the hyperbolic. Well, you can’t even spell hyperbole.

Oh, I can spell hyperbole. I can spell the crap out of it.

I just don’t want to.

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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 sandiegoreader.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 (50 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 test.
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 619-233-0489 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92110-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .PDF format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to the winners chosen randomly.
And now for the really small print: 1) All answers must be legible and immediate families are not eligible. 2) Entries must be faxed to the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (50 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 test. 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 619-233-0489 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92110-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .PDF format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to the winners chosen randomly.

Across
1. It can really bite
8. Less complex
15. Be at rest
16. Kafka novel
17. 1993 Tom Stoppard play
18. “That’s understood!”
19. Title of 51-Across when translated into Hebrew
21. “You can see him now!”
22. Loony
23. Cigar residue
26. Grub
27. Title of 51-Across when translated into Hawaiian
30. London facilities
31. Oral surgeon’s deg.
32. Tavern orders
33. They may be nonspeaking
34. With 35-Across, title of 51-Across when translated into Italian
35. See 34-Across
36. Leaves for lunch?
40. One giving Starbucks’s orders
41. Deli order
44. Group that sang 51-Across
45. Be at rest
46. Did nothing
49. Good deal
50. Compel
51. Hit song of 1967
55. Edmund’s province
58. Removes from a spindly
59. Ophelia’s brother
60. It hangs next to Chad
61. Bad place to punch below, in boxing
62. Clogs

Down
1. Cut
2. Fool
3. Gets new players for
4. Viagra alternative
5. Enlarge a house
6. Unlikely
7. Pt. or qt.
8. Doctor’s order
9. Mrs. Marcus of the Philippines
10. “You’ve Made ____ Very Happy”
11. Victorian
12. Fleur-de-____
13. Squeeze (out)
14. Actress ____ Dawn Chong
15. Managed care gpr.
16. Netscape acquirer
17. “That’s all ____ wrote”
18. Contains
19. In the style of
20. Virgo predecessor
21. Saud, e.g.
22. West Wing worker
23. In airport queue
24. Title of 51-Across when translated into Hawaiian
25. Title of 51-Across when translated into Italian
26. Title of 51-Across when translated into Hebrew
27. In the style of
28. In Oscar?
29. Non-speak
30. Compel
31. Aims (for)
32. Clogs
33. They may be nonspeaking
34. Did nothing
35. Good deal
36. Leaves for lunch?
37. Group that sang 51-Across
38. One giving Starbucks’s orders
39. Good deal
40. Compel
41. Hit song of 1967
42. Edmund’s province
43. Remover of a spindly
44. Group that sang 51-Across
45. Be at rest
46. Did nothing
47. Edmund’s province
48. Good deal
49. Good deal
50. Compel
51. Hit song of 1967
52. Edmund’s province
53. Remover of a spindly
54. Good deal
55. Edmund’s province
56. Remover of a spindly
57. Edmund’s province
58. Removes from a spindly
59. Ophelia’s brother
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THIS WEEK’S CONTENTERS:

Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 7. Debra got her purses.
Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 7. It’s me up at the circus screen!
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 7. The facts get twisted until no one’s right.
Elisabeth Noll, Alpine, 7. I’m so ready for summer!!!
Jim Orelli, Vista, 7. All that rain soaks these thick weeds.
P. Drew Papas, La Jolla, 7. Ready for Oscar?
Burl Passenheim, Linda Vista, 7. Obama is evil am I famous yet?
Believe Jesus.
Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, 7. When did schools teach President’s Day into President’s week?
Matthew Rosello, San Diego, 7. It’s gone.
Jay Sato, Carmel Valley, 7. Too early is shame.
Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 7. All hail the guacamole lawn!
Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 7. ‘Beat you with a stick’? ‘No. I’ll do it myself’.
Tom Somich, Clairemont, 7. Happy Birthday, Tom
Eleonore Stephens, Potrero, 7. Back to P-town 4 Me
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 7. Top 73 winners = 1 T-shirt. Remaining 49 = 9 Random.
Norman Williams, San Diego, 7. What do you?
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 7. Bring on March madness-go Blue Devils!

George Jackson, Oceanside, 6. Read my last! No more middle-class taxes!
Dorothy Kruse, Carlsbad, 6. Got a once more
Susie Lektorich, Coronado, 6. Dull beer for me, Dull beer for you!
Ron Meyer, Santee, 6. Hi Hunny. Happy anniversary! I love you!
Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 6. A 1913 or an MKP?
Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 6. 29 days and a wake up.
Michael Panther, Point Loma, 6. Why can’t I just be compliant?
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 6. Leslie rocks orange!
Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 6. Adieu Charley. See you next week.
Don Romero, La Mesa, 6. I miss you Mei Ling. Cannot wait to smooth
THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level by 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 sandiegoreader.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 test.
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 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 7030 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPEG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or scored.
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.

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

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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 registered site member.

THIS WEEK’S CONTENTERS:

EASY:


Don Bowman, Santee, 7. Roses are read. Violats are blue. Spinach is good forgive.

Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 7. Ona Marsh!!

M. Elliott, Ranch Bernardo, 7. Cell phones and driving don’t mix! You idiots!


D. Stiewig, Santee, 7. Have a nice day.

Erie Nogle, Ocean Beach, 6. Bring on the Holy Holy Guacamole Bowl!

Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 6. Honor and respect our diversity and community.

Stuart A. Young, San Diego, 5. If we live only once, we’d better get it right.

Mike Wiene, Poway, 3. Welcome to the world Lucas and Ryan.

Chris Dunn, Lemon Grove, 2. V-Day is for suckers! I love Karen every day.

Emily Posedel, San Diego. 2. I need the N Cafe.

Josie Ranches, San Diego. 2. Hello everyone.

Tri Thanh, San Diego, 2. Vruk Vruk Vruk!!!

Dana Bachman, San Diego, 1. Morning coffee fodder.

Scott Behuer, Pacific Beach, 1. Work to live.

Eleanor Burbank, Encinitos. 1. And I do the.

Jeff Loe, San Diego, 1. SDVAMC sudoku expert!!

Pauline Malley, San Diego, 1. Please get the Reader early on Wednesdays.

Amber Rogowicz, Mission Hills, 1. For Bob Rogowicz: This 4 getting me Hooked dad.

Diem Nguyen, San Diego, 1. One more thing is happen.

Marye Sanchez, Lemon Grove, 1. E.L. nothin less than a car.

MEDIUM:

Betty Archer, La Jolla, 7. Be especially good to everyone today.


David Tomasin, San Diego, 7. This week: fame- next week: glory.

Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 6. Will you or you go to them?

Linda Bibel, El Cajon, 6. Go team America.

Henry Chung, San Diego, 6. Adhesive to Diamond Round.

William Stiewig, Vallecito, 6. See you soon.

Hans Butikofar, Mission Beach, 5. Hard is evil.

Julie Richardson, Chula Vista, 4. One of these days, hard-evil here I come.

Erik Carroll, San Diego, 3. Rock on bro! Go Aztecs.

Elliott Estrine, Poway, 3. Go for the gold.

Dennis Jardim, Oceanside, 3. MBA, NFL, MBL’s are nothing to the dedication of Olympic.


Leesie Wittman, Seattle, 2. Grand Canyon was awesome! Thanks Mr.

Lana Cao, San Diego, 1. Who needs guys when you have credit cards.

Chuyen Cao, San Diego, 1. It’s over.

HARD:

Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 7. Regress Less is here.

Esther Hayes, La Mesa, 7. Reader sudoku rules.

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 7. We cross our fingers as they roll.

Sherry, San Diego, 7. Counting down the days MonkeyBoy-Kitten.

Kayla Black, Mission Valley, 6. Don’t call me.

Andy Thorne, La Jolla, 6. Good luck with next week’s easy.

Mao Ye, La Jolla, 6. Love sudoku puzzle.

EVIL:

Robert Bradley, Spring Valley, 5. Got dirt and rocks too.


Green Dave Gietzen, Sunset Cliffs, 4. This song says: “Anyone Seen My Girl” By Keke. Ha Ha.

Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 4. Mason- break-a leg! You’re a king!


Lark Herrick, Alpine, 2. Be cheerful. Start to be happy.

Rei-Lan Tang, San Diego, 2. Easy Does it.

Wayne Ameda, Peaslequitos, 5. Send a box of G’s cookies to our [Military.

Joshua Boss, San Diego, 1. Good bye L.T. Don’t let the door let you.

B.J. Lundquist, San Diego, 1. Evil wins.

MARJORIE SOUSA, Ocean Beach, 1. Don’t call me.


Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 7. A poktristaturious muse who inspires iugubrunly is an erotic find.

Alford Clabirone, Encanto, 7. To my lucky dog.

Larry Clark, Clairemont, 7. You can lead horses to water, but pencil is lead.

Roger Doughman, San Diego, 7. Trust in the lord with all your heart P83.15.

Butch Hays, La Mesa, 7. Akio a fan Fange, House and Human Tar.

Dan Holslin, San Diego, 7. Evil gave a good fight.

Belmont Hope, Vista, 5. No message.


Lynnette Lampton, La Mesa, 7. Freedom arrives in 58 days.

Raymond Land, Encinitos, 7. Brook Jason Kelly Dowd! And Dustin are the best!”
Electrician

Experience includes commercial, industrial, residential. Free estimates with affordable rates. Lic#472181.

Flooring Broker

Free Estimates

Garcia’s Construction

Quality Home Remodel

Rosa’s Cleaning
Basic house cleaning, apartments, offices, garages, party cleanups. Move in/out. All work done by our crew. Monday thru Saturday. 619-967-0920.

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Hardwood, laminate, vinyl, laminate, tile, VCT. Save $$$ today! Don’t spend a fortune, call us first, then compare. We do it all at the best price in town. Lic#824099. 619-644-2474.

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Lawn care, perimeter control, residential/commercial. As low as $20 a yard. A gardener you can trust. Call Lyle. 619-455-5004.

Bobcat Services
Roofing services, includingdirectional drilling, brush removal, excavation and pool demolition. Serving at San Diego County with professional experience. Lic#804151. 619-252-3415.

AC Plastering

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25% discount for First-Time customers. Free estimates. 7 days a week. Same or next day service. Frank: 619-362-6014. FrankGuadiana@hotmail.com

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Lighting

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Stanley Steemer, San Diego’s #1 cleaner for carpets, upholstery, tile, grout, area rugs. $20 off any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Mention the San Diego Reader. Lic#835995. 619-744-2929; 858-566-2662. www.stanleysteemer.com. Mention the San Diego Reader to compare. We do it all at the best price in town.

PAINTING JOBS

Contractor of the Month

Quality Home Remodel
$50 Off Tax Prep! 

San Diego State Parks

The San Diego Zoo celebrates Mardi Gras with a unique parade and festival, February 20-21, 10 am – 5 pm. In the Festival Plaza, enjoy music, entertainment, and food, including New Orleans–themed food and drinks, a Mardi Gras parade, and a live alligator show. For more information, call 619-235-4714 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org. 

Art on the Avenue

Enjoy an evening of music and art at Art on the Avenue, featuring 40 artists who will display their work and information about their work. Stop by the Pacific View Mall, 1770 Pacific View Drive, from 6-9 pm on February 20 to enjoy this free event. For more information, call 619-571-1500 or visit www.pacificviewmall.com.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Enjoy the best view of the animal kingdom at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. On February 20, take part in the annual Wildlife Whirlwind Wednesday, where you can see the park’s wildest animals up close. This event takes place from 6-9 pm at the Safari Park, 16300 North State Route 76, Escondido, CA 92026. For more information, call 760-742-7323 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

San Diego Zoo and Safari Park

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park. On February 14, enjoy a special day at the zoo with your loved one. Visit the zoo early in the day, and then enjoy a special Valentine’s Day meal at the Safari Park. For more information, call 619-235-4714 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

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Nutritional Supplements!
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Reg. $250. Includes initial examination with x-rays and report of findings.
Dr. Robert Walcher, Palmer graduate, voted Pacific Beach’s top chiropractor

FREE X-RAYS!
for first-time clients ($125 value)
• Safe removal of mercury fillings • Environmentally clean/healthy office

Events Calendar

Mind, Body Fitness and Wellness Clinics. Thurs., Feb. 25, Tues., March 2, 5pm Fitness class: Core strength stability and conditioning mat class. 8pm Yoga: Hatha Vinyasa mix. 7:30pm Alternative Wellness Clinic: Acupuncture/ Massage/ Energy Medicine. Learn mediation healing and more. $10 donation. Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, San Diego 92116. 619-884-2662. prakasheffulgence@yahoo.com.


Forum for Healthy Minds. Sat., Feb. 27, 8:30am-3pm. Theme is “Wellness…Mind, Body, and Soul,” hosted by Community Alliance for Healthy Minds. Keynote speakers at 9am: Carol LeBeau and Dr. Nick Yphantides. Resource fair (8:30am); breakout sessions by experts in nutrition, art and writing therapy, suicide prevention, survivor support, journey with grief (throughout day). Requested donation: $20. Abraxas High School, 12450 Glen Oak Road, Poway 92064. Registration: 858-395-3950.

I go out boating on the ocean — powerboat and sailboat. I have a boat in Long Beach — a classic 48-foot Stephens. That’s where I go and what I do to unwind. I go fishing as well, and scuba diving.

Jini DeFrisco
Sound Engineer
DownTown

I go to the gym. I take all kinds of fitness classes, pretty much everything. It gets my stress away from me. I’m a soundman for the 4thClub. I’m the production manager there. So, when I get all the stress from the shows, I come here [24 Hour Fitness] and I beat it out of myself — every single day, at least three hours a day. I kind of stay to a diet, too. I have to, I used to go out and just drink and do shots at night, but it didn’t help my health. It made me more tired and more stressed.

Ehren Fried
Retired
Irvine

I do many different things to relax. If I’m having a hard day, I like to go out to Ocean Beach on my skateboard to relax — I go to the skate park, ride around on the pool, have a good time. Sometimes when you fall down and eat shit, it takes away from the other things going on in life, so you really can’t think about ‘em.

Jorge Covantes
Electrical Student
Pacific Beach

I guess my entire existence is trying to calm myself down, so basically just the normal day-to-day is always a relaxation process for me. But most specifically, I enjoy cooking. I’m a chef — I’m the new executive chef at Bing Crosby’s down at Fashion Valley. I like to cook at home, just for me and my wife. I find that very relaxing.

Schuyler Saliba
Executive Chef
South Park

What do you do to relax?
**PACIFIC BEACH.** Agent/owner, 619-861-3076.

**MISSION BAY/ CLAIREMONT.** Healinghands-sd.com. 619-574-0053. 296-6699. www.centrecity.net. Meetings, or performances. 619-280-

- store- hour times. Perfect for classes, (whichever is greater). $10 extra for out-
- unit, high traffic count. Approximately
- ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for
- space in heart of Pacific Beach. Private
- easy Freeway 5 access. Many possible
- warehouse, 4000 square feet. Office
- parking. Near shopping center. 2445
- Clean. Near I-5. Easy access. Free
- Aquarium Sale
- 619-632-2561.

**AMERICAN PITBULLS.** Also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and
- 20H aquarium, $20; 29 for $29; 40R, $40.

**CENTRAL**

- Credit Union

- 4 males, 5 females.


**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, $750. Hardwood floors.

- management.com.**

**KENSINGTON.** $2500. Approximately
- unit
- 613 square feet. 2- year

- Freshwater Fish
- Section.

**SURF TOWN.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 bath, 1 bath cottage. English garden. Fireplace,
- air conditioning. Washer/ dryer
- balcony. No pets. 3922 Shasta Street. 92104.

**BLUEFIRE.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 bath cottage. 1 parking. Bike to bay and
- port. Stove, dishwasher, laundry.

**HAPPY HOUR.** Listings are not
- AQUARIUMS AND PONDS!
- glitter. Raised in our home. TICA
- found in Genesis 28-30. North County, 760-

- Aquariums and Ponds
- 9000 gallon saltwater tank. 583-5122.

**KITTENS/ CATS.** Since 1988. 619-441-9275.

**ALUM ROCK.** $1795, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, backyard. Breakfast nook, dining room,
- room. La Costa Petco. 3239
- Camino Ramon. 619-728-8595.

**KITTERS/ CATS.** Mission Valley Petco. 583-5122. Also. Many different colors, ages, full of love! Come and find
- your new best friend. Call 619-441-9275.

**KITTERS/ CATS.** La Costa Petco. 329
- 583-5122. Also. Many different colors, ages, full of love! Come and find
- your new best friend. Call 619-441-9275.

**KITTERS/ CATS.** Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way. 619-579-4600.

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NEWLY REMODELED AFFORDABLE APARTMENT!

2 BDRM/1 BA

BRAND-NEW interior features include:
- Flooring (carpet and vinyl)
- Paint • Windows • Cabinets
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Community features include:
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Playground
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- After-school program
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Income restrictions apply. Call for details. Se habla español!

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www.villagegreen@conam.net

BRAND-NEW “LOW INCOME” HOUSING!
Now open in Downtown San Diego!

Please visit our community Monday through Friday.
Studio apartments available!

Income restrictions apply. One person: Max $34,680
Two persons: $39,660
Three persons: $44,580

• Underground, assigned parking
• Community center • Outdoor deck
• Views • Wired for cable/Internet
• “Green” • Non-smoking community
• Studio $778
• 1 Bedroom $888
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COLLEGE AREA.

5636.

COLLEGE AREA.

8512.


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lease! 2-car tandem parking, stainless
bath. New paint! Very clean! Laundry and
Apartments in rear courtyard. 858-866-
$400 off 1st month’s rent. Pool, laundry,
heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony.

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619-235-8824.

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discount or for prior service. See manager for details. Al coupons expire 3/11/10.

At Japanese Auto Plus we specialize in Japanese vehicles exclusively. This will save both time and money because we have the expertise to diagnose and economically and repair your vehicle quickly and efficiently. We also use genuine factory parts, when possible, to make sure your car or truck runs just like new.

Brakes Free brake inspection. Front or rear.
Includes labor, new parts and semi-metallic pads.
Machine rotors or drums. Inspect calipers, hydraulics, seals, rotors or drums. Most cars.

$88 95$.

Complete Axle
Replace clicking axles before they break. Most cars.
Lifetime warranty available.

CV Boots Includes boot, clamps and gasket and labor. Free inspection.

As low as $ 39 95 each

Timing Belts
60,000-mile replacement recommended. Old, cracked belts can break during and mileage and cause expensive engine damage.

Most cars. Some cars and trucks extra.

$ 89

New Clutch
Includes new parts and labor. Some cars and trucks slightly higher.

Starting at $ 209

Oil Change $18 95

Smog Check $29 95$*

One flat rate – no more, no less!
Includes visual & functional tests of emissions control as required by the State of California. Please bring O大胆 模式* "Smog - Check engine" Light "29 95$* 

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$89

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Includes new parts and labor. Some cars and trucks slightly higher.

Starting at $209

EL CAJON. East Village. 7668 Lemon Ave, Lemon Grove Most vehicles. Includes up to 5 qts. oil (5W-30 or 5W-20) and 1000 miles. Plus tax. $27.95. For ‘95 and older. Vans and trucks extra. Most cars."

MISSION HILLS. and more. Cat OK. 3505 Reynard Way.

MISSION HILLS. laundry, microwave. Close to all. No pets. Garage, on-site laundry, cat OK. Rent: 1767 Torrance Street #314. 858-483-8207.

MISSION HILLS. 1/2 off 1st! 1 and 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1 parking. Air conditioning, washer/ dryer in unit, new stainless steel appliances. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 400 square feet. Rent: $750 month. $75 deposit. No pets. 3458 Louisiana Street #4. 858-483-5354. www.calprop.com.


MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 off 1st! Large 1 bedroom apartment. 1 block to beach. Beautiful beachfront view! $300 off 1st month's rent! All utility included. No pets! 1201 Broadway Street #4. Agent, 619-299-8515.


MISSION HILLS. 2nd floor. 1 bedroom, central location, walk to bus and shops. Beautiful beach! On-site laundry! Pet on approval! $950 month. $600 deposit. Small dog OK. 4546 52nd Street. 858-421-9010. 858-387-3933.

MISSION HILLS. Newly remodeled. 400 square feet. Rent: $655. 3250 Culver Avenue. Call Mike: 858-430-6363 or 858-450-1605.

MISSION HILLS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1/2 off 1st! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 block to beach. Beautiful beachfront view! $300 off 1st month's rent! All utility included. No pets! 1201 Broadway Street #4. Agent, 619-299-8515.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 off 1st! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 block to beach. Beautiful beachfront view! $300 off 1st month's rent! All utility included. No pets! 1201 Broadway Street #4. Agent, 619-299-8515.


MISSION VALLEY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1/2 off 1st! 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 block to beach. Beautiful beachfront view! $300 off 1st month's rent! All utility included. No pets! 1201 Broadway Street #4. Agent, 619-299-8515.


MISSION VALLEY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 bath, 1 parking. 1/2 off 1st! 1 and 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1 parking. Air conditioning, washer/ dryer in unit, new stainless steel appliances. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 400 square feet. Rent: $750 month. $75 deposit. No pets. 3458 Louisiana Street #4. 858-483-5354. www.calprop.com.

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MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Move-In Special: $200 off first month! 1 bedroom apartment, $750 deposit. No pets. 440 West Mountain View Drive. 858-514-8001.

MISSION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1/2 off 1st! 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 block to beach. Beautiful beachfront view! $300 off 1st month's rent! All utility included. No pets! 1201 Broadway Street #4. Agent, 619-299-8515.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Beach</td>
<td>1536 Pacific Beach Drive</td>
<td>2 bedroom, 1 bathroom</td>
<td>725 square feet</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>Remodeled, washer/dryer, pool, parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Beach</td>
<td>3615 Garnet Street</td>
<td>Studio, 1 bath</td>
<td>361 square feet</td>
<td>$805</td>
<td>Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Beach</td>
<td>224-7583</td>
<td>2 bedroom, 1.5 bath</td>
<td>915 square feet</td>
<td>$1395</td>
<td>Remodeled, pool, courtyard, garage space, laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Beach</td>
<td>2109 Reed Avenue</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath</td>
<td>600 square feet</td>
<td>$1275</td>
<td>Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Beach</td>
<td>8123 1/2 Hornblend</td>
<td>1 bedroom, 1 bath</td>
<td>700 square feet</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OCEAN BEACH**

- **1163 Missouri**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1275
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2600 Pacific Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1200
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **3700 Kansas Street**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1200
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **3125 1/2 Reed Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $975
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **619-270-4492**
  - Contact Ray Frey for more information

**PACIFIC BEACH**

- **3613 Pacific Beach Drive**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $975
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2710 Grand Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **1190 Grand**
  - 2 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1595
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2400 Pacific Beach Drive**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1275
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **950 Chalcedony**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1000
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **824 Tourmaline**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **3615 Garnet Street**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1275
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **1829 Missouri**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1250
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **1063-1/2 Hornblend**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $975
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **4408 Newall**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

**PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH**

- **3717 1/2 Diamond**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1325
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **820 Grand Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1150
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **950 Chalcedony**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1000
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **804 Tourmaline**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1245
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2700 Grand Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **3737 Hanley Street**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $860
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2700 Grand Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **1063-1/2 Hornblend**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $975
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2224-7583**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1050
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2500 Reed Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1095
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2300 Grand**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1150
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **3900 Jewel Street**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1050
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **2600 Reed Avenue**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $1200
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

**OCEANSIDE**

- **10175-10185 1 bedroom apartment**
  - $975
  - Newly remodeled, quiet, pool, laundry, parking
  - Contact Ray Frey, 858-270-2071

- **1601 Diamond Street**
  - 1 bedroom, 1 bath
  - $850
  - Pets negotiable, pool, laundry, parking

- **858-270-2071**
  - Contact Ray Frey for more information
LEAD STORY
— In January, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers confiscated a live, jewel beetle that a woman was wearing as an “accessory” on the border between Tecate, Valle, and Miramar, California and Mexico. Blue jewels were glued onto the beetle’s back, which had been painted gold, and the mobile brooch was tethered by a gold chain attached to a safety pin. Even though the woman said the beetles were part of a costume, she was confronted because she had not completed the bureau’s PPQ Form 526, which is necessary to bring insects into the country. Reportedly, such jewelry is not rare in that region.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit
— As of early January, at least 590 new Denver businesses had applied for sales-tax licenses as dispensers for legal (medicinal) marijuana. By comparison, Starbucks coffee shops numbers 208 in the entire state of Colorado. Among the first cannabis-centered businesses to open, in December, was the Ganja Gourmet on South Broadway, featuring lasagna, pizza, jambalaya, paella, and flavored cheeses as all “spiced” appropriately for customers with doctors’ prescriptions.

— Waldo Colin Burn, of Breoome, Australia, announced in October at the Asia Adult Expo in Macau that he will make the world’s most expensive “personal vibrators,” in 18-karat gold, out of smooth platinum, each with 1500 white diamonds. He said he planned to shoot for a price of $1 million (U.S.) and noted that he currently offers a similar sex toy with only 450 diamonds (but with a handle made of “the conkerberry wood” that he sells for $38,000).

— Professor Yevgeny Moskalev of Russia’s St. Petersburg Technological University announced in November that he had perfected a somewhat-useful powdered version of Russia’s famous vodka drink (bwm). However, after much criticism, he had found that the only way to preserve the alcohol was by mixing the vodka liquid into a small wax and letting it harden. According to a November report in the English language version of Pravda, the resulting shabby chips could then be flavored to counteract the wax’s insipidness, and might be used for cooking or medicine. “Instant vodka” mix for straight drinking does not appear to be in professor Moskalev’s plans.

Leading Economic Indicators
— After the New York Post reported in December on the 175-square-foot-manhattan apartment recently purchased by Christopher Prokop in Softball Factory in the midst of maintenance fees), residents of even smaller Manhattan digs told the Post they were unimpressed. For instance, Felice Cohen, 39, rents a 90-square-foot apartment ($700) with a loft bed, but admits it’s “like a salt-march sparrow on the toilet bowl.” Event planner-estimator Eddie Rabon rents a 55-square-foot place for $800 a month (closer to midtown than Cohen’s). He can almost touch both side walls simultaneously and cannot easily turn around while showering. Commented the residents: “We love it,” “I love it,” and “It’s fantastic.”

— He’s a man of distinction, but that is little help in the tight economy. Actor Jonah Falcon, 39, is out of work and living once again with his parents in New York City, according to a January report on AOL News. A 1999 HBO docuseries about Falcon as a person of the world’s longest penis (13 1/2 inches, aroused), he has appeared in mainstream film and TV roles but has refused to do pornography. “If I did porn, nobody would take me seriously.” However, he added, “I wouldn’t be opposed to doing a nude scene [in a mainstream film] if I got the right part.”

Slut Birds
— A team of researchers led by a University of Connecticut professor, writing recently in the ornithology journal The Auk, declared the local black-eye as America’s most promising bird in that 95 percent of the females hook up with more than one male during a mating season. The likelihood that any two chicks in a nest had the same father was only 2 percent, and in one-third of the nests, all chicks had different fathers. The researchers hypothesized that the frequent flooding of Connecticut’s marshes destroys so many nests that non-chores females have gained evolutionary advantage. (A wren in Australia and a parrot in Madagascar are said to be comparably promiscuous.)

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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$199

$399

$199

$29

$99

$199

$39

$299

$199

$250

$199

$299

$199

$39

$299
SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Roman Catholic
Address: 621 Sicard Street, Logan Heights, 619-239-8253
Founded locally: 1921
Senior pastor: Carl Giamondi
Congregation size: 500
Staff size: 3
Sunday school enrollment: 50
Annual budget: n/a
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: no
Dress: casual to formal
Diversity: diverse
Sunday worship: 7:30 a.m. (Low Mass), 10 a.m. (High Mass), 12 p.m. (Low Mass), 6 p.m. (Low Mass)
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 20 minutes
Website: stannes-sandiego.org

A statue of the Infant Christ wearing a king’s crown stands to the left of the altar at St. Anne’s. Today, the statue also wears a purple robe trimmed with pearls over his usual finery because purple is a penitential color, and today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the penitential season of Lent. When Father Dennis Gordon ascends to the altar, he is draped in a heavy purple cope. Latin words surround the gold cross on his mantel: Lux, Pax, Vita, Via — light, peace, life, way. Almost the entire Mass will be in Latin; translation books are available at the church entrance.

This is a High Mass. The priest chants substantial portions of the liturgy as he faces the altar, his back to the people. Other parts are chanted or sung by the choir — sometimes a single soprano voice floating overhead from the elevated loft, sometimes a back-and-forth between male and female voices as they implore God’s mercy, sometimes all together. Because it is Lent, there is little organ accompaniment, but the sameness of the form highlights the differences in tone — now somber, now magisterial, now almost convivial.

The congregation, meanwhile, is largely silent, except for the tinkled runnings of organs with herbal pages as the people follow the Mass; and the communal rumble of movement as they stand, sit, and kneel. Now and then, the priest turns and faces them, saying, “Dominum vobiscum” (the Lord be with you), and they respond with “Et cum spiritu tuo” (“And with your spirit”). They sing little, except for the “sal libera nos a malo” (“but deliver us from evil”) line during our Father. Their longest speech comes after the priest turns and presents the host prior to communion. “Domine non sum dignus ut intres sub tectum meum, sed tanta dic verbo, et sanctur anima mea.” (Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but say the word, and my soul shall be healed.”) Then they say it again. And again.

The liturgy begins with the blessing of the ashes. The priest chants over them, sprinkles holy water over them, waves a thurible of incense over them. Throughout, he is assisted by a team of servers in cassocks and alb, all of whom move with crisp precision, genuflecting in union whenever they pass in front of the tabernacle. A second priest sprinkles Gordon’s head with the blessed ashes, and the two of them descend to the altar rail and the kneeling congregants who wait there. The priests mark the people’s foreheads with a cross of ashes, saying, “Memento,

Welcome from Pastor Al
Here at Hill Country Community Church, the doors are wide open to people just like you! When you visit our service, you will find great worship music, relevant teaching from the Bible, a casual atmosphere (don’t worry about what you wear), and a safe and loving environment for your children.

March 7: Bluegrass Sunday
April 4: Free breakfast & gourmet coffee starting at 9 am followed by Easter service

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Sunday service 8:30 and 10:30 am. KidZone for kids both services. Engage for Youth 9 am. Free refreshments and Starbucks Coffee.
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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. (State intention.)

Say the above novena sincerely nine times a day for eight consecutive days, and promise to publish it or otherwise distribute it to others. It has never been known to fail.

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St. Anne’s Roman Catholic Church
Logan Heights

[Full disclosure. I have friends who work at St. Anne’s, and so I am refraining from giving any ratings in order to avoid any conflict of interest.]
to all feeling; We have to be detached from the world.... The cross, he says, means suffering, but meaningful suffering: “A piece of marble doesn’t understand why the sculptor is striking at it, but the sculptor knows the image that he’s trying to bring out in that marble. Our crosses can shape us into the image of our Blessed Lord.”

After the homily comes the Liturgy of the Eucharist —long stretches of silence as the priest hunches over the elements on the altar, stretches broken by the clatter of bells following the words of consecration. Not just the bells shaken by the server kneeling at his post but also the big bell in the steeple, pealing out into the night as the host is raised aloft.

What happens when we die?

From the homily: “The whole point is that it is through the cross that we gain eternal life. It’s completely backwards from the way the world thinks because they want their pleasure now. And they’ll get it now, to a certain extent. But not in the next life.”

— Matthew Lickona
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