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<tr>
<td>0-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-74</td>
<td>$1,435</td>
<td>$1,860</td>
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<td>75+</td>
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**Scams on the Menu**

**By Joe Deegan**

Late last October, a man claiming to represent a deaf woman began calling the Saffron Thai restaurants on India Street near Washington. The lady wanted large amounts of food for her upcoming wedding. But Saffron employees could never get the caller to be clear about what the order was. On November 4, manager Hector Carrillo received another call. The next day he emailed Saffron owner Su-Mei Yu, who was attending a cooking conference. Carrillo wrote, “I need your help with this please. Yesterday I got a phone call from this company or system that helps deaf people communicate.” Carrillo explained that the caller identified herself as Jude Moore and that in eight days she wanted a large order of “pad Thai and 200 regular skewers of chicken saté.”

Carol Lam

Carrillo’s message betrayed frustration over being unable to impress on Moore the importance of several details. It’s not recommended, for instance, that large quantities of noodles be purchased “because they tend to stick all together.” Also, “I asked her at what time she’s going to serve the food and how she’s going to keep it.” But Moore seemed unconcerned and “insisted on placing the order.”

So Carrillo had taken Moore’s email address for his boss. By November 11, Yu and Moore had negotiated the order and its cost. Moore then wrote to Yu, “I am ok with the total cost of the order, which is $1749.38. Meanwhile, I would like you to add an additional $1250… The $1250 will be sent to the private shipper who will be coming for the pick up of the food.” Moore indicated more specifically that she

Carol Lam

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Moore said the truck she was "someone getting sick." But it didn't matter since she didn't have the price inclusive of the tax so that she could pay them the cash via the Money Gram transfer.

But Yu wasn't having it. "I am afraid I cannot charge anything more than what you plan to purchase using the restaurant's credit card machine. You will have to settle how to pay the private shipper some other way."

"That was the last I heard from Jude Moore," Yu tells me in the office above her two restaurants, Saffron Noodles and Sate and Saffron Thai Grilled Chicken, a take-out shop. "But the whole thing was so strange. Moore wedding episode, for almost every week until recently. One of the first nights for 15 of his employees who would be visiting San Diego.

"My restaurant is very casual," Yu replied, "and generally one does not need a reservation. However, since yours is a fairly good size group, I will be glad to put aside a table for you and your workers." She asked if Williams was looking for "something special" and informed him that, for the nights in question, the restaurant's specials were beef panang and chicken cooked in green curry, followed by red curry with chicken and pumpkin, and "mostly vegetarian dishes" on the final night. But Williams said he wanted Saffron to create a "3 course menu" for his group and would take advice. "I suggest that you order out of our regular menu," Yu replied. "However, if you really want something special which I or my cook prepare just for you and your guests, we can do that but it will cost more."

Williams did ask for a special menu and eventually said that since his workers would be in town for a convention, they would eat both lunch and dinner at Saffron every day for a week. "It then made no sense," Yu tells me. "In the first place, nobody's going to want to eat Thai food twice a day for five days in a row."

Then came the clincher. "I will make a deposit of $1500," wrote Williams on December 5, "which will cover your guests' meals and drinks in advance because we are not sure of what they might like to drink or how much they are likely to consume."

"No Apology" T-shirts ushered groups of 12 bookholding signature solicitors inside the store until the crowd of 800 dissolved into a group of 20 cameramen and reporters. Rumor had it there would be a sizable protest from the gay community urging Romney to change his opinion on gay marriage, but the dozen or so protesters went largely unnoticed.

When I asked the seemingly simple bound bystanders what it was they liked about Romney, it was unanimous (at least with the female population) that Romney was incredibly handsome. Others said they appreciated his integrity.

A press conference followed the book signing. I trailed behind as the other reporters left the room and the store lights dimmed. I turned to Romney and asked, "If you had a magic wand, could tap your book and have it change the world, what effect would you want it to have?" After a moment of thought (and what could have been a twitch at the word "magic"), he looked straight into my eyes and said rather gravely, "I want my book to have an impact on people's thinking. We've been put on a road to decline, and I'd like to see people get back on the road to prosperity, strength, and security."

By Carolyn Grace Matteo
Wednesday, March 24

In May 2001, 71-year-old cyclist Larry Mahr was hit from behind, killed by a distracted driver who drifted into the bike lane. In August 2005, USMC Captain Patrick Klokow, a decorated veteran of the Middle East conflict, was hit from behind and killed by a driver who fled the scene. In February 2010, a cyclist was...
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Scams on the menu
continued from page 7

sume. Moreover, we were able to make an arrangement with a pre-paid car hiring agent who will supply the guests with vehicles that will be used by the guests to and from the place. So in order not to share my credit card information with a third party, I have decided that only you will have to handle my credit card information. The prepaid agent is not yet a credit card merchant and therefore cannot charge credit cards. I would have sent him his money directly, but am on the high seas working on an OIL RIG. There are no banks or western union outlets here where I can make payment directly to the agent.

“Some agents are in receipt of your credit card details, you are required to charge the total amount of $5100 plus processing fees on my card, then deduct $1500 as initial deposit for the meals and drinks and $100 as a tip for your own kindness and send the balance of $3500 to the agent in order to prepay their expenses for coming. The agent’s information will be forwarded to you once this is confirmed. You can assist me in making payment to them through a certified bank check.”


Yu wonders how her restaurant was picked by scammers. Do they count on Asians being unable to detect the deceit? A check on the web suggests otherwise, as this type of scam has turned up at a variety of restaurants and in multiple cities. On August 2 last year, the local newspaper in Billings, Montana, reported that a restaurant called Bruno’s A Taste of Italy had in the previous several months fielded over 40 calls from scammers using the deaf-caller tactic and others that Yu’s Saffron restaurant has experienced. The Billings owner said that in one case he came close to losing $500 worth of lasagna. When he contacted the FBI, they said they could do nothing.

The biggest problem for Saffron has been the uncertain feelings that now plague Yu and her staff about large-called-in orders. She says she got so wary of the scams that not long ago she almost lost a legitimate large order. “I went home and told my husband how upset I started to get about a woman’s phone order because I was sure it was a scam. He said, ‘Su-Mei, you have to check further into these orders or you’ll lose some business.’” And sure enough, when she got back to the woman and they planned a wedding, everything worked out well.

In recent emails dealing with large orders, Yu has come straightforward to the point about her worries. She tells me that someone going by the name of Philip David has approached her with numerous emails. In response to one concerning a wedding on February 11, Yu wrote, “I need more information before I can help you. I must say that your order is exactly the same as several others I received this past month, all of which were a scam! Therefore I am very cautious before I proceed. If this is in fact a true order, then I apologize and would be very happy to help you.” Yu closed her message with a warning. “Just for your information, I have passed all previous names, email addresses, and fax numbers to the police for investigation.”

The name Philip David turns up on the internet in connection with various scams nationwide. Yu says she’s had several phone conversations with a man going by that name. Finally, she told him, “I know this is a scam. Please stop doing this. Shame on you.”

**STRINGERS**

continued from page 7

pitalized after her front tire was flat. She called the only tire repair service in town, and they charged her $25. She was shocked.

The two lanes for motorized traffic were repaved in 2007; the eroded bike lanes were not. After the latest accident, city crews tried to patch the pavement irregularities but ended up making the bike lane unrideable by leaving raised humps of cold-patch asphalt blocking the lane on the southbound side near Miramar Way.

Southbound cyclists now have to ride on the new pavement on the far-right side of lane 2, which puts them directly adjacent to speeding traffic.

To date, no safe accommodations have been provided to the hundreds of bicycle commuters who use this road daily.

By Ray Ramage
Thursday, March 25

Street Relief, Residential Grief

Details of University Avenue Plan Unfolded

North Park — Thirty residents of North Park sat in folding chairs on the hardwood basketball court inside North Park’s recreation center on March 24 to hear the details of the University Avenue Mobility Plan.

The plan is meant to improve traffic flow, safety, and transit flow and create a pedestrian-friendly environment while reducing speed, accommodating bicyclists, and beautifying the corridor from Florida Street east to Boundary Street, the entire length of North Park.

Residents had concerns about parking impacts for local businesses during the three years of construction, while some worried that construction vehicles will decrease parking for residents.

In September, the city expects to release the draft environmental impact report for comment. Construction on the project is set for January 2012.

The estimated cost of phase one, which includes the core area, is $3.37 million with $1.9 million in construction costs. For phase two, the cost is anticipated at $4.84 million with $3.94 million in construction costs.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, March 25

Comments

1. The following meetings need to be “advertised” in a much more formal way than to just depend upon our local groups to add some info and/or a website link to their websites and agendas. If the City can spend millions on this project, then they should spend some money to fly the impacted area’s residents and also post some ads about this project in both English and Spanish newspapers...

Increased public awareness will result in a better project!

BTW: If you want to see this type of “traffic calming” that is actually built, but in a much less congested area, try driving through Bird Rock (N. of PB) or give Main St. in Downtown San Diego a try. Also, if you think before it is too late for everyone here in “OUR” North Park!

By Founder 10:20 a.m., March 27

**Even More Homeless Now**

I-5 Underpass Cleared of Homeless Camp

Downtown — The homeless encampment at the I-5 underpass at B Street has been cleared out.

For months (perhaps even for years), many of the city’s homeless took advantage of the rain-free environment; rows of cardboard mats, shopping carts, blankets, and sleeping bags lined the sidewalks on both sides of B Street.

On March 24, I drove through the tunnel at about 7:30 a.m. and saw a police car there with two officers talking to a group of the residents. Two days later, I passed through again, but this time the underpass was a ghost town.

By Mark Shiflett
Thursday, March 25

When Thieves Attack

Bandannaed Burglar Targets North County

Rancho Bernardo — San Diego police are investigating three burglaries that occurred on March 22 in North County communities. The break-ins appear to be related, according to an SDPD news release.

A Rancho Bernardo resident confronted a burglar immediately after the perpetrator entered the victim’s home. The intruder, who was covering his face with a black bandanna, attacked the resident with an unknown chemical and fled the scene. No property was taken. The victim said he saw a suspicious gray sedan with black tinted windows driving slowly through the neighborhood prior to the incident.

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supermarket is irritating

El Cajon —
Long Lines and Thefts
Ralphs Understaffed, Store?
Who's Minding the
continued from page 12

STRINGERS

Who’s Minding the Store?
Ralphs Understaffed, Long Lines and Thefts
El Cajon — An El Cajon supermarket is irritating its customer base by allegedly scheduling staff below an acceptable standard.

On March 20, shortly before 8 p.m., approximately 30 customers were lined up at the two checkstands open at the Ralphs on Second Street. While a security guard fulfilled store duties by relocating a load of split wood, two men walked out the door without paying for the liquor hidden under their jackets.

Patrons and a staff member reported that a week prior, on March 14, only four staff were scheduled to work after 7 p.m. until closing at 1 a.m. Customers reported that they were lined up at the two open checkstands for 20 minutes; the same security guard apprehended a woman attempting to make off with $200 worth of meat.

In October 2006, Ralphs supermarket was fined $70 million for illegal employee relations against members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW).

Aside from four staff at the front of the store on March 20, no other employees could be found elsewhere. Adjacent to the nightly schedule was a whiteboard sign inscribed with the words “No Breaks.”

By Grant Madden
Thursday, March 25

Walkability’s Price
Controversial Third Avenue Redesign
Chula Vista — A controversial streetscape project for Chula Vista’s downtown will come before the city council April 13.

The project involves narrowing a portion of Third Avenue to a single lane and removing trees in cement planters. According to project manager Gary Williams, the Third Avenue redesign will take place between H Street and Madrona Avenue, though “with competitive bids may extend to F Street.”

Some residents have expressed concern that construction of traffic on Third Avenue will divert vehicles to residential streets like Second Avenue. Williams says the goal of the project is to create walkability and to “unclutter the streetscape.” He says the tree canopy will be maintained by planting new trees and that the number of parking spaces will not be reduced.

Controversy also stems from the project cost: $3,700,000. There are those who would rather see money spent on projects such as a music venue that would attract more people and contribute to the revitalization of Third Avenue. But Williams says the grant money from SANDAG is specifically for “Smart Growth” and is predicated on de-emphasizing car traffic and increasing pedestrian traffic.

By Susan Luzzaro
Thursday, March 25

Green Tape
Councilmembers Deliberate on Pot Shops
Downtown — San Diego’s Land Use and Housing Committee met on March 24 in the administration building to deliberate regulating medical marijuana dispensaries in the city.

Committee chair, councilmember Todd Gloria introduced the agenda and then listed some suggestions from his colleagues.

“I think we should regulate this industry as much as we can,” said councilmember Tony Young. “I think there should be a cap. The recommendations aren’t strong enough. It is a state law, but it is against federal law, and I do recognize federal law.”

Councilmember Sherri Lightner made a motion to accept many of the task force’s recommendations but also to require that dispensary owners submit proof that they are a nonprofit organization. Lightner then made a motion to prohibit dispensaries from opening in commercial and residential zones and reiterated lengthening the buffer zone to 1000 feet.

Lightner’s motion, seconded by councilmember Kevin Faulconer, passed three votes to one, with Young the only no vote.

City staff will begin work on drafting a city-wide ordinance to present to the city council. The city council is expected to hear that ordinance no sooner than 30 days.

By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, March 24

Wild Seven
Middle School Students Found with Guns
Scripps Ranch — “Marshall Middle School envisions a welcoming environment that promotes meaningful collaboration between parents, teachers and other community members,” reads the Scripps Ranch middle school’s website.

But another type of collaboration occurred at Thurgood Marshall Middle School on March 18 — a troubling collaboration that involved seven middle school students, two pistols, and live ammunition.

The incident unfolded when a Marshall student became aware that weapons were on campus. That student relayed the information to a school administrator, who then informed school police.

By the end of the day, all seven students were arrested and no one was injured.

“Six students have been suspended with a recommendation for expulsion; one student has been suspended for five days. Two of the seven students arrested were placed in Juvenile Hall,” reads a March 22 message from school principal Michelle Irwin.

Currently, San Diego Unified police officers are conducting an investigation. Each student faces criminal charges, which will be handled by the district attorney’s office.

By Dorian Hargrove
Monday, March 22

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LETTERS

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

Return To Sender

Re "Big Brother will be watching" ("Under the Radar," March 18). I am sending you two pages from Ben Hueso’s campaign disclosure report, filed with the secretary of state and San Diego registrar of voters on March 22. Page 5 shows the receipt of the Anthem Blue Cross check on March 10, 2010, and the “Payments Made” section on page 23 shows the check was returned.

We therefore kindly ask for a retraction.

Paola Avila
huesoforassembly.com

Matt Potter replies: The date on the refund check, a copy of which was provided this week by Avila, is March 17, the date the story appeared in the paper and on the Reader website.

Wrong, All Wrong

As a native San Diegan and a law-abiding citizen of Italian descent, I was appalled and utterly disappointed by the failure of your publication to verify any of the false claims made in Bauder’s articles and the reckless innuendo of ties by myself to organized crime ("Too Much Conflict," March 4, and "What a Tangled Web," March 18, "City Lights"). This is a blatant attack on me, my family, my community, and the Little Italy district and consistent with similar articles run previously by the Reader that alleged that being Italian in San Diego equals corruption.

Upon being contacted by Mr. Bauder before the first of the two articles was published, my wife and I presented substantial evidence to Mr. Bauder that demonstrated the falsity of the claims in Mr. Scott Kessler’s lawsuit — yet Mr. Bauder intentionally chose to ignore the documents, disregard the truth, and maliciously repeated the false claims, knowing that his words would damage my reputation in the community. I hereby demand that you retract those false and malicious articles and print the retraction in an equally prominent position in the next issue of the Reader.

Mr. Bauder’s articles repeated the claim that I have: • engaged in violations of the State law governing conflicts of interest, • improperly obtained contracts from the North Bay Association, and also • implied that I have falsified study results in a conspiracy with Mr. Joseph Mannino.

Bauder also repeats false claims that I improperly influenced the Mayor’s Office to terminate Mr. Kessler and that I even used my influence to persuade the district attorney, Bonnie Dumanis, to reject my prosecution against the recommendations of her subordinates. All of these claims are utterly false and baseless, and I believe that Mr. Bauder knew that when he repeated them. No one person in this city has the kind of influence or authority that Mr. Bauder claims I have.

New City America (NCA) is a professional corporation based in San Diego’s Little Italy and has formed 55 special benefit assessment districts nationwide since 1995. My company has formed more districts in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland than any other company, as well as having extensive experience working on the East Coast. Although we have formed numerous special benefit districts, we are under contract to manage only four of them: one in Little Italy, one in Los Angeles, and two in Oakland.

In each case, our company was hired after a com-

continued on page 60
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Thirty-Five Years Ago
The taxpayers of San Diego pay mayor Pete Wilson the middlin’ wage of $20,000 a year. Some say we get a lot for our money. Everybody would agree on one bargain, though: we also get the services of Mrs. Pete Wilson...for free. Betty Wilson is the first working mayor’s wife since wartime San Diego. If being thought of as a political asset sounds tag-a-long and passive, she gets to wear an independent, self-starter label in her paid job, as a realtor.
— "WHO IS BETTY WILSON?" Gale Fox, April 3, 1975

Thirty Years Ago
Two weeks ago [St. Charles Borromeo Catholic church and academy was] awarded $67,000 as their share of a much-heralded $1.9 million settlement against the San Diego Port District. The church had joined scores of property owners in Loma Portal and Golden Hill in the suit four years ago, claiming that jet noise had caused the value of the affected properties to decline.
— CITY LIGHTS: "WHO'S THE PATRON SAINT OF LITIGATION?" Mark Orwell, April 3, 1980

Twenty-Five Years Ago
Just east of the Salton Sea, between the towns of Brawley and Mecca, there’s a growing cluster of commercial aquaculturists — though among themselves they prefer to call each other simply “fish farmers.” At first this rocky, arid, and alkaline stretch of desert might seem like an unlikely place to raise fish, particularly if you consider that the fish are to be shipped to consumers on the coast, which is already saturated with an abundance of seafood.
— "AND ON THIS FARM THEY HAD SOME FISH," Steve Sorensen, April 4, 1985

Twenty Years Ago
Of all the various instrumentalists that I have proffered skull to, and once in a while damned, I have never been more appreciative or confrontational as I am with trumpeters/flugelhornists/brass players of any stripe. Every man who has picked up that horn has been considered either a genius or a thorough fool — or is that an oxymoronic redundancy?
— OF NOTE: “HARRY ‘SWEETS’ EDISON.”
Stephen Esmedina, April 5, 1990

Fifteen Years Ago
Honeycombed hillsides and bits and pieces of rusted equipment — that is the legacy left behind by Julian’s gold-mining heyday over a century ago. Although a few mines continue to be worked sporadically even today, most have long been abandoned. For a look at one of the first mines to be discovered (1870) and one of the last to be extensively worked, try this short hike down the Old Banner Grade.
— ROMO-O-ROMA, Jerry Schad, March 30, 1995

Ten Years Ago
San Diego has been host to a number of public-art fiascoes. Most recent was Nancy Rubins’s boat-hull leviathan, planned to span Harbor Drive. Public outcry sank that before it happened. That revived memories of Ellsworth Kelly’s concrete-arch-and-steel monolith planned for Embarcadero Park and Vito Acconci’s airplane-parts sculpture garden at Spanish Landing. Both of those 1980s projects were killed before they materialized.

Headling the list of public-art disasters is the late Split Pavilion. In 1987, Carlsbad paid Andrea Blum $20,000 to design a piece of art for an ocean-front plot at the corner of Carlsbad Boulevard and Ocean Street. The result was 7500 square feet of erect steel bars, concrete, and reflecting pools. Carlsbad’s residents proclaimed the Pavilion a disaster, saying it was ugly and it obstructed their ocean view. In June 1998, they voted in a ballot referendum to remove the pavilion.

Five Years Ago
Back in the 1880s the University of Southern California planned to build the San Diego College of Arts of USC at Normal and Campus Streets. Land speculators went nuts. The result was 7500 square feet of erect steel bars, concrete, and reflecting pools. USC’s plans killed before they materialized. The taxpayers of San Diego pay mayor Pete Wilson the middlin’ wage of $20,000 a year. Some say we get a lot for our money. Everybody would agree on one bargain, though: we also get the services of Mrs. Pete Wilson...for free. Betty Wilson is the first working mayor’s wife since wartime San Diego. If being thought of as a political asset sounds tag-a-long and passive, she gets to wear an independent, self-starter label in her paid job, as a realtor.

San Diego Reader, April 3, 1975

For more stories by these authors, go to sdreader.com.
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San Diego: 38 years and hope you and the elves, if they are available (I know it’s Spring Break and they’re probably in TJ), can finally put some closure on this subject once and for all.
— Stephen, San Diego

Heymatt:
We all know the story of how many Lassies there were covering the collie’s illusory career in show biz. How many Matthew Alices have there been? I have noticed a dramatic change in the style of writing from the first Matthew Alice columns to the most recent musings. Not a more mature or subdued style but a totally different pattern of writing. Fess up, Alice, if that’s your real name. What have you done with the original Alice?
— Bob, via email

I guess it’s about time for this question to circle around again. “Who are you, Matthew?” “What are you, Matthew?” “How can you be who you say you are, Matthew?” “Why don’t I ever see you downtown?” “Where do the elves go at night?” Decades of the same questions that I re-answer from time to time, just to cut down on the volume temporarily, but this one has a twist. Sounds as if Bob maybe did a lit-crit paper on “The Evolution of Alice Grammar and Syntax” or something. Exactly how far back did you go, Bob? Did you get permission to search through the crumbling clip files in the Reader offices, back to the simple days when we were an eight-page beach broadsheet published out of a garage? Well, I claim the right to change. A totally different pattern of writing? Like, what? I didn’t use verbs and now I do? Poppycorn. Granted, there was a time when I tried out each of the elves to see if any of them knew a topic sentence from a gerund. That failed pretty miserably, and since then I’ve cobbled everything together myself. So, until I get more details about how I’m completely different from the Reader’s salad days, I claim no harm, no foul. I’m me, and I’m excited and end up with a big snooze. — Matthew Alice

Green gold, eh? That’s probably the most convoluted, confounded, confusing explanation we’ve ever heard here. And we’ve heard a few. It’s bogus, of course. Sorry to say that “bout a brutha, but he’s got it all wrong. But you already suspected that, didn’t you? You just wanted me to tell him so he wouldn’t get all grumpy with you. Glad to be of help.

Add “green gold” to the list of wrong-headed explanations: it comes from a song sung by Americans during the Mexican war, “Green Grow the Lilies” (“green grow,” “gringo” got it?) or from Americans’ green uniforms (the Mexicans yelled “Green go!” which is nutty since they’d be speaking Spanish, not English). So, what’s true?

First recorded use of “gringo”? In a Mexican publication of 1787; it meant “foreigner” or someone who speaks funny. Bird boy John J. Audubon in 1849 wrote that he and his party were hooted at and called “gringoes” by local Mexicans. An American book published in 1850 was titled Los Gringos; or, an Inside View of Mexico and California. So much for the “green gold” idea.

The word nerds have rooted around for a source for “gringo,” and they think they’ve hit on the answer. Consider the Spanish word griego, Greek. There’s an expression translated into virtually all European languages, which began in ancient Rome: “It’s all Greek to me,” meaning, “What the hey…?” Something Greek has always been something incomprehensible, especially speech. Likely that Americans were first gregos, then compressed to “gringos.” A much more boring explanation than “green gold,” but that’s the world of word nerds. You start out excited and end up with a big snooze.

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

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.
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Sporting Box
BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Is Chris Peters Happy?

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) has been called the most successful women's professional sports organization in the world. Founded in 1950, it's one of the oldest.

On Sunday, the LPGA finished its first 2010 tournament played under the U.S. flag. South Korean Hee Kyung Seo won the Kia Classic at La Costa. As April begins, the LPGA has held one tournament in Thailand, one in Singapore, then nothing for a month, and now the Kia Classic in Carlsbad. In a like period of time, the PGA Tour finished 14 tournaments.

In 2008, the LPGA Tour played 10 tournaments out of the country and 24 at home for a total of 34; this year, numbers are 13 and 13. Tour prize money in 2008 was $60.3 million; this year, prize money is projected to be $43.6 million. (The men's PGA Tour awarded $245.8 million in 2009.)

The LPGA Tour has a new commissioner, Michael Whan, 44, out of Procter & Gamble, TaylorMade, Adidas Golf, and Mission-ITECH (hockey equipment). Two things about him to like: He's written a novel and he caddied for Lili Alvarez at Florida's Natural Charity Classic tournament a couple weeks back. Nice touch, particularly since that tournament is on the Dreamed Futures Tour — the LPGA's developmental tour.

What is from sales, loves sales, loves his customers, and knows who to please. He recently told the New York Times, “I would like by 2011, when the players and my staff and I roll into a tournament...we all know what we’re trying to achieve for CVS, or Honda, or Kia, that we’re all working for them and we realise it’s more than a golf tournament, it’s an important corporate effort...”

Outlook: The LPGA will be fine. Pro beach volleyball was big in the early-to-mid '90s. The dominant women’s professional league held 25-plus events per year and the sport was brought into the Olympics in 1996. There have been two professional women’s leagues — the Women’s Professional Volleyball Association (which folded in 1997) and Beach Volleyball Association (which folded in 2001).

The originally male Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) filed for bankruptcy in 1998. There was much coming and going, but in 2001 it arose from bankruptcy as a publicly traded company with women’s and men’s divisions.

There are 12 tour stops this year, 7 in California. Last year there were 15 stops; in 2008 there were 17. The AVP has a new CEO who has a history of turning around dying companies. Money is tight and athletes pay their own travel expenses. But, on the happy side of the street, two AVP teams won gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, and ESPN2/ABC will televise some league matches this year.

Outlook: Everybody likes the beach.

The Professional Women’s Bowling Association (PWBA), was established in 1958. Thence followed 45 years of merging, renaming, new bosses, and struggle. The end came in 2003.

Not really. According to Wiki, “The Women’s International Bowling Congress (WIBC) acquired the rights and assets of the PWBA. This gave the WIBC control of the PWBA name, trademark, logo, website domain (pwba.com), as well as the PWBA’s historical records. The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) then acquired the PWBA when the WIBC merged with the American Bowling Congress, Young American Bowling Alliance, and USA Bowling in 2005.”

Had enough? Know this: somewhere a law firm is still making money off the PWBA. The formerly all-male Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) started their PBA Women’s Series in 2007.

Outlook: One of the PBA owners, Chris Peters, was the 105th employee hired by Microsoft. He resigned as vice president in 1998 to become a pro bowler, which is so weird I believe it. Chris didn't make the cut, so he and two other Microsoft alumni bought the PBA.

Outlook: If Chris is happy, women’s bowling is happy. Chris isn’t happy. On March 11, PBA commissioner Fred Schreyer confirmed that Mr. Peters would no longer participate in future financing rounds.

The National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) is a women’s pro-fastpitch baseball league. Founded in 1997, the league begins its 2010 season with four teams (Tennessee Diamonds, Chicago Bandits, Akron Racers, Florida Pride) and a 50-game summer schedule.

Outlook: Grim.

The Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) was founded in 1996. They’ve had the usual changes in franchises, owners, and structure. In the beginning, the NBA owned all the teams and, reportedly, still subsidizes the organization. The 2010 WNBA has 12 teams and a television agreement with ESPN that runs through 2016.

Outlook: Good times.

The Box sends fraternal greetings to the International Female Boxers Association, Women’s Professional Billiard Association, National Women’s Football Association, Women’s Professional Racquetball Organization, Women’s Professional Rodeo Association...
Lincoln caps season with Division II state title

POSTED March 26, 2010

For the first time, the San Diego Section has a Division II state champion in boys’ basketball. Friday night in Bakersfield, Lincoln raced out to a big lead against Mountain View Saint Francis and never looked back, capturing their second state title in school history with a 74-59 victory.

“It’s a special feeling,” said Lincoln head coach Jason Bryant. “For us to have that in mind from day one and actually have it come into fruition makes it more special for us.”

From the opening tip, Lincoln (29-2) played the game at their pace. The Hornets scored the first 9 points of the game and led 15-2 midway through the first quarter, having their way with Saint Francis’ multiple defensive fronts.

“Before the game I knew that we needed to set the tempo for the game and have them adjust to us,” Bryant said. “We needed to be the aggressor and we came out and did that in the first quarter.”

Lincoln led by 11 after the first quarter and opened up a 15-point lead with 2:55 left in the first half. But Saint Francis (30-4) trimmed the lead to 10 at the half with a 7-2 run to close out the quarter.

“At halftime, we just wanted to make sure the players understood that it was going to be a physical game and that they weren’t going to go away,” Bryant said.

At the start of the second half Lincoln attacked the Lancers’ zone defense by simply going through it. Rather than trying to shoot Saint Francis out of their zone, the Hornets took the ball to the hoop with success, continuing to build their lead.

“In the second quarter we settled for long jump shots against their zone,” Bryant said. “We stressed at halftime to keep attacking and keep taking high-percentage shots and that’s what we did.”

With less than a minute left in the third, Lin-coln guard Norman Powell threw down a one-handed dunk to give the Hornets a 58-34 lead. That lead would be more than enough, as Lincoln was able to hold off Saint Francis in the final quarter for a 15-point win.

The two-headed attack of Victor Dean and Norman Powell led the way for Lincoln. Each scored a game-high 24 points and had his fair share of highlight-reel plays during the game, including Dean’s huge one-handed put-back dunk on consecutive possessions in the fourth quarter.

“Those were huge momentum changers,” Bryant said. Saint Francis started to hit threes at the end of the game and I think those two dunks in the fourth quarter gave us the momentum back,” Bryant said.

Lincoln ends their 2009–2010 season on a 24-game winning streak and the second state championship in school history. The Hornets’ last state title came in 1996 in Division IV.
San Diego for a one-gallon or a five-gallon family Easter photo. And we hardly water them.

“But my favorite flowers are my ‘breath of heaven.’ How can you miss with a name like that? They produce tiny pink flowers and a scent like incense — perhaps that’s where they got their name. They grow into a large bush, and with a light breeze, the branches wave back and forth hypnotically.”

Tiger Palafox, manager at Mission Hills Nursery (619-295-2808), suggests succulents when I tell him of my low-water aspirations. “Aeonium is a large group of succulents that are popular now [‘Aeonium arboreum’]. For ground cover, there is a large group of plants called sedum that work [$7.99 for a one-gallon plant at Mission Hills Nursery]. For ground cover, there is a large group of plants called sedum that work [$7.99 for a one-gallon plant at Mission Hills Nursery].”

How often should you water succulents or cacti?

“What we suggest is when you plant a succulent you give it a good soaking once, and then you really don’t need to water it again for about three weeks.” After the plant is established, “The only time that you would have to water it is possibly in the spring and maybe in the fall, because usually they start growing in spring and fall. In summer and in winter it’s kind of their dormant period, so they don’t need water during those periods. Succulents have a normal cycle of growth and dormancy, which is exactly what it would be like in the desert.”

It’s best to pick native plants, right? “There are all kinds of native plants, and because they are native they survive in our environment just fine with the natural rainfalls and the natural ebb and flow of everything else. The time that they have a hard time is when we should get rain and we don’t…”

“The grevillea family,” offers David Ross from Walter Andersen Nursery (858-513-4900), “an Australian native, ranges in variety from low ground covers — less than a foot tall — to enormous trees 80 feet tall. There are a whole host of small and medium shrubs and ground-cover varieties that are extremely durable. The salvia, or sage family, is another diverse one.”

Ross, too, mentions the echeveria group. “They can grow from a ground cover one to two feet tall up to six-, ten-, twelve-foot varieties. The fremontodendron, or ‘southern flannel bush,’ is another Southern California native that is a beautiful, orange-blooming variety [$36.99 for a five-gallon plant at Mission Hills Nursery].”

Ross finishes with a watering tip of his own. “Many low-water-use plants are going to need regular water this summer to get them established. And the later that they are planted — the closer to summer that they are planted — the more water they are going to need to get through the first summer. They can’t, for the most part, just be put in the ground and ignored. They take a little bit of time to start to establish, and if they don’t get enough water during that time, you can kill them. Feel the root ball — the surrounding soil will hold moisture longer than the root ball. Until the plant roots way out, it is only drawing moisture from its own little cubbyhole.”
LINGERING LENGTH While hemlines have been hefted to ever-soaring heights to satisfy the upper echelons of the fashion world, San Diego women are keeping them grounded for now. High-rise boy shorts may dominate the runways, but on the street, long flowing lines reign.

Spring Blossoms!

Petals are popping up everywhere as flower-power mania is in full bloom. From jewelry and shoes to purses and dresses, you can imbue your look from top to bottom with the vibrance of the season. Here’s a bouquet of picks to help get you started:

- **Style Stalker**
  BY KENDRA CLARK

Fossil handbag, $78 at Macy’s

Flower dresses, $78 each at Abercrombie & Fitch

Seychelles “Joan” wedge sandal, $89.95 at Nordstrom

Flower ring, $15

Metal bracelet, $15 at Aldo
I picked up a chunk of "astronaut ice cream" with my fingers and popped it into my mouth. I let the chocolate-flavored, room-temperature nugget dissolve on my tongue and concluded that the deary dehydrated lump was no match for the cold creamy goodness of the real thing. As I made my way to a trashcan to toss the rest of my portion, I matched for the cold creamy goodness of the real thing. As I made my way to a trashcan to toss the rest of my portion, I was wrong. What I thought would be all stargazing and philosophizing turned out to be math. And not just any math, but crazy, Beautiful Mind—style math, like “vector analysis.” Despite the creativity I lavished on the math symbols in my homework assignments, I was given an F.

I had an insatiable appetite for nature programs and articles pertaining to neurology, biology, psychology — just about any of the “ologies.” Science is awesome, as long as I’m not the one who has to gather the data and crunch the numbers. This is exactly what is so great about the learning stations at the science center — everything is so visual and hands-on, which is how I learn best.

My understanding of the physical world is elementary. On the occasion I get to ask an expert to explain a complex physics-related concept, I request he or she do so “as though you’re speaking to a kindergartner.” When my father and I went to the “Grossology” exhibit (dubbed the “impulse sciences of the human body”), we were just as eager to play with the interactive displays — how burps form, why noses run — as the children beside us.

At the Hubble premiere, I stood with David and friends at the front of the line to get into the theater, behind the only two women more neurotic than me. For the next 30 minutes, the line grew and snaked back and forth within the roped off area behind us. When the doors opened, the women before me took off like gazelles, sprinting directly to the same row and area I was headed — upper deck, center. Once seated beside them, I commended them for their determination. I felt a kindred spirit; few people best me when it comes to being first in line at any theater.

I found the movie visually stunning but audibly atrocious. Don’t get me wrong, Leonardo DiCaprio did a great job narrating, but I groaned loud at the hokey clichés and agonizing obviousness of the script. I’m no rocket surgeon, but I can draw my own conclusions about how amazing I find the scenes before me to be. “Astonishing” is a better word for Hubble’s visual trip through the stars, but even more astounding to me were thoughts of the as-of-yet unseen marvels that await us as we develop new technological keys to unlock the portals of the universe.

Though I am able to understand multi-faceted scientific postulations, some stuff will forever remain incomprehensible. One light year — the distance light travels in one year — is 5.88 trillion miles long. In one Hubble image stands a pillar of gas that is four light years, or 23.52 trillion miles tall. That’s the same height as 1.9 billion Earths stacked on top of each other. And that distance is nothing compared to the unfathomable vastness of the universe and the hundreds of billions of stars within it.

In what might have resulted in an explosion of my brain, I attempted to mentally juxtapose the astronomical with the microscopic bits of life that permeate the universe. I soon realized it was an impossible task, and I’m half convinced I would have succeeded in detonating my skull had I kept struggling to wrap my head around the extreme relativity of scale.

My inability to comprehend that which astronomers and particle physicists seem to read as easily as comic books reminded me of an article I came across in the New Yorker last year about the Amazonian Pirahã tribe. Because of their live-in-the-moment culture, the Pirahã are incapable of accepting anything outside their realm of experience. They make no art and have no words for numbers or colors or anything that storytelling might require. According to one researcher who has studied the tribe for decades, if they can’t witness it with their own eyes, it is considered xepiob, “gone out of experience.”

When missionaries attempt to turn them on
to God, the Pirahã always ask, “Have you met this man?” They remain unconverted.

It was mentioned in the film that the Hubble can “see into the past.” The universe is supposedly between 13 and 14 billion years old, and the telescope can detect images 10 billion light years away. We’re not seeing those galaxies as they are now, but as they were over 5 billion years before a collapsing cloud of dust and gas formed our solar system and the Earth within it. How can we be expected, in our limited experience with all things galactic, to determine what it all means? David told me that dwelling on such unanswerable questions would only make me crazy. “Because the human brain is finite — it can’t comprehend infinity,” he said. “So, let’s say that one day we’ll be able to see to the edge of the universe — what’s a mile further? We know so little.”

When asked how the world was created, the Pirahã respond, “It has always been this way. “If Pirahã respond, “It has always been this way. “If world was created, the little. ” We know so little. When asked how the world was created, the Pirahã respond, “It has always been this way. “If world was created, the little. ” We know so little.

For more stories and videos by this author, go to sdreader.com.
I MESSED WITH TEXAS

by Chad Deal

South by Southwest is a ten-day arts/music conference and festival started in 1987. The music festival hosts upwards of 1400 bands over four days.

The official slogan dubs Austin “the Live Music Capitol of the World,” while the unofficial byline encourages you to “Keep Austin Weird.” The city was once an epicenter for outlaw country musicians and is now home to the women’s professional football team, the Austin Outlaws.

We definitely sensed the trans-legal vibration as we piled out of Mason’s ’88 Southern Coach Wednesday afternoon in uptown Austin. We’d had a series of unpleasant encounters with the Border Patrol over the course of the almost 30-hour drive, which left us feeling both patronized and immortal.

First, at a checkpoint in Arizona, the BP tore apart the van in secondary while we made awkward small talk on the roadside. Upon returning to the van, we found someone’s forgotten stash of reefer sitting on the seat next to a ransacked piece of luggage.

Had our mind tricks worked or did the boys in green feel bad because their ecstatic Labrador had just pissed all over one of our pillows?


We hopped around and hugged the goods.

“I just saved you $600,” he said, crushing the bud in his glove.

“We order up some whiskey and hit the dance floor. In no time, a quixotic old-timer mood possesses me and I propose to Lety, who I met about 24 hours ago, but our group synergy was potent. Anything was possible.

“We were just that lucky.

Wednesday, March 17, 4:10 p.m. San Diego Hoedown at Luster Pearl. Tape Deck Mountain plays “In the Dirt.” Free cups of Trumer Pils and Stone IPA. TDM covers Danzig’s “Mother.” A taco truck distributes the goods.

5:00 p.m. El Ten Eleven melts faces all around. Lightning Bolt meets Keller Williams goes to the disco.

5:40 p.m. Free beer runs out.

In defiance of $4 cans of Tecate, I walk to a gas station for a six-pack.

We go to the top floor of the Hilton, where Steve Poltz gyrates around the stage. A dude who claims to be Poltz’s former manager tells me he had to let him go. He’s too wild. He’s 50 years old and broke his hand, and look at him strum the guitar anyway, while a band mate frets the thing. Look at him shake around, grinning like a circus clown.

“I can’t fucking dance!” Steve yells. “I’ve been holding a guitar my whole life!”

Thursday, March 18, noonish. We grab some legendary Austin breakfast tacos and head downtown. A gang of Segway people float past street poles wrapped in cellophane and spackled with event posters. Ryan and I head to La Condensa for a cocktail party.

“I register for 1000 events and end up where I end up,” local Jacobs says. “It’s going to be awesome, no matter what.”

7 p.m. We head to Sixth to do some promo work for Nacional Records. A Latin soft-shoe dancer taps out a beat on a wooden box.

8:20 p.m. Latin icons Bomba Estereo, Bajofondo, Ozomatli, and Banda de Touristas play tonight, but somehow we end up at Darwin’s Pub, watching some shitty band from Nashville. The front man is clearly in love with himself, evoking both repugnance and drunken resignation from the crowd.

10 p.m. Back on top of the Hilton, the woman at the door tells us seven dollars. Moments later, she invites us in for free. In the distance, the Frost Bank building juts skyward like a science-fiction monument to Moloch. Ryan joins us as we hang around the upper crust.
bar, pretending we belong there. Music by Correatown and Julie Feeny. 11:41 p.m. Denko Jones. Like Motorhead, but Canadian. “This one’s for you, Texas,” Denko growls. “Fuck L.A.! This song’s for anybody who wants to give us a record contract. Even if you’re from L.A.,”

And that pretty much sums up what SXSW is all about.

**Friday, March 19, 1:50 p.m.** I just miss Phantogram on South Congress. Instead, 17-year-old Dominique Young Unique from Tampa, Florida, lays down some old-skool hip-hop about war and her ass. N-bombs be droppin’.

4:15 p.m. Tobacco at the Onion A.V. Club party. Masters of stage non-presence, I don’t notice the third band member sitting on the floor fiddling knobs until the last song. Glitchy set. Mid ’80s workout videos.

**Midnight.** Rumor has it the Broken Social Scene show is full, so we grab a seat with another tomorrow. 10:30 p.m. Mad Juana. Sexy gypsy banda punk. Accordion and Mexican kitsch.

**11:30 p.m.** The line for Wallpaper at Beauty Bar isn’t moving.

**Midnight.** Lady Dottie and the Diamonds at Wave. The crowd hops around like the Tower days. Dottie bel lows, “Yeah! Yeah! Oh, hell yeah!” Cameo by Andrew McKag of Presidents of the U.S.A.

**1:00 a.m.** The Zeros finish with MCS cover “Ramblin’ Rose.” Bassist Hector Penalosa tells me, “We’re like the Sha Na Na of punk rock. We’re not pretending to be new.”

We head out at daybreak. Our voices are raspy and our hearing hardly works. Whiskey no longer has any effect.

We stop at a Taco Bell somewhere in New Mexico and dress up like freaks. We zip through all the check-points without a hitch. Everything flows.

I suppose we’re just that lucky.

**Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Chad Deal.**

For more stories by this author, go to sdrreader.com.
Afra was sent to the bedroom to wait until it was time for the presentation of “the girl.”
Afra Khan, a grad student who recently emigrated from Hyderabad, India, wears jeans and a long-sleeved gray T-shirt that says SDSU across the front. Before I spend an afternoon with her in a tiny two-bedroom house in University Heights, all I know about arranged marriage is limited to a handful of stories told by first-generation American women of Indian descent. Those were the tales of women who detest what journalist Anita Jain once referred to as “horribly crusty notions passed down” from their parents. In 2005, *New York Magazine* published an article Jain wrote in which she recounts the first time she let her parents set her up with a date.

“I lodged my protest against him and arranged marriage,” she wrote, “by getting ragingly intoxicated and blowing smoke rings in his face.”

Afra Khan is nothing like Anita Jain. Never mind the smoking and the drinking, Afra wouldn’t even allow her fiancé to meet her at the Chicago airport a month and a half before their wedding because she didn’t think it was appropriate to be alone with him without the company of her parents. Despite the jeans she wears and her affinity for computers, Afra seems at times to be straight out of Jane Austen’s era.

She sits, feet curled beneath her, on a wood-framed futon couch in the house she shares with her brother, his wife, their 18-month-old son, and his mother-in-law. She is calm and relaxed, not at all what I imagine for a woman who is leaving tomorrow to go to Chicago to marry a man she’s seen only once — six months ago, during a formal interview between his family and hers.
Instead, she chats amiably, alternating between techie-gibberish about scripting languages and girly-giggles about the love that awaits her, some two thousand miles and two weeks away.

At 30, Afra isn’t exactly a “girl.” But this is the word she uses as she explains the process of her engagement. She also refers to her fiancé, Fayyaz, as “the boy” (or sometimes, “the guy”) despite the fact that he’s a 33-year-old man who owns four Little Caesars pizza franchises in Chicago. Her use of these diminutives seems incongruous in this context, but I’ll later learn it’s a common way, among Indians at least, to refer to unmarried men and women, especially in the arrangement of their marriages.

The youngest of three children, Afra was born and raised in Hyderabad, the sixth-largest city in India. In 2008, three years after she received her undergraduate degree in computer science, she moved to San Diego to get a master’s degree at San Diego State University. She would have gone to just about any university in the country as long as it was in the same city as her brother Abid and his wife Allison.

Studying in the United States is something she wanted to do for a long time. The schools are good, she says, and there’s a future for anyone in the IT industry. Even if she were to move back to India, her American master’s degree would come in handy.

“American master’s programs are valued throughout the world,” she says, tucking a strand of shiny black hair behind her ear. “It doesn’t matter what university you’re coming from. If it’s a degree from the United States, it’s valuable.”

Not that she’s planning to return to India anytime soon. Fayyaz is also from Hyderabad, but he moved with his family to Chicago when he was 16 or 17 years old. According to Afra, her fiancé claims Chicago as “his city.” It’s where he grew into a man and where his immediate and extended family resides. He has also rooted himself in the pizza business. More important, Fayyaz is a patriotic American. He even planned a Hawaiian honeymoon so that the money they spend will stay in the country.

Although that particular plan fell through when his brother promised to gift the soon-to-be-wed couple with a two-week honeymoon in Tahiti, it’s still a fair guess that Afra will make use of her degree in the United States, likely somewhere in the Chicago area.

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Do you suffer from persistent asthma?

Volunteers 18 years of age and older are needed to evaluate an investigational medication for the treatment of persistent asthma.

All research study-related medications and procedures will be provided at no cost. You may be compensated for time and travel. To see if you may qualify for this research study, please contact our office at 858-268-2368 or visit our website: www.allergyandasthma.com

“Marriage ads, which consume a large part of many Sunday newspapers, are filled with requests for fair-skinned brides. Or for the particularly choosy: ‘Very Fair.’”

Bleach creams are big sellers throughout South Asia, and many salons that cater to South Asian women.

Do you suffer from Bipolar Depression?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial for the treatment of Bipolar Depression.

Excell Research is currently enrolling for both inpatient and outpatient study. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Compensation of up to $1000 will be provided for time and transportation.

Call us for more information: 760-806-9200

Board-certified psychiatrists providing
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**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

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**Overactive Bladder...**

*Your senior years should be spent having fun... not on the run.*

As we age, OAB symptoms such as sudden urges to urinate and frequent wetting episodes become more common.

If you are frustrated living with OAB, you may be interested in a research study we are conducting to evaluate an approved medication for overactive bladder.

**We are looking for male and female participants who:**
- are age 65 or older
- have experienced overactive bladder symptoms for at least 3 months
- have strong, sudden urges to urinate
- experience frequent wetting episodes
- have health problems related to aging

**If qualified, you:**
- will attend five office visits over a 14-week period
- will receive the study medication or a placebo (an inactive look-alike pill) and study-related care at no cost
- may be compensated for time and travel

For more information, please contact:
Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2830

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**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
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**CONSTIPATION......STRAINING......BLOATING**

A 3-month clinical trial for men and women, from 20-80 years of age, who struggle with the bloating, discomfort, and straining associated with chronic constipation is underway. An oral investigational medication will be evaluated to see if it may address these and other symptoms of constipation.

To possibly qualify:
- Male or female, 20-80 years of age
- Have a history of chronic constipation (fewer than 3 bowel movements per week) for at least 6 months
- Bloating, straining and discomfort
- Not taking narcotics or medication which can cause constipation

Participants may receive at no cost all study-related:
- Exam and consultation with a board-certified specialist
- Labs, EKG, colonoscopy (if necessary) and study medications
- Compensation for your time and travel

Interested call:
(619) 521-2841
Medical Center for Clinical Research
www.mccresearch.com
offer facial bleaching treatments.

Afra sits sideways, facing me, one arm draped along the back of the futon couch. I’m struck by the openness of her face and the lack of self-consciousness in her voice as she tells me that when she lived in India, she went for a facial bleach every three or four months. She doesn’t do it so often these days, partly because it’s so expensive and partly because she doesn’t have quite the social life she had back in Hyderabad.

*   *   *

Abid forwarded Fayyaz’s information to his parents in Saudi Arabia, and although Afra knew what was going on, she wasn’t initially interested in the details. She’d been through this several times before.

“We keep getting photos. We keep sending photos,” she says with a casual flick of her hand. “I usually don’t care to know more details until things move to the next step.”

It wasn’t long before they did.

Many salons that cater to South Asian women offer facial bleaching treatments.

In June, Afra’s mother and father came to San Diego for an extended visit. Abid informed Fayyaz’s family of his parents’ presence in the country. Fayyaz and his mother arranged to fly in from Chicago to meet the prospective wife and her family. Were his father still alive, he too would have been in attendance.

Afra and her mother cooked food for the guests ahead of time. They dressed in what Afra calls “party-wear,” which for her was a cream-colored and sparkly salwar suit (a pair of loose pants and a long tunic with side seams left open below the waist). She also wore a long

For more information contact
SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE & FAMILY HEALTH
619-229-3909
email: lburchard@sandiegosportsmed.com

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments for people with alcohol problems.

Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life?
If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research is conducting a clinical trial to help you reach that goal.

Qualified participants receive lab tests, medication or placebo, individual counseling and compensation for travel. All information is confidential.

Call: 858-784-7867 (STOP)
Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org

We are currently recruiting for a Clinical Research Study involving an Investigational Product used to treat Asthma

You may be eligible to participate if you:
• Are 12 years of age or older
• Have been diagnosed with Asthma for 1 year or longer
• Use a steroid inhaler for treatment
• Have had a Severe Asthma Attack in the past year

Study-related medical procedures and medication are of no cost to you. Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

RESEARCH STUDIES

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.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

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

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

To learn more, call the Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital Clinical Research Center at (858) 836-8350.

Clinical Research Center
Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital
Have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia and currently taking medication?

Are you:
- Male or female between the ages of 18-55?
- Currently taking a stable dose of medication?
- Currently in a stable living situation?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you 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

Do you have Hepatitis C?

At Medical Associates Research Group we conduct clinical research studies for Hepatitis C...and have conducted over 20 hepatitis studies in the past 10 years.

Participants may receive the following at no charge:
- Investigational medication
- All study-related medical evaluations and physician visits by board-certified gastroenterologists
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For more information, please call:
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858-277-5678 | www.MARGinc.com

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

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

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our research study! If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive a 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:
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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

Do you suffer from Depression?

Does it feel like nothing matters?
Do you feel lonely and sad most of the time?

If you feel this way, and even if you’re on medication, we might be able to help.

Local researchers invite you to take part in a research study. Insurance is not required. Participants will receive treatment for depression and may receive compensation for time and travel. If you’re between the ages of 18 and 55 call the confidential recruitment line to learn more and see if you qualify. This may be your first step to feeling better.

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?

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

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com
dupatta (scarf) over her shoulders. Gold jewelry adorned her wrists, neck, and ears. When Fayyaz and his mother arrived, Afra was sent to the bedroom to wait until it was time for the presentation of “the girl.”

Fayyaz, Abid, and Afra’s father, all dressed in button-down shirts and pressed slacks, sat on one side of the room, while Abid’s wife Allison and the two mothers sat on the other. The men conversed with each other, and the mothers introduced themselves by way of lightly probing chatter in Urdu.

Afra stayed in the bedroom during these introductory conversations. When I ask if she was nervous, she shrugs her shoulders. Back in Hyderabad, she tells me, she’d gotten this far in the search for a suitable husband a few times. She knew from those experiences that it may not turn out.

“We later inquired and found out that, in Australia, he had a girlfriend.”

“Earlier, I met three or four boys,” she says. “One had been promising. He was from Australia, and I met him in Hyderabad. We later inquired and found out that, in Australia, he had a girlfriend.”

Another suitor had demanded a large dowry.

“They want this and they want that,” she recalls. “My father is totally against it because it’s not what Islam says. It’s not allowed in Islam to give away your money like that. They were Muslims, but they weren’t aware of Islam. Or they just ignored it.”

A third time, she says, “I didn’t like the boy. Even though we didn’t speak or anything, I said I’m not comfortable. I just had some feelings.”

Each “no” was a family decision. Even

Overwhelmed by Depression?

Are you feeling hopeless and finding life hard to tolerate? Are you frequently feeling sad or troubled and like life is not worth living? If so, and you are between the ages of 18 and 75, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Depression.

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

Contact us at: 858-ARTEMIS (278-3647) or www.LifeProTrial.com to see if you qualify for this research study. Confidentiality is strictly honored, and enrollment is limited.

Ladies...
Lost that loving feeling?

A 6-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate premenopausal women who have been bothered by a decrease in sexual desire. An investigational medication for hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) will be evaluated in premenopausal women.

To qualify for the study you must:
1) be a healthy premenopausal woman
2) be in a heterosexual relationship for at least 1 year
3) be bothered by your decreased sexual desire for at least 6 months
4) have no history of depression

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

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

RESEARCH STUDIES

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The La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology and the UCSD Antiviral Research Center are seeking people with a positive tuberculosis skin test for a research study that will investigate how the immune system responds to tuberculosis.

Qualified individuals will receive compensation for participation in our study. Must be between 18 and 65 years of age.

If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for this study, please call our study coordinator at (858) 752-6979 or email study@liai.org

A 6-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate premenopausal women who have been bothered by a decrease in sexual desire. An investigational medication for hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) will be evaluated in premenopausal women.

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Interested, call: Medical Center For Clinical Research
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Hepatitis C Research Study

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

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

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WHEN YOU TAKE PART IN THIS CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY:
- Health professionals closely monitor your diabetes and blood sugar levels
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  - Blood sugar meter and supplies
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SPACE IS LIMITED to the number of people who can participate based on meeting study criteria and on a first-come, first-served basis.

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http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

RESEARCH STUDIES

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South Bay Treatment Center
4419 47th Street, San Diego, CA 92115

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

“I didn’t feel comfortable looking at him,” she says.
“We never spoke.”

Instead, she spent the afternoon answering questions put to her by Fayyaz’s mother. Questions that, according to Allison, “she already knew the answers to.”

After some time, Allison and Afra’s mother served dinner. Although Afra had made much of the food, the family agreed that they would not make mention of this.

“We all decided that we couldn’t say I cooked it. It would look like we were unnecessarily trying to impress them, saying I can cook this and I can cook...
that.”

The group remained segregated while they ate, the men still on one side of the room, the women on the other. After three or four hours, Fayyaz and his mother left. They flew back to Chicago the next morning.

“After they returned to Chicago,” Afra recalls, “his mother called and said, yes, we liked your family and the girl. My mother said, we liked your family and the boy. So they said the next stage will be to let them speak to each other and see if they are comfortable. After that he started calling. He used to call every weekend, Saturdays and Sundays. We used to speak for an hour, just in general, to know each other as a person.”

At this point, her laid-back demeanor revs up the tiniest bit. She sits up and her speech takes on momentum. She seems to feel a certain joy in reliving this part of her story.

She clarifies that though she and Fayyaz spoke regularly, they were not yet committed to each other. They were getting to know each other, and as such, she remained properly restrained, never being the one to make the call.

“I felt I shouldn’t call a guy until I’m committed,” she says. She didn’t have to. Fayyaz made his interest clear.

---

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**About the Study**

- Ages 18-65 years old
- Severe persistent uncontrolled asthma with at least 2 exacerbations within the last 12 months
- Using high dose inhaled steroid plus a controller medication for the past 12 months
- Not currently smoking
- Seventeen clinic visits up to one year
- Complimentary physical examinations
- Complimentary breathing assessments
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information, please call:

(888) UCSD-AIR or (619) 471-0817
"He started calling once in the week, maybe on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, between the weekends. He would say when he’s calling next before hanging up. On Sunday, he’d say, ‘Okay, I’ll call on Tuesday.’ Or Wednesday. Then on Wednesday, he’d say, ‘Okay, I’ll call on Friday,’ then Saturday and Sunday again.”

She giggles at this. What girl wouldn’t love to tell how her man couldn’t get enough of her? But even though her voice, body language, and the pink hue in her cheeks all confirm her excitement, she emphasizes the propriety with which she has behaved all along.

“We never spoke of anything that involved romance. Never. Until we were committed.”

Fayyaz added more days to their phone schedule until eventually “he was calling me almost every other day. We were speaking for one hour, two hours, sometimes three hours.”

Family is important to Afra, and from their conversations, she learned that Fayyaz spends a lot of time with his, that he treats his mother well, and that he is the kind of man who will sacrifice his own desires for the happiness of those around him. It was these qualities that made Afra know he was the one she wanted to marry. But she had to wait for him to ask.

Since she moved to San Diego, Afra has exchanged data with two or three other men, but she hasn’t met any in person aside from Fayyaz. In September, another man inquired about her. She told her family she wasn’t comfortable even sharing information with anyone else, but she didn’t tell Fayyaz about the inquiry because she knew it would appear that she was pressuring him to move forward with her.

Near the end of October, Afra mentioned to Fayyaz that her mother would leave San Diego and return to Saudi Arabia on November 1. This information spurred him into action. Though he’s never said so, Afra assumes he made his move then because it would be easier for their mothers to make plans without the voice-delay of an overseas phone call.

On October 31, Fayyaz’s mother called to say that Fayyaz would like to marry Afra. Afra’s mother accepted on her behalf, and the two mothers debated about the date. Afra’s family was hoping for the summer so she could finish her studies at San Diego State. Fayyaz’s family wanted December. In the end, they settled on January so Afra could complete the fall semester and make arrangements to take project-based courses that would allow her to finish spring semester coursework from Chicago.

After the engagement was set, Afra and Fayyaz began to talk twice a day, sometimes three times.

“He calls me first thing in the morning at eight or eight-thirty, depending on his schedule and my schedule. We speak from a half-hour to one hour, two hours sometimes. And in the day-time, we speak for ten or fifteen minutes once in a while when he’s free. Or when I’m on my way to the college, I give him a call, just to know what’s happening in the day. Then again at night he calls, after he finishes all his work.

---

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Have you taken medication for your depression, but it hasn’t helped?

UCSD Researchers are looking for people who have taken two or more antidepressants in the past, but are still depressed, to take part in a research study investigating an experimental antidepressant compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by

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1. What is Botox/Dysport?
2. Botox/Dysport & wrinkles
3. Effects of Botox/Dysport
4. How much does it cost?

**Extension 5612**

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1. About our office
2. Implants, dentures & partials
3. Invisalign, clear straightener
4. Veneers & teeth whitening
5. Crowns, bridges & surgeries

**Extension 5613**

Breast Surgery/Augmentation
1. Breast augmentation
2. What type is right for you?
3. Breast lift
4. Breast reduction
5. Male breast surgery

**Extension 5614**

Laser Eye Surgery
1. About LASIK
2. Who is a candidate?
3. Your eye exam
4. Surgery
5. After surgery

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Laser Hair Removal
1. What is it?
2. How does it work?
3. How is it performed?
4. What does it feel like?
5. Best candidates?

**Extension 5616**

Weight Loss
1. What should I eat?
2. How much can I lose?
3. Body Mass Index (BMI)
4. Is the Atkins Diet safe?
5. Exercise: How much?

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**Farzad Yaghouti, MD**

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5. After surgery

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**Farzad Yaghouti, MD**

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Just before going to bed he calls me.
Again, she blushes and smiles, hugging her knees to her chest.
The tone of their conversations has become more romantic, at least on his part. He speaks of their future and everything they will do together.

He tells her about Chicago, the places he wants to take her, the things he wants her to see. He describes the house they will share, leading her on imaginary tours from one room to the next so that when she arrives, she will feel at home. He tells her that all his hard work has paid off and that she is his reward. Afra clearly enjoys his attentions, but she remains restrained in her responses.

“I just say thank you,” she giggles.

“That’s my usual reply to whatever good he says. I say thank you.”

Even when he tells her he loves her, she won’t say it to him until they’re married.

“I do love him, but I won’t say it. So many times he asks me to say it, but I tell him not every emotion needs words. You should just understand what my feelings are.”

* * *

In November, over the Thanksgiving holiday, Afra flew to India to shop for her wedding dresses and jewelry. It’s custom for the groom’s family to purchase the bride’s wedding and reception dresses, but since Afra was in India and would have more options than they would in Chicago, Fayyaz’s mother asked her to buy them herself.

The arrangement pleased Afra, who felt lucky to have her own choice.

Red is the traditional color for the wedding-day dress, and green for the reception day. But these days, people vary their colors from maroon or pink and purple or blue. For her wedding, Afra chose a dark maroon dress with a green border.

It is heavily beaded and embroidered and weighs nearly 30 pounds. Her reception dress is a deep green, equally ornate with beadwork and
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embroidery.
During her time in India, where she stayed with extended family, Afra spoke to Fayyaz on the phone every day, but she kept their conversations a secret.

“In our culture, it’s considered too bold to speak to a guy like that every day before the wedding."

This is a cultural rule rather than a religious one. Islam, she says, allows a person to see and speak to their prospective spouse before the marriage “because you’re making such a big decision of your life. Even looks-wise, it shouldn’t be that you’re marrying someone you don’t find attractive.”

The believers in arranged marriage, versus love marriage, claim that love does not have to come first. They say it can grow inside of what has already been determined a stable match, strengthened by compatibility in the areas of education, religion, and socioeconomic class. As such, they say, divorce is less likely than in places like the U.S., where love marriage is the rule. An article written on professorshouse.com, a website dedicated to all things family, states, “India is the perfect example of a society where arranged marriages are still the norm and where the divorce rate is very low.”

Most Americans probably think of arranged marriage as synonymous with forced marriage. Although forced “child bride” marriages do exist, they’re far less common than those wherein the parents select a suitable match and then give their children the power of veto. But some people believe so highly in the wisdom of their elders that they willingly give the decision-making power over to their parents. Afra’s sister is one such example. She and her husband not only let their parents choose their spouses, they also chose to follow the cultural tradition of not seeing or speaking to each other at all before the wedding. According to Afra, they are happy in their marriage.
### Implant Specials

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Traditionally, couples who do speak to each other prior to the engagement stop once the date has been set. Afra would have been fine with that, and might even have preferred it, but Fayyaz, she says, is “not rigid about the culture.” In fact, he has a tendency to question many cultural customs. “He’ll say, ‘I don’t care for that,’” says Afra. “‘Who says this is a rule, and who wrote this rule book?’” She goes on to say that he’s “too much American,” but she says it with a half-smile, as if her fiancé’s wild American streak amuses her. “I like that about him,” she confirms, “but there are a few things which I think are still good in our culture.” Afra is more careful with cultural customs, not just for the sake of the rules themselves, but also because she’s all too aware of the gossip that abounds in Hyderabad society. Abid’s marriage to Allison rocked everyone’s expectations in a big way. Abid is the only male in his immediate family, and his 13 cousins by his father’s two brothers are also all girls. Out of 16 children on his paternal side, he is the only one whose children will carry the Khan name. And he went and found a white American girl. Abid, however, is not the entirely renegade son he was made out to be. Allison spent a great deal of time getting to know his parents before the two became engaged. In fact, later, when Allison asked his mother about other “love marriages” in their family, his mother responded, “Yours wasn’t a love marriage. I chose you.” Despite the way the immediate family feels about Allison and Abid, their marriage was cause for rumors and gossip. Abid’s two uncles even refused to attend the wedding. “It was a topic in the family for a long time,” says Afra. If people knew Afra and Fayyaz had spent so much time on the phone prior to and after their engagement,
the gossip would likely not reach the levels it reached over her brother’s choice of bride, but she doesn’t want to give anyone reason to talk.

As the airline gods would have it, Afra changed flights in Chicago both coming and going from India. Fayyaz wanted to see her, but she said no. She wasn’t comfortable meeting with him alone and without her parents, not even when she had a three-hour layover on the return.

Afra has resumed her languid pose on the futon, with one leg dangling over the edge and the other tucked beneath her. When I ask if she’s excited about everything that’s happening, she smiles and twists a lock of hair around her finger.

“Yes,” she says. “I don’t want to be the center of attention always, but I feel this is my time, and I should just enjoy it.”

This time tomorrow, she’ll be on her way to Chicago. For good. The wedding isn’t for two weeks, but she has plenty to keep her busy.

“I have a few things to shop for,” she says, “and I have a few appointments at the salons: nails, manicure, waxing, facial bleach, and hair.”

* * *

As our conversation winds down, Allison and her mother sneak in through the back door. Allison, pregnant with her second child, tiptoes through the living room holding her sleeping son in her arms. I ask Afra if she, too, wants children.

“Yeah, of course,” she says. “It’s not a question to have children in our culture. It’s just a question of whether to have them right away or after some time.”

A flurry, beige-colored cat darts in from the open kitchen door and slinks toward the futon where we sit. Afra shrieks and pulls her dangling leg up quickly.

For a second, I watch, amused and baffled. Her fear of cats seems silly in this moment, 24 hours before she boards a plane to live a new life in a new house she’s never seen and with a man she’s met but briefly.

As the cat continues to advance, Afra appeals to it in a small, scared voice, “Please, not here.”

I laugh and stomp my foot to help shoo the furry creature away.

— Elizabeth Salaam
No Art Left Behind

Despite a maddening mix of fact and fiction about music and our children’s interest in it, local music education is thriving along. In the past six years, San Diego Unified School District has actually grown their music offerings, the pool of teachers, and partnership programs with music foundations of all stripes. The power behind the program resides in an old, unlovely Mission Beach office, a converted grade school, the Visual and Performing Arts, or VAPA. The department umbrellas visual arts, theater, dance, music, and the newest addition, media. Its three-person staff, augmented by three resource teachers, answers the fickle state mandate: arts curricula is required in California schools K–6, even though districts reserve ways to not offer it. What is and is not required is a maze made for district manipulators. While federal law requires arts instruction, the California education code, which takes precedent, states that grades 1–6 “shall include” arts, theater, music, and dance instruction; grade 7–12 “shall offer” such courses. At least one or more arts courses, which continue to be given in most high schools, are required for admission to the University of California and the California State universities.

At the helm of the department is director Karen Childress-Evans. She’s been six years at the top, bringing degrees in performance and a degree in performance and a degree in performance degrees in performance.
(viola) and education, classroom instruction in dance, theater, and music (the Suzuki method), plus administrative chops to her job. Nowadays, most administrators must be advocates, not only to blunt the budget hatchet but to find private donors. Dressed in a black turtleneck and plaid wool skirt — there’s a workman vacuuming her office after the January deluge — Childress-Evans is a lioness, a nonstop talker whose enthusiasm for the arts is infectious. She tells me she’s always “infused” the arts into her teaching.”That made it more interesting for the kids — and certainly more interesting for me. I was a better teacher for it, but my kids learned better that way, too.”

In 2004, Childress-Evans inherited a San Diego elementary-school arts program that was depleted, unbudgeted, moribund. At best, grade-school teachers who could carry a tune might lead their charges in the occasional sing-along. In 2006 — the last fat year for funding — the California legislature gave a generous Arts Block Grant to all state schools. Every district got one-time and ongoing money for “arts, music, and physical education equipment and supplies,” as well as a budget “to hire additional staff to support standards-aligned instruction in arts and music.” The amount expended by the end of 2007 in San Diego unified was almost $1 million. The one-time money was much higher than the ongoing funds.

“Luckily, they gave every single penny to me,” she says. Childress-Evans created a five-year strategic plan, budgeting for fat and lean times. She divided the money according to student population at each site. Only when the principal gave her an arts plan did she fund that school’s program. The grant

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bought musical instruments ($250,000 worth annually), digital equipment, and text- books. Steadily, arts and music instructors were hired — all are itinerant — until their number is now 28 and their salary some 80 percent of the visual and performing arts budget. “Peoplewise, we’ve grown because we’ve built programs,” Childress-Evans says. “Moneywise, we’ve decreased.” Ever mindful of the axe waiting to fall, she says that she’s already cut down to the “bare bones. If we don’t get funds next year, we’ll be lopping off arms and legs.”

According to Mark Nicholson, the instrumental music specialist who also has an office at the Mission Beach headquarters, once kids heard the array of instruments that students might study with the block grant — instruments and instruction which hadn’t been offered for years — they leapt at the chance to play them. Nicholson says that not until 2007 did the visual and performing arts program reach all 123 elementary schools in the district and 11,100 students in grades 4–8. There are 202 schools in the district, serving 135,000 students. Music is either required or offered at every one. “The hardest thing to change,” Nicholson said, “is the perception of the public. They think music and arts aren’t in the schools. People can’t get their minds around that.”

Childress-Evans is quick to praise the school board, whose members by and large, she says, support her efforts. In fact, the district is “an anomaly,” the only one in California that has “100 percent of our elementary with instrumental music.”

Childress-Evans and her staff, however, have discovered that district money isn’t enough to build and sustain the program they feel kids deserve. They are constantly looking for new outside funds, finding sources organized in the late 1990s and early 2000s, which, themselves, countered the then-wide spread cuts in music programs. Perhaps the best known is VH1’s “Save the Music” foundation — money given, often by millionaire rock stars, to train teachers, to fund existing programs, and to bring musicians into schools. Each year, San Diego unified gets some $70,000 from Save the Music. Other benefactors include the California Music Project, and its $20,000 annual gift; free lessons for teachers on recorder and guitar, the latter instruments donated by Taylor Guitars; and a generous bequest of $75,000 worth of band instruments from the U.S. Marines.

For Childress-Evans the key to keeping music and the arts alive has been “leadership.” Hers, that of her small staff, and school principals. On the job, she learned to “listen to what principals wanted.” She asked questions. What is your schedule? How and when could music fit in? “We looked at articulation, what the middle schools need from the elementary schools,” so that students are adequately prepared for the next level of instruction. The district could not be served, she says, with “one size fits all.” Trying to push the same program on every school didn’t work.

Voila, the arts — and music especially, the most popular program — have steamed back into port. And with their return, a vexing irony. The visual and performing arts budget during the past six years has slowly dwindled: its unrestricted funds (non-salary costs) in 2004–2005 were $474,140. The amount now is $188,921. Full-time equivalency (which pays for full- and part-time teachers) rose from 31.8 to 34.2 FTE. “It’s gone up,”
Four special-ed kids, whose job is to keep a steady beat on box drums with the drum machine. (Special-ed kids respond to playing a rhythm easier than they do to reading one.) As the children continue the beat (almost everyone wears jeans, a sweatshirt, and sneakers), West directs their eyes back to her visual cues. She whispers and shows the word “piano,” and they quiet the beat. She gets loud and shows “forte,” and they herald it back. Next, she shows a dotted half note and a quarter rest. They play the note, and she reminds them what a rest means: “Silence is not nothing.”

Every so often, West lets them “go,” that is, pound away on their own. The sound is tribal, cacophonous. Whistling to grab their attention, she refocuses on discipline by alternating rest position, the kids standing one step back from the drum pad, and play position, the kids stepping forward and picking up sticks. She has them beat out “Jump, in the Mississippi,” a phrase, which is accented on the one, that builds a swarming sound. Which, of course, they speed up. “You can’t help it,” she
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In contrast is raffish Steve Luchs, who teaches the Suzuki violin method. The Suzuki method gets kids playing the weird-to-finger-and-hold violin before they learn to read music; bowing, standing, fingering, all have to be coordinated. (How easy the piano is in this regard: everything is in front of you; just put your fingers on the keys and play.) Luchs has his group of 15 stand in two lines. When the kids aren’t playing, they bob, energized by the activity. “Let’s do ‘Egg Roll,’” Luchs says, “which is also known as ‘Allegro.’” Once they begin, enthusiasm is concentrated in that rather pinched sound, not unlovely, of 15 violins searching for intonation. When they finish, one student asks, “Can we play it again?”

With a visitor in the room, Luchs shows off their repertoire. “French Folk Song” and “Song of the Wind” are two pieces they recently performed with players from the San Diego Symphony, who put on a workshop at Hickman. Getting loose, Luchs, who accompanies every tune on piano, notices one small boy with excellent bow tech-

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**Before & After**
nique, an unforced and fluid wrist. He has him play a solo and comments, “I’m going to call him ‘The Boy with the Golden Arm.’” Laughs all around. He stops, grabs the violin, and announces they’ll play “The Break,” from “Cripple Creek.” What this song is, he says, “is not Mozart,” and he plays a Mozartean snippet. “It’s not Bach,” he says, and plays a fugal snippet. “It’s fiddle music.” He saws away with Appalachian abandon. That loosens them up. No surprise, there’s a link between the teacher’s enthusiasm and the kids’ charging their batteries.

The most necessary trait of the grade-school music teacher is patience. Of the infinite kind. Patience for the years of hearing “Mary Had a Little Lamb” sourly intoned. For that scratchy sound of a violin bow too near the bridge. For the squeak of a clarinet or the honk of the trumpet. Patience. And then ringing approval with “Good!” whenever the group gets some portion of the lesson right.

I ask Tellinghuisen how many practice. He laughs and shows me a method book that has a log inside the cover. He used to require “practice reports” but found “it was an exercise in creative writing.” He quit asking for the assignment after he noticed one too many kids marking in ten hours a day. He doesn’t need a log. “You can tell if they’re practicing.”

Music’s Effect on Learning

I ask each of the three itinerant teachers how music affects their pupils’ home life, learning, and development. April West says that teachers tell her often that during music class, “they see their kids in a whole different light. Those that struggle in the classroom can be the best ones” in music. For West, it may be that “their brains are wired that way.”

What kind of music do they listen to at home? West says it’s “almost all hip-hop. That’s the culture. It’s totally their lives and their parents’. It’s everywhere. They heard it in the womb.” Her mantra for teaching music is to “tap into what kids already know.” Steve Luchs says they listen to the radio mostly. But if they hear “something classical or something they’ve played, it perks them up. They can’t wait to come back to class and tell us.” Once, his violinists learned to play a snippet from Dvorak’s “New World Symphony.” A few had heard the work in performance by the San Diego Symphony, then told Luchs, who also attended the concert, about it. “And I say, ‘But they didn’t play it as good as you.’” The irony is not lost on these teachers that most classical music, and some jazz, are “new music” for their young musicians.

Some music teachers...
have become advocates for their programs, speaking at board meetings, especially during budgetary talks. Such self-interest comes with the territory. West says that as an undergraduate in music education, she wrote three different papers for three different teachers, "defending my music program." Part of her training was to investigate how, if attacked by a scissors-wielding board, she might save the program she had developed. She also says that the board needs to hear from students and parents more than they do from teachers. Parents don't realize, she notes, how effective they can be when extolling or demanding arts programs for their children.

This spring, music teachers are regularly testifying at the Tuesday board meetings about the visual and performing arts programs. On occasion, they bring their students to play, underscoring the tactic. Their goal as a group is to keep lobbing shots across the board's bow before they make hiring decisions. In January, elementary music teacher Lucille Park testified that she herself is a good example of music's power: "I was an ADHD kid, and music really helped me with concentration, focus, and self-discipline." Retired teacher Dean Hickman, an instructor for 33 years in San Diego, stated that without music in the schools we may see "our musical world become overpopulated with talent that is emblematic of the first round of American Idol." First-year elementary-school music teacher Lydia Cooley asked the board: "In an age of abbreviated texting and Facebook posting, are we not worried that kids will not know how to respond to art and music, to ballet and poetry?" At the five-hour-plus meeting, Tellinghuisen and other colleagues sat in the front row, supporting their fellow musician-speak-ers with "Save VAPA" signs.

Apropos of such continued enrichment, Luchs has a little test he likes to administer, ad hoc. "Next time you see your doctor," he'll tell a skeptical parent, "ask if he or she ever played a musical instrument. Next time you meet a gangbanger, ask the same question." Tellinghuisen agrees. He recently spoke with the father of a former student, a man who had nothing but praise for Tellinghuisen's teaching. Tellinghuisen asked what the son was now doing. "He's about to graduate from medical school," the man said. "He credits music with all of his success because that's how he learned to discipline his time."

Band and orchestra teacher Matt Mulvaney is part of the success behind the creative performing media arts middle school, or CPMA. The magnet has
had an astounding growth, beginning in 2002 with 216 grade 6 students; this year, having moved to a larger facility at what was Kroc Middle School in north-eastern Clairemont, they now enroll more than 1100 students. In May 2009, when the visual and performing arts department was slated for severe cuts, Mulvany and colleagues argued to the board in a letter that if districts want to be paid for student attendance, music and arts education is key. “Schools that offer more music education classes,” the letter states, “have higher daily attendance rates when compared to similar schools without these opportunities…. Over time, weakened attendance rates and fewer draws [of students] to the district will result in lower ADA figures, and subsequently, reduced funding.” In addition, because of the growth of magnets and private schools, if kids aren’t “drawn” to their neighborhood school nowadays, they go elsewhere: “private schools, charters, home schooling.”

**The Eminently Cuttable Arts Budget**

San Diego Unified’s budgetary nightmares — of the past two years, and the one upon us this spring — are all too familiar. When school expenditures are pinched, the board siphons money from wherever they can, often from unrestricted funds. In February, Chilдрес-Evans tells me that the district “swept” away her unrestricted arts budget of $188,921. The beast was possible, she says — her tone rising with equal parts blame and shame — because “the state legislature gave flexibility to categorical spending.” The board takes Peter’s money to pay Paul. She says that had the district followed her five-year strategic plan, which included its own rainy-day fund, she “would have gotten the arts through this hard time.”

One bright light — the school board has, in recent years, Chilдрес-Evans says, “refused to cut the VAPA department.” One board member, Sharily Jackson, did vote against the visual and performing arts program. The four others have not. For Chilдрес-Evans, the way in which the arts are now classified is a major headache. Yes, she says, the board has “consistently supported VAPA.” But now district policy places the arts, no matter how successful or desirable they may be, into a “non-curricular” pool, or grouped priority. The board then ranks that priority lower than the non-cuttable curricular ones. Her program is dumped into the funny titled, “rounded priority.” This strategy for making cuts identifies programs neither by name nor by relative success but, essentially, by stigmatizing a program’s usefulness as academic or not.

One bargaining chip for the visual and performing arts program is that if the board cuts their $3.4 million annual budget, the schools will lose some $5 million in materials, money, and programs that the students receive from donors and music do-gooders, which funds Chilдрес-Evans and staff have already hustled up. “People think,” she says defiantly, “that if they can get rid of this central office, VAPA, then the programs will continue to bloom and hold their own — no, they won’t. Because if elementary goes, in three years you won’t have [programs] in middle school, and you won’t have [programs] in high school. Simple as that.”

By March 15 of each year, school districts are required to tell teachers whether they’ll be back in the fall. Of VAPA’s 33 itinerant elementary music instructors, five were given a pink slip. The VAPA department notes that in years past they have been able to “rehire” those teachers by using discretionary money — as long as they are allocated some.

**A Generational Problem**

In the parking lot of Clairemont Mesa East’s Madison High School, following an evening of tryouts for Honor band and orchestra — a program in which those who make it are placed, practice, and perform a spring concert within six weeks — Mark Nicholson tells me that he believes we are cresting a near 30-year wave, bringing music back to the schools. A former band leader at Madison, Nicholson has seen the photos and heard the stories from colleagues about the great era of marching bands in the 1960s, when uniforms, instruments, and daily rehearsals were a given at nearly every high school. Earlier, he and I visit all the tryout rooms — percussion, wind, string, brass. First stop is his old band room at Madison, where we watch percussionist Randy Parks audition kids on the xylophone. Above the instrument lockers that run along three sides of the high-windowed room are hundreds of trophies. These were won over a 50-year period of music competitions by various incarnations of the Madison high school band. It’s not just sports that grab kids’ competitive interests.

Today, with more than three times as many high schools as in the 1960s, there are only ten schools in the district with marching bands. And yet Nicholson says that despite the historical decline and the current cutbacks, he can barely keep up with all the concerts and competitions, the tryouts and instrument repairs, the board meetings and the innovations in teaching that young teachers bring from their college programs. He tells me of a drum line, a percussion group, that went to the district office one day recently and “tore it up.” He agrees with April West that the best advocates for keeping music in the schools are parents and students. “It’s the parents’ tax money that’s paying for everything.”

Most parents don’t realize the quantity of music instruction they’re paying for: Honor orchestra and band; a K-5 Suzuki school at Crown Point elementary, a music magnet school; Oak Park Music Conservatory, another magnet elementary; the solo ensemble festival; the elementary Honor choral group; the Recorder Festival, the Improv Fest, Classics for Kids. Outside resources for music-making include the San Diego Youth Symphony, which recruits from and gives concerts in the schools. There are free school-based concerts offered by the choirs of Pacific Coast Harmony and San Diego Master Chorale, by Mainly Mozart, Orchestra Nova, and the Metropolitan Opera. And there’s the just-launched Little Kids Rock program. This national group brings in musical instruments, mostly guitars, and instruction to schools, which, according to their website, focuses on the kids’ “favorite popular musical styles, including rock, blues, rap, and hip-hop.” Little Kids Rock is providing 400 guitars to teachers and students, valued at $170,000.

The abundance of these in- and out-of-school programs is impressive. But Nicholson complains that district higher-ups still seem unfazed, unwilling to identify music as a core subject. Nicholson, who sports a
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Zen-like attitude toward the ups and downs of his administrator-advocate role, is flummoxed with music’s lowered priority. Sure, he understands that he’s motivated by the self-interest of his job. “But,” he says, “the small amount of the pie that we do get makes such a huge impact on all 135,000 students in our district.”

Nicholson and I watch dozens of kids go through the knee-knocking shakes of playing one-on-one for a teacher. Oh, the perils of sight-reading a new piece a teacher. Oh, the perils of what your fingers play! What your eyes see is nothing like what your fingers play!

His calm timorously bows “Twininkle, Twinkle” quietly reading back while his sixth-grader sits patiently in the chair who is auditioning on violin. It’s some-what we get makes such a small amount of the pie to play. There’s no pressure at home, though he offers a quiet time and private space if she wants to practice. She doesn’t take lessons. It may be the cost. It may be his reluctance to regiment her spark too soon. He hopes that just this small exposure to the violin will unlock. Perhaps that’s why he tells me that his father was a violinist, and that he has just died. “It’s something,” he says with a trace of sadness in his eyes, “he would have liked her to do.”

Maybe the girl’s grandfather’s wish will come true, as long as her grandmother’s music instructor to guide her.

— Thomas Larson

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Fire Starters
Re “The Wild Wild East” (Cover Story, March 25).

I disagree with the locals who stated that the Harris fire was started by immigrants.

We of the Citizens’ Oversight Projects, who have been battling Blackwater merce-
naries taking over our taxes and property, are aware of a different theory.

The immigrants had no motive to start the Harris fire in October 2007.

However, at that time, COPS and the majority of the town of Potrero were bat-
tling and resisting against Blackwater, who wanted to site a noisy base in this peaceful backcountry town.

We are extremely suspi-
cious that the Harris fire, which burned Potrero, was started at the home of a per-
son who was part of the citi-
zens who joined together to recall the planning board and turn Blackwater down.

We believe Blackwater had the motive to start the fire and to then set up a refugee camp in town, which, I might add, was rescinded and not used.

We asked Cal Fire to inves-
tigate the fire, but it was never investigated.

I hope the concern our citizens have for immigrants who take over some jobs does not blind them to the real oppression brought by mer-
cenary corporations who drain five times the taxes in salary that our military per-
sonnel receive.

We are again with locals pushing back against the same project, this time under the guise of Wind Zero near Ocotillo, which we have rea-
son to believe will be sold to Blackwater if it is built, and we request the good citizens of our whole county to come out and support these neigh-
bors citizens.

Valerie Sanfilippo
 Kearny Mesa

No News Is Bad News
Don Bauder wrote two lengthy articles about the Scott Kessler v. the City of San Diego lawsuit, dealing with his being fired for cooper-
ting with the FBI (“Too Much Conflict,” March 4, and “What a Tangled Web,” March 18, “City Lights”). The FBI was investigating two business improvement districts and recommended prosecution of their two CEOs. Of course, District Attorney Dumanis refused to prosecute.

But to me, the big story is the failure of any other newspaper to print anything about the lawsuit or the FBI report, which runs 63 pages and accuses the CEOs of a number of felonies. The mayor is heavily involved in protecting the CEOs. Obvi-
ously, protection of the mayor’s reputation ranks above news reporting in San Diego. That’s why you won’t see a word in the Union-Tri-

Melvin Shapiro
Hillcrest
**Thursday | 1**

**LUNCH WITH BUNNY**
Children two to six are invited to visit with a “gentle bunny” and make Spring crafts, including bunny ears, necklaces, butterflies, and a bunny-shaped Easter basket, all to take home. Participants will parade through the garden, go on a “bunny hunt,” and enjoy a “rabbit snack” — all at the San Diego Botanical Garden. See FOR KIDS, page 69.

**SIGNS OF THE TIDE**
The San Diego Coastkeeper organization hosts this “world-café-style” public forum designed to “educate, engage, and empower participants in issues relating to the health of San Diego’s coastal waters.” A panel of experts will speak, followed by small-group discussion. See LECTURES, page 70.

**Friday | 2**

**RANUNCULUS RAINBOWS**
The Flower Fields — with nearly 50 acres of giant, vibrant ranunculus flowers — are in bloom again and open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take a wagon ride to view the sweet-pea maze, the poinsettia display, and an American flag made of flowers. See SPECIAL, page 66.

**AN AMERICAN DUET: ELLIOT, A SOLDIER’S FUGUE**
The Ion Theatre presents Quiara Alegría Hudes’s drama about the legacy of war as seen through the eyes of three generations of a Puerto Rican family. Granddad served in the Korean War, Dad served in Vietnam, and Elliot is on leave from his post in Iraq. Directed by Sylvia Enrique. See THEATER, page 110.

**Saturday | 3**

**FOR THE BIRDS**
Learn how to help protect and preserve the habitat of the Western snowy plover and other threatened nesting-bird species during the “Plover Patrol” volunteer training at the Tijuana Estuary. Topics to be covered: monitoring beach use, educating beach users, and interpreting beach rules for visitors. See OUTDOORS, page 65.

**SPRING FLING**
Spend the day on the NTC Promenade. Family activities that include an Easter scavenger hunt, an Easter-egg hunt, face painters, lawn games, a performance by the Junior Ballet Company, and a concert by Rockola. See FOR KIDS, page 69.

**Sunday | 4**

**NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT**
It’s “Easter at the Bistro” — no giant bunny suits here, just an old-fashioned egg hunt and Easter-brunch items on the menu at Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens. The youngest egg hunters get a head start, and “goodies for the grown-ups” will be hidden in eggs, too. See FOR KIDS, page 69.

**ALIVE AND WELL**
The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of Kenny Finkle’s romantic comedy about a down-on-her-luck journalist and a Civil War reenactor who search for the Lonesome Soldier, the oldest living veteran of the War Between the States. Directed by Jeremy Dobrish. See THEATER, page 110.

**Monday | 5**

**M2P (THE MEANS TO PROTECT)**
What can be done to reduce the duration of a large-scale, state-sponsored mass killing? Professor Christian Davenport of University of Notre Dame presents “Understanding What Shortens Genocidal Violence” at the University of California San Diego. See LECTURES, page 70.

**Tuesday | 6**

**CREDIT CARDS: TOOL OR TRAP?**
Learn to understand credit scores and why they are so important, avoid mistakes that can lower your credit score, get out of credit debt, and almost everything else credit-card related at this presentation hosted by MiraCosta College San Elijo. See LECTURES, page 70.

**Wednesday | 7**

**A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO**
The San Diego Rep hosts a workshop production of Herbert Siguenza’s tribute to the first “rock-star artist.” Go inside Picasso’s Le Californie art studio and into his mind as he is given a weekend to prepare and deliver six works of art to a buyer. See THEATER, page 111.
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Travel Stories and Tips from Our Readers

Buenos Aires, Argentina
By Adam Case
I’d heard about Buenos Aires in the spring, but I was apprehensive about the winter. I packed my bags like I was getting ready to go snowboarding: jackets, thermals, and beanies. It being July and the off-season, I could explore the city at my leisure.

Prices for lodgings were lower, and the streams of tourists were navigable, leaving me free to wander Plaza de Mayo during business hours as pigeons, businessmen, and workers all rushed through the park and onto surrounding streets.

While walking back from the Sunday-morning flea market in the San Telmo neighborhood (where I haggled with a vendor to sell me a handcrafted wooden maté cup and metal straw for five dollars), I was caught up in the Spanish Civil War: several blocks from the market, a movie was being filmed. Red flags, fascist goons, sandbags, and Model Ts decorated the Parisian-inspired architecture. I watched as actors took cover from a simulated air raid, culminating with a large explosion that spread dirt down the block.

I ended my day at a café on Avenida Independencia, eating a juicy steak for five dollars and listening to the crooning of Carlos Gardel on the radio. I think Porteños have an expression for this — ¡che baludo!

Puerto Montt, Chile: Fresh Seafood
By M’Liss Hinshaw
Flapping fish tails, coiled seaweed, barnacles, and octopus fresh from the Chilean coastal town of Puerto Montt will soon become part of our gastronomical lunch.

At the southern end of the Pan American Highway (over 10,000+ miles from the top of Alaska to this scenic town) we met chef Richard Knobloch, serving locals and visitors his individually prepared gourmet meals.

“We walked to the local fishmonger’s.”

Other Adventures
Charvherandez: Clear blue waters at a Maui Beach
Spark: The end of the day at Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Canada
Natasha: Discovering snow-capped peaks while hiking in Idyllwild

continued on page 64
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ROAM-O-rama
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond
by Jerry Schad

EASTER SUNRISE
Where and when to go for a great view of the Easter morning sunrise.

San Diego sunrise

You brudge ever upward with steady footfalls, steering clear of barely seen rocks and roots. Night vision rules, monochromatic and flat, supplied by the light from a three-quarter, waning moon shining in the west. As you climb higher, dawn’s pale light awakens your retinal cone cells and color sulfuses the landscape. On the chilly summit, you wait in silence. The rosy glow of pre-sunrise builds across the eastern sky. The blue wedge of Earth’s shadow flattens against the ocean horizon to the west. At last it appears: the sun god Ra peaking over the mountains to the east. Helios on his golden chariot making ready for another trip across the sky; a pinpoint of light quickly growing into blinding intensity — a potent symbol of the resurrected Jesus Christ.

Whether or not you hold religious beliefs (Christian or otherwise), or you simply appreciate a fine, early-morning pilgrimage (Easter or otherwise), consider the following treks to high places around the county. Allow at least 30 minutes to cover each mile of upward travel for each, and be mindful that on this Easter Sunday the sun rises above the mountains to the east just after 6:30 a.m. Be sure you have a flashlight and warm clothing; you might encounter a heavy frost while wading through grassy meadows, rain splashing down from high overcast starting to hug the hills. North County residents should check out the huge Daley Ranch preserve in northeast Escondido. Its rolling hillsides and grassy meadows are practically bursting with flowering plants right about now.

Mushroom, a non-native plant more like a weed than a wildflower, is blooming profusely on grassy slopes all along the coastline of San Diego County. An old story, probably apocryphal, tells of the padres scattering mustard seed along the El Camino Real so that the bright, yellow flower blossoms would help them find their way in future spring seasons. More likely, the plant was introduced to western North America in the form of seeds carried in the hay used to feed livestock brought in by the early settlers.

Painted Lady Butterflies may be on the wing across San Diego County this month on what could be a significant migration from the Anza-Borrego Desert and northern Baja California toward the coast. Chances are you will see them winging west or northwest, toward greener, more succulent vegetation and away from the drying desert flora.

The Planet Mercury appears as a somewhat conspicuous “star” in the west at dusk on Saturday, April 3, but nowhere near as bright as Venus, which lies only three degrees to Mercury’s left. For the next week or so, Mercury will be enjoying its best evening-sky apparition of the year.

“Discover Daley Ranch” Meet naturalist William Sherrard for moderately paced seven-mile hike. 760-839-4680. Tuesday, April 6, 7am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

“Exploring the Breeding Birds of Daley Ranch” Naturalist Sally Sanderson leads slow-paced bird walk of about two miles; learn about chaparral plants, search for wildflowers, bring binoculars, water. Wear layers, walking shoes with good tread. Rain cancels. 760-839-4680, Sunday, April 4, 8am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Chile continued from page 62

sample of local sea urchin. Next we stopped at Juanita’s organic farm and picked the day’s best produce for our grand meal — including raspberries for dessert.

Knoblach, a transplanted German, cooked the meal in his restaurant, A Fuego Lento, a few miles away on the edge of the lake-resort town Puerto Varas. Settled by Germans in the 1900s, the town’s Bavarian-style houses overlook the lake.

As the chef created his scrumptious meal of ceviche (barnacles, mussels, octopus, and seaweed), fish soup, and Chilean hake fish, restaurant owner Marisol prepared his specialty drinks of pisco sour and pisco avocado using handmade liqueurs. For a fresh Chilean-fusion meal, contact Chef Knoblach at Richard-Knoblach@vtr.net.

Walden Pond, Concord, Massachusetts
by Derek Ray

“Most men lead lives of quiet desparation.” This thought was expressed by Henry David Thoreau over 160 years ago while living in the one-room cabin he built overlooking Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts.

Thoreau conducted his experiment of living in solitude at the pond from July 1845 to September 1847. The spot where he built and lived in the cabin is preserved and marked. A sign stands that reveals the thought process underlying his experiment: “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life — and see if I could not learn what it had to teach and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

The area is a state reserve protected from development, thanks to the aid of Don Henley of the Eagles. His Walden Woods project, a nonprofit founded in 1990, has helped preserve 462 acres of woods surrounding Walden Pond. A local developer had planned to construct a 139-unit condominium before Henley got involved. Instead of parking lots, miles of hiking trails snake through the woods surrounding the pond. It’s a popular summer spot for vacationers from throughout New England.

Above the pond, just off the road that leads to the woods, stands a replica of the cabin Thoreau built. One can walk inside and imagine a two-year stay in the cramped space. A museum nearby contains some of the furniture used by Thoreau, including a green wooden writing desk and rocking chair. You can see carvings on the desk that Thoreau may have etched in moments of contemplation (or writer’s block?).

The town of Concord, about 19 miles outside of Boston, played a significant role in American history and literature. Along with Thoreau, it was also the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Louisa May Alcott.

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.
For the Birds “Plover Patrol” Volunteer training gets underway; help protect, preserve habitat of threatened Western snowy plover and other nesting species by monitoring beach use, educating beach users, “interpreting beach rules for visitors.” Volunteers asked to contribute at least eight hours per month, commit to volunteering through Labor Day weekend. Registration: 619-575-3613 x330. Saturday, April 3, 9am; free. Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 3015 Perdido Rd., Imperial Beach. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

History Walk Offshoot Tours offers hour-long history walk, blending Balboa Park history with its wealth of architectural and botanical treasures. 619-235-1121. Saturday, April 3, 10am; free. Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Guided Nature Walk Learn about birds and plants of the area during outing beginning at “comfort station” on west side of park (5250 Regents Road). Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9961. Saturday, April 3, 9:30am; free. Marian Bear Memorial Park, Highway 52 and Genesee Avenue. (CLAREMONT)

Interested in Native Flora? Join Friends of the Point Loma Native Plant Gardens, learn about native flora while caring for collection of rare, endangered native plants and trees. Watering, trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, other light gardening activities. Tools provided. Find garden next to GreenCliff Apartments, 4444 Greene St., Ocean Beach. 619-297-7380. Saturday, April 3, 9am; free. Point Loma Native Plant Reserve, Mendocino Boulevard and Greene Street. (POINT LOMA)

Learn 20 Native Plants California Native Plant Society hosts walk starting at end of Swallotail Road. Wear sturdy shoes. 619-297-2957. Saturday, April 3, 10am; free. La Costa Canyon trailhead, Swallowtail Road and Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Return of the Least Terns San Diego Audubon Society invites volunteers to help prepare nesting site for endangered California least terns in Mariner’s Point, part of Bonita Cove on Mission Bay. Help clear nesting site of invasive plants, set up least tern decoys and “protective condos” so terns may use site for nesting, rearing young. Wear work clothes. If you have them, bring work gloves, weeding tools, clippers. 858-273-7800 x103. Saturday, April 3, 9am; free. Bonita Cove, 1100 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Roadrunner Park Loop Learn about chaparral plants, history of the area on walk along canyon following La Cuenta Drive ridge for a three-mile loop hosted by Canyoners. 619-235-0171. Sunday, April 4, 8am; free. Roadrunner Park, La Cuenta Drive at La Cuenta Court. (TIERRASANTA)

Tracking the Easter Bunny Learn art of tracking wildlife through chaparral when tracking team and trail guide naturalist leads two hours of “dirt time” adventure. Wear long pants. 619-668-3281. Saturday, April 3, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Vernal Pool Walk Join naturalist Mike Kelly to explore rare vernal pool habitats. Meet “extremophiles” plants and animals living in this challenging environment. 858-484-3219. Saturday, April 3, 9am; free. Lopez Ridge Park, 7245 Calle Cristobal. (MIRA MESA)

Wake-Up Walk Naturalist Tim Philippotts leads outing along “a trail based upon the wishes of the walkers, keeping in mind the spring flowers and fresh air.” 760-839-4680. Wednesday, April 7, 8am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

“Gardens Within Gardens” Don’t pull weeds, pick flowers, or take cuttings during 2010 garden festival hosted by Town Council of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove, showcasing five unique gardens. Purchase tickets/maps at nursery on day of event. Saturday, April 3, 10am; $20-$25. 8 and up. Elfin Valley Nursery, Elfin Forest Road at Elfin Forest Lane. (ESCONDIDO)

“Save Green by Going Green” Eco Fair 2010 promises information booths, demonstrations from more than 25 local companies, government agencies, NGOs. “Environmentally friendly activities for families and children.” 858-642-8383. Saturday, April 3, 10am; free. National University, 9388 Lightwave Avenue. (KEARNY MESA)

The Case for God Talk about why Karen Armstrong’s work “is one of the best theological works
Organized by the American Museum of Natural History, in collaboration with the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the California Academy of Sciences, The Field Museum, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

“Dancing With The Stars”

Presented by: The Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a Non-Profit Organization

Tony Dovolani & Elena Girenkova from “Dancing With The Stars”

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Enjoy in-...of our time” during this first meeting in six-part series. Donation. 619-298-9978 x8014. Thursday, April 1, 4:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST)

Ask the Horticulturist Enjoy informative tour through garden with horticulturist David Yetz. Bring your questions. Registration: 619-660-0614 x110. Sunday, April 4, 1:30pm; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Be a Grunion Groupie Scripps naturalists share “amazing tale of the elusive California grunion.” Learn how these unique fish “run” up on local beaches, lay their eggs in moist sand. Watch baby grunion hatch. Visit local beaches, lay their eggs in moist sand. Watch baby grunion hatch. Included in aquarium admission. 858-534-FISH. Saturdays, November 11:30am, 12:30pm and 1:30pm; Sundays, 11:30am, 12:30pm and 1:30pm; through Sunday, June 6, free. 512. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Coffee with CCDC Centre City Development Corporation hosts discussion forum with information about downtown redevelopment, projects, plans. Center is located above CVS pharmacy. 619-533-7148. Friday, April 2, 8am; free. Downtown Information Center, 193 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

Collect Some Art San Diego Youth Services benefit art auction with artist Mark Jesinoski promises “over 20 original pieces” on offer. 435-770-8670. Wednesday, April 7, 6pm; $20. Mosaic Wine Bar, 3422 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

God Only Knows... P&R Discussion Group gathers to ponder “the future of Catholicism in the United States.” 619-370-1027. Thursday, April 1, 7pm; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Gray Whale Season Returns! Outings hosted by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion boast Scripps naturalists on hand to share information about gray whales, the ecology, and history of San Diego Bay and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Detect, listen to whale and dolphin sounds in real time using state-of-the-art research equipment from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dolphins, sea lions, marine birds make guest appearances. Registration: 619-234-4111. Thursdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Fridays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Saturdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; through Sunday, April 4, 15-35. San Diego Harbor Excursion, 1050 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

House of India Program of ethnic songs and dances presented for lawn program at International Cottages. 619-234-0739. Sunday, April 4, 2pm; free. House of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Inclusion Festival and Cymer Fun Run/Walk Family carnival and one-mile run/walk alongside Lake Poway promotes “inclusion of individuals with autism within our community.” Expect games, barbecue, Easter egg hunt, more. Tickets for attractions sold at door; fee for run/walk is $15 per person. 858-603-7344. Saturday, April 3, 1pm. Lake Poway, 14644 Lake Poway Road. (POWAY)

Karma Yoga Chinmaya Mission San Diego hosts Acharya Gaurav Ranavat of Houston Mission. “The Discourses are a thought-provoking inquiry into the path of right action as presented in the Bhagavad Gita, chapter three.” 858-549-2989. Saturday, April 3, 9am and 6pm; Sunday, April 4, 9am; free. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

KnitNight Gather with fellow fiber artists for social knitting, crochet, spinning. 760-806-6744. Tuesday, April 7, 6pm; $20. Mosaic Wine Bar, 3422 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Make Them, Take Them Home Relay for Life event at Cymer Science Park. Registration, donations at booth and day of. 760-431-3032. Thursdays and Fridays, 9:45am and 1:30pm. Saturdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; through Sunday, April 4, 15-35. San Diego Harbor Excursion, 1050 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

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

Partial to Plumeria? Southern California Plumeria Society hosts annual cutting sale in Casa del Prado room 101. Plumeria cuttings offered for sale by members (cash or check only). Members on hand to answer questions, demonstrate planting of plumeria scions. Sale includes plumeria culture books, items. 619-461-5942. Saturdays, April 3, 10am; Sunday, April 4, 10am; free. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Flower Fields with nearly 30 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon ride ($5 general). Sweet pea maze, poinsettia display, American flag of flowers. Season passes available. 760-431-0532. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 9am; Wednesdays, 9am; through Sunday, May 9, free-$10. Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Smarts May Beat Speed Teams of two solve clues to find checkpoints where they must take photos or perform dares during Urban Dare San Diego. Racers are encouraged to call friends for help solving clues. Dares may be physical or mental challenges, such as running an obstacle course, puzzle solving, eating pepper poppers. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research. 202-285-4510. Saturday, April 3, noon; 45-$55. Maloney’s Tavern, 777 32nd Street. (NORTH PARK)

FREE LUNCH & FREE GIFT

Free Lunch-and-Learn Workshop at VIP Restaurant
5541 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego 92117
Thursday, April 8, 2010, 12-1 pm

• Learn how stress is causing you health problems and what can be done about it.
• Learn the natural solutions to pain, including headache, arthritis and carpal tunnel.
• Eliminate tiredness-fatigue-irregular sleep cycles.
• Find out why you have difficulty breathing and what you can do about it.
• Find out why your hormones are failing you and what you can do about it.

R.S.V.P. – limited space. Sign up at the cashier or call and reserve your seat at: 619-275-3683

Presented by: The Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a Non-Profit Organization
Wellness Consultant: Dr. Richard A. Engel, DC

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
MARCH 27–SEPTEMBER 6
3D FILMS, TOO!
Spring Harp Fest XI Annual benefit show has helped in purchase of nearly 3000 harmonicas for kids at local Blues in the Schools presentations. Performers include Chet and the Committee, John “Whiteboy” Walden, 145th Street with Steve Bulger, Billy Watson and the International Silver String Submarine Band, James Harman with Nathan James. Bring blanket or beach chair. 619-263-6826. Saturday, April 3, 11am; free. Harry Griffen Regional Park, 9550 Milden Street. (LA MESA)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Early Music and Lunch Silverwood Trio performs for mini-concert. Bring your lunch! 858-454-5872. Monday, April 5, noon; free. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)


Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-232-7931. Sunday, April 4, 2pm. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

DANCE

“Firehouse Fusion Dance Party” Evening begins with fusion dance workshop led by Meeshi and Alan (7:30-8:45pm), followed by live “downtempo/ambient” music from XIV (9pm-12:30am). DJ Jackie O provides tunes between live music sets. Tickets include lesson, dance. All ages. 858-395-6060. Thursday, April 1, 7:30pm; $10. Queen Bee’s Art and Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street. (NORTH PARK)

American Social Dance Party DJ plays ballroom, Latin, and requests for couples, singles of all ages. Argentine tango lesson (7-8pm); nightclub two-step lesson (8pm). 619-299-7917. Saturday, April 3, 7pm; free-$8. Pattie Wells’ DanceTime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Monday Night Swing Weekly swing classes include jump swing (7:30pm), slab swing (8:30pm),...

TrackYourDeeds, Inc. presents its first annual Charity Prom benefiting the homeless Families of Solutions for Change...

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Purchase tickets online: www.trackyourdeeds.org or call: 760-533-5644

Must be 21+ with valid ID.

A Night Under the Stars

Saturday, April 24 * 8 pm-midnight

Join us for a special evening at the Bristol Hotel, San Diego’s premier modern and contemporary boutique hotel. You’ll be dancing the night away to “DJ ALFIE” as he plays a variety of favorites from today to yesteryear.

$75 admission includes:
2 drink tickets, 2 raffle tickets, hors d’oeuvres, and parking at the Bristol.

Purchase tickets online: www.trackyourdeeds.org or call: 760-533-5644

Must be 21+ with valid ID.

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Rhyme & Verse
4 Poems by Joseph Stroud

Homage to Rolf Jacobsen

The yellow jacket keeps crashing against the pane trying to get out. All along it’s only a matter of opening the window, finding the words, and you’re out there — in the other, larger world. To the dead, paradise is the sidewalk you stroll down looking in windows, humming, stopping for coffee.

The Song of Divorce

Bitter the warmth of sunlight, and bitter the taste of apple, the song and the stars and wheat fields, bitter the memory, moonlight, the shine of the lake’s surface in morning, like a sheen of pearl, bitter the hummingbird’s throat and gold pollen, all poems and their music, hark wood and sandalwood, bitter, silk sheets, fire, the marriage.

Reading Cavafy Alone in Bed

I, too, remember the past, my room lit by candles, and the night she entered and touched my face with her face, with mouth and tongue and lips, in the orchard night, in the odor of fruit, her breasts — remember, body? — that room, remember? — our cries, the flickering candles?

Lazarus in Varanasi

From a pyre on the burning ghat a corpse slowly sits up in the flames. As if remembering something important. As if to look around one more time. As if he has something at last to say. As if there might be a way out of this.

Joseph Stroud, born in 1943, is a California poet who spent half the year in Santa Cruz and the other half in a cabin in the Sierra Nevada. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and a Witter Bynner Fellowship in poetry from the Library of Congress. These poems are from Of This World: New and Selected Poems, published by Copper Canyon Press in 2009 and reprinted with permission.

FOOD & DRINK

“Tasting Wealth 9” Wine Smarties host “Fruity and Floral Wine Tasting” with five different wines from around world. Fee includes “nibbles, wines, education.” RSVP: 619-955-8884. Wednesday, April 7, 5:30pm; $30. 21 and up. Morgan Run Resort and Club, 5690 Cancha de Golf. (LA Jolla)

Breakfast with LeBeau Downtown YMCA hosts 49th annual Good Friday breakfast with guest speaker Carol LeBeau, who recently retired from Channel 10. Proceeds benefit Downtown YMCA’s youth outreach programs. 858-236-5800. Monday, April 5, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

The Horse Boy Screening of Michel Scott’s “journey of the heart.” 619-236-5800. Wednesday, April 7, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

The Private Lives of Pippa Lee Rebecca Miller’s “loopy diary of a mad housewife” with Robin Wright Penn, Alan Arkin, Winona Rider, Maria Bello, Keanu Reeves screens for Film Forum series. 619-236-5800, Monday, April 5, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Which Way Home Director Rebecca Cammisa’s 2009 documentary “presents a harrowing tale of children in danger, subject to conditions beyond the capacity of their tender years…on their journey through Mexico” to reach U.S. 858-354-TIXS. Thursday, April 1, 8pm; $5-$8. Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA Jolla)

FOR KIDS

“Easter Eggstravaganza” Enjoy a bonnet contest with prizes (10am); games, activities. Egg hunt at 11am. Requested donation: $3. 760-639-6151. Saturday, April 3, 10am. Bringle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace Drive. (VISTA)

“Easter MEGGa Hunt” Light Easter egg runs, with starts every 30 minutes for age categories for those up to 12 years old, sponsored by City Bible Church. One thousand

University of San SaturGte, St. Auguste, USA

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Physic and Occupational Therapy Open House
Friday, April 9th, 2010
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join in beautiful San Diego, CA to learn about how a career in Physical Therapy or Occupational Therapy could change your life.

Attend our Open House to meet with the faculty and students of the University of San SaturGte, St. Auguste, USA. View hands-on demonstrations, learn about the continuous growing professions of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, and take a tour of our beautiful California campus.

USA is a graduate institution that focuses on health science education. It is our mission to provide professional development to healthcare providers through innovative and individualized education. We look forward to meeting you on campus and sharing with you all that our university has to offer.

To RSVP, please visit us at usasusta.edu and click on the “Events” tab. If you have any further questions, please email Mary Nor at mnor@usa.edu.
Avian Nature Adventures Kids of all ages (with an adult) learn about various San Diego bird species during class promising songs, specimens, craft, trail walk. 619-582-6261. Tuesday, April 6, 10am and 3pm; Wednesday, April 7, 10am and 3pm; free-$5, Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, (SAN CARLOS)

Easter Eggs at the Amusement Park Easter egg hunt for kids, who will be divided into three age categories. Bring a basket. 858-560-4212. Saturday, April 3, 9:30am; free, Boomers San Diego, 6999 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (NEARBY MESA)

Family Game Night Trek through museum during “one-of-a-kind scavenger hunt” promising “fun-filled adventure.” Check-in at welcome desk for step-by-step guide to program (designed for children aged 6-9, though everyone is welcome). 619-233-8792. Thursday, April 1, 4pm, New Children’s Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Easter baskets provided for “10,000 Easter eggs,” more. 619-365-5530. Saturday, April 3, 11am; free, Scotts Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, (MISSION VALLEY)

“Just for Kids!” Naturalist DJ Summers leads easy hike for children (and their parents). Craft session at picnic area follows. Bring a snack if you want. 760-839-4680. Friday, April 2, 10am; free, Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Benito Bunny’s Great Easter Egg Hunt Benito Bunny needs help finding Easter eggs stolen by Freddy the Fox when Gaston’s Puppets take stage. 619-544-9203. Freddy the Fox when Gaston’s Puppets take stage. 619-544-9203. Thursday, April 1, 10am and 11:30am; Friday, April 2, 10am and 11:30am; Saturday, April 3, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, April 4, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; $3-$5, Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Avian Nature Adventures Kids of all ages (with an adult) learn about various San Diego bird species during class promising songs, specimens, craft, trail walk. 619-582-6261. Tuesday, April 6, 10am and 3pm; Wednesday, April 7, 10am and 3pm; free-$5, Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, (SAN CARLOS)

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Kids at Lux Kids (6-12) invited for guided tour through studio, question-and-answer session with resident artist, sculptor Robert Lobe, hands-on art project. Reservations: 760-436-6611. Saturday, April 3, 10am; free-$20, 6 and up, Lux Art Institute, 1550 South El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Lunch with Bunny Children 2-6 years old invited to visit a “gentle bunny,” make some spring crafts. Participants will parade through garden, go on a bunny hunt, enjoy a “rabbit snack.” Required advance registration: 760-436-3036 x222. Thursday, April 1, 9:30am; $12-$17, 2 and up. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Nature Explorers Linda Hawley leads program for kids of all ages (with adult) to learn about variety of local bird species in class offering specimens of specialized beaks, feet. Bring flashlight for night hike. Meet at campground shade structure. 619-582-6261. Friday, April 2, 7pm; free-$5, Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Now for Something Completely Different! Spend “Easter at the Bistro” — no giant bunny suits here — just an old-fashioned egg hunt, Easter brunch items on menu. Egg hunt at 9:30am, with youngest seekers going first; “goodies for the grown-ups hidden in the eggs as well.” 760-471-4999. Sunday, April 4, 9:30am; free, Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1999 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Pet Pals Kids Club Kids 6-13 have “fun with other animal-loving kids.” Required reservations: 619-243-3432. Saturday, April 3, 11am; $15. 6 and up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Spring Fling Activities for family include “Amazing Easter Scavenger Hunt,” Easter egg hunt, face painters, lawn games, demonstrations, performances. Concert by Rockola. 858-735-0989. Saturday, April 3, noon; free. NTC Prome- nade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

“California Fibers: Liminal Spaces” Reception for exhibition of current work by 16 Southern California fiber and textile artists. View exhibit of weaving, sculpture, basketry, quilting, art-to-wear, mixed media pieces through Sunday, April 25. 619-546-4872. Friday, April 2, 5pm; free, Visions Art Museum, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

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Bring this ad for FREE VIDEO of your skydive on Sunday!
**Event Title**: The Religion Virus

**Date**: April 1, 2010

**Location**: San Diego County Library Embarcadero Branch, 2877-B State Street

**Description**: This event focuses on the impact of religion on contemporary society, featuring a discussion on the role of religion in individual and social contexts.

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**Event Title**: The Move Along, People — "Claiming Our Space" Exhibition

**Date**: April

**Location**: La Jolla Quilt Gallery, NTC Promenade, 2825 Dorrington Ave.

**Description**: This exhibition features works that challenge perceptions of space and identity, encouraging viewers to consider their own claims on public and private spaces.

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**Event Title**: Executive Home Improvement Seminar — Credit Cards: Tools or Traps?

**Date**: April

**Location**: La Jolla Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive

**Description**: A seminar on financial literacy, focusing on the role of credit cards in personal finance, including strategies for managing credit effectively.

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**Event Title**: Early Child Development Seminar — The Move Along, People — "Claiming Our Space" Exhibition

**Date**: April

**Location**: Live at Gotham

**Description**: A seminar on the development of early childhood, including interactive activities and discussions to foster learning and growth in young children.

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**Event Title**: Stand-Up Sundays

**Date**: April 2

**Location**: Liberty Station, 2825 Dewey Rd.

**Description**: A stand-up comedy night featuring a variety of comedians, providing entertainment and laughter for the audience.

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**Event Title**: The Move Along, People — "Claiming Our Space" Exhibition

**Date**: April 3

**Location**: La Jolla Quilt Gallery, NTC Promenade

**Description**: A continuation of the exhibition with additional works that explore the theme of claiming space in contemporary society, encouraging dialogue on the importance of personal space.

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**Event Title**: Executive Home Improvement Seminar — Credit Cards: Tools or Traps?

**Date**: April 4

**Location**: La Jolla Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive

**Description**: A continuation of the seminar with further discussions on the management of credit cards, strategies for avoiding debt, and the importance of financial literacy.

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**Event Title**: The Move Along, People — "Claiming Our Space" Exhibition

**Date**: April 5

**Location**: La Jolla Quilt Gallery, NTC Promenade

**Description**: The final day of the exhibition, offering a closing reception and a chance for attendees to reflect on the themes explored throughout the event.

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**Event Title**: Early Child Development Seminar — The Move Along, People — "Claiming Our Space" Exhibition

**Date**: April 6

**Location**: Live at Gotham

**Description**: A concluding seminar that synthesizes the discussions from the series, providing a comprehensive overview of the topics covered and their implications for early child development.
Suffer from Mental “Writer’s Cramp”?: Licensed hypnotist Sara Lewis Murre helps writers overcome mental “writer’s cramp” by relaxation, suggestion. Learn tips on how to keep writing flowing when Murre addresses Sisters in Crime. All welcome. 760-585-5383. Thursday, April 1, 6:30pm; free, Joyce Beers Community Center, 4065 Vermont Street, (HILLCREST)

Depression and Discrimination
Helen Ofield presents “The Grapes of Wrath and its Connections to Lemon Grove’s 1931 School Segregation Case” for Lemon Grove Historical Society’s “History Alive” lecture series. Steinbeck’s book was set in California during Great Depression, “the desperate period that helped to trigger acts of discrimination against Mexican Americans, as in the 1931 case.” 619-460-4353. Thursday, April 1, 7pm; free. H. Lee House Cultural Center, 3205 Olive. (LEMON GROVE)

SPORTS

Now Bike This Join Knickerbikers for (roughly) 25-miler starting in La Jolla Strip Club parking lot. Participants decide route, lunch spot (bring money). 619-787-7427. Sunday, April 4, 9am; free. La Jolla Strip Club, 4292 Esplanade Court. (LA JOLLA)

Derby Double Header San Diego Wildtjtes take on Atlanta Roller Derby, Angel City Derby Girls meet up with Atlanta on flat track. 619-206-9711. Saturday, April 3, 5:15pm; free-$20. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Field Hockey Fun USA Field Hockey hosts AtaHolding Women’s World Cup Qualifier. The USA team welcomes “traditional Pan American rivals Canada and Mexico, as well as Korea, Belgium, and France.” Three games each day. Tournament winner qualifies for 2010 Women’s World Cup in Argentina. 719-866-4339. Thursday, April 1, 10am; Friday, April 2, 10am; Saturday, April 3, 10am; $5-$10. U.S. Olympic Training Center, 2800 Olympic Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

Fiesta Del Mar Arabian Horse Show Qualifying show for Region 1 and 7, presented by Tierra del Norte Arabian Horse Association. 619-993-4169. Thursday, April 1, 8am; Friday, April 2, 8am; Saturday, April 3, 8am; Sunday, April 4, 8am; free. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

National Start! Walking Day Put on sneakers, join American Heart Association for trek through downtown. “Brisk walking for just 30 minutes a day has been proven to decrease your risk of stroke, reduce your cholesterol, and lower your blood pressure.” Participants receive free lunch from Subway; appearance by Mayor Jerry Sanders, health screenings, live entertainment. 858-410-3849. Wednesday, April 7, noon; free. San Diego Community Concourse, 202 C Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Ride the Fallbrook Hills Join up with San Diego Bicycle Society riders for 75-miler starting in upper parking lot at Third and C. Bring money for deli lunch. 619-561-3846. Sunday, April 4, 8:45am; free. Moonlight Beach, 200 B Street. (ENCINITAS)
Barona Cultural Center and Museum
1605 Barona Rd., 619-443-7003, (LAKE SIDE)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps
The “Spring EGGS-travaganza” (running through Sunday, April 4) promises activities highlighting “wonders of reproduction in the sea.” Participants see egg-laying marine animals including squids, fishes, sharks. Create a shark egg craft, listen to stories, take part in an activity.

What makes the seahorse a fish, though it doesn’t look like one? How do male seahorses get pregnant, give birth? “There’s Something About Seahorses” explores biology, adaptations of these creatures. Exhibit includes more than a dozen species of live seahorses and their relatives, including pipefish, shrimpfish, sea drag-ons. Continues through December 2011.

The museum is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSC. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico’s Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. “Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge” examines science behind climate change: “Art of Deception” explores undersea camouflage. “Wonders of Water” waterpel area includes three interactive stations. The Lynee and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2380 Expedition Way, 858-534-3474, (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum
“WOW: Women on Waves,” on view through Monday, January 31, 2011, “explores many aspects of feminine wave-riding.” Show documents highlights of women’s contributions throughout the sport and culture of wave-riding, chronicling beach fashions, surfing equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in Building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Road (Marine Corps Air Station), 858-693-1723, (MIRAMAR)

Chula Vista Nature Center
Interactive living museum devoted to Mariano, who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in Building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Road (Marine Corps Air Station), 858-693-1723, (MIRAMAR)

Fielding Leatherneck Museum
is dedicated to Marines who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in Building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Road (Marine Corps Air Station), 858-693-1723, (MIRAMAR)

Heritage Museum
An interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poway’s past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., 858-679-8587, (POWAY)

Heritage of the Americas Museum
More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1636-1644) are included in “The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China.” From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, education, anthropology, and fine art. Visit the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194, (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum
Library Museum and library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kinney family on exhibit. 2116 Tavern Rd., 619-659-8740, (ALPINE)

La Mesa Depot Museum
Located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include original telegraph and telephone equipment, pot-belled coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerated car, 1943 caboose. La Mesa Boulevard and Spring St., 619-465-7776, (LA MESA)

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

Mingei International Museum
“Fishing Out of Water — Sea Creatures of Arline Fisch” is the designer craftman’s first major installation. The more than 150 objects crocheted from color-coated copper wire are life-sized re-creations of specific jellyfish species and objects suggesting sea anemones and coral. Fisch is professor of art (emerita) at SDSU, where she founded its program in jewelry and metalworking in 1961. Through Sunday, May 16.

“Transformed by Fire” is a career-spanning exhibition of 90 objects by Michael Strong, considered the nation’s premier enamelist. Also on view: “Fifty-Six Chinese Hat Boxes — And One Hat!” Exhibition of 56 Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) hatboxes created to hold official’s hats boxes made of wood, lacquer, paper, leather, all from late 19th or early 20th Century. The hat in question is a summer hat. Both exhibits close Saturday, July 3.

“Viva Mexico!” — Heroes and Artisans” celebrates 20th anniversary of Mexican independence (1810), the 100th of Mexican revolution (1910), and folk art “that colorfully and vitally expresses the nation’s spirit.” Exhibition featuring works drawn from Mexico’s federal patrimony and from Mingei’s collection includes 105 objects on loan from Mexico. Closes Sunday, January 2, 2011.

“Sonabah: Another Way of Seeing” continues through Sunday, September 5. The self-taught artist lived in enforced isolation for 15 years in a remote village in central India, developing an innovative art form that she later taught to other artists. Exhibition includes 33 sculptures by Sonabah and her family as well as 38 works by four artists trained by Sonabah: 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003, (BALE PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla
“Pleasure Point: Celebrating 25 Years of Contemporary Collectors” boasts “major highlights of the acquisitions group” that has made possible during past 25 years, including works by Tony Oursler, Doris Salcedo, Nancy Rubins, Clones Sunday, May 16, 700 Prospect St., 858-454-3541, (LA JOLLA)

Singles Parties for 30+
Come socialize with other singles to meet that special someone!
Tuesdays 7-11 pm
Tango Del Rey (Mission Bay)
3567 Del Rey Street
Music provided by DJ Juan
$3 off (with this ad before 8 pm)

Thursdays 7-11 pm
Characters Bar & Grill
La Jolla Marriott
4240 La Jolla Village Dr.
DJ John Phillips & Dancing • $11 Admission
SinglesinSanDiego.com
Hotline: 858-259-6166
Hosted by Darlena
Museum of Making Music

“Waves of Inspiration: The Legacy of Moog,” on view through Friday, April 30, highlights inventor Bob Moog’s career, especially his influence on world of music. See rare vintage synthesizers, other related Moog instruments and memorabilia from Moog Archives and private collections. Exhibition explores numerous musicians, engineers, colleagues who played vital roles in evolution of Moog sound. Instruments feature trace history of Moog’s work.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. 5790 Armada Dr., 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

Oceanside Museum of Art

“Plastic Fantastic: Allison Renshaw” explores contrast between McMansions, plastic surgery, and artificiality of high-end living with SD’s seaside, weather, and natural beauty. Renshaw’s new mixed media paintings may be seen through Sunday, June 20. “While seemingly random and difficult to decipher, ‘Plastic Fantastic’ references today’s open-source culture of sampling and recycling.”

Honorable “Marine Portraits” by Stathis Orphanos offers glimpse into private lives of young Marines. Orphanos was granted “restricted access to Camp Pendleton...to photograph major base activity.” Closes Sunday, May 2.

“The Things They Carried: World War II Trench Art,” closing Friday, June 4, “offers something tangible to the investigation of the human spirit during times of war.” Many objects were created by soldiers from metal and scrap detritis during time in hospital, prisoner camps, or in trenches. Expended artillery shell casings; bullets; shrapnel; ship, tank, and aircraft parts are transformed into “emotionally charged souvenirs such as jewelry, model planes, and personalized cigarette cases and lighters.” 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (OCEANSIDE)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum

Displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artist’s American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20x20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst’s painting Navajo at Castle Creek, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. 131 Rea Ave., 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum

“Confluence of Historical Buildings” includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunkhouse, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main St., 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego County Sheriff’s Museum

The 150-year history of the sheriff’s department is highlighted at the museum, which is located “just feet away” from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. 2384 San Diego Ave., 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Museum of Art

“Joaquin Torres-Garcia: Constructing Abstraction with Wood” explores work of one of the most influential artists to have emerged from Latin America. Exhibition includes more than 80 wooden constructions, or maderas, largely dating from 1920s-1940s, such as small-scale boxes, abstract male and female figures, masks, assemblages. Small selection of Torres-Garcia’s oil paintings and drawings accompany show, continuing through Sunday, July 18.

“Brutal Beauty: Drawings by Hugo Crosthwaite” boasts works with an emphasis on figure drawing, said to “reveal the brutal beauty of humanity and demonstrate a keen understanding of the historical traditions of figure drawing.” Exhibition features the two Crosthwaite works in museum’s permanent collection and several loans from local private collectors. During exhibition, Crosthwaite will create a new work to complete this installation, become part of museum’s permanent collection. Through Sunday, July 18. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALSAM PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum

“Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries” explores world of modern paleontology based on American Museum of Natural History’s latest dinosaur finds, including an array of feathered dinosaurs, exhibition shows how advanced technology allows scientists to look at fossils in new ways. Exhibit with major fossil finds, computer simulations, life-size models closes Monday, September 6.


USS Midway Museum

Permanent exhibits include 25 restored aircraft, former World War II pilots and other veterans share personal stories with guests in front of a restored SBD Dauntless dive bomber on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Navy knot-tying demonstrations and activities for youngsters offered most weekends. Self-guided audio tour narrated by former Midway sailors.

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Early Report: High Dive

The menu calls Quality Social “a bar with food.” It’d be more accurate to say “a serious casual eating place with a bar.” You could call the menu “pub grub,” but that’d be like calling foie gras terrine “chopped liver.” It’s mainly “blue collar” food uplifted to exigent standards of ingredient-quality and craftsmanship. Had I known how serious the food would be, I’d have waited a few months and come back with a party of six to really wring it out. But the management’s faux-cavalier attitude fooled me: I thought a quick scout with a buddy would do it. It won’t, and I’ll be back, and meanwhile, people looking for good food at relaxed prices in a relaxed atmosphere will get the word that they can find some tasty eats here in this most unlikely setting.

The chef, Jared Van Camp, calls it a “next-generation dive bar.” (Sorry, I’ve sampled enough dive bars to say this ain’t one.) It occupies the cavernous 9000-square-foot space at the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue and F Street, previous home to Exy (the lame self-hating Greek restaurant) and before that a nice Nevada-based steakhouse. No exterior signage identifies it; the signs say only “Food” over an X formed by a crossed knife and fork. Currently, the website is still huge) room to the left has a large wrap-around bar in the middle, the main source of lighting. Raised black leatherette booths on a low platform line the north wall. That Sunday evening, the barstools were well populated by couples in their 20s or 30s, a hopeful sign for a Social future in this difficult location. “I can’t believe it — no flat-screen TV’s!” said my buddy Sam. “Even little sushi bars have them now!” My joy at this discovery was unbounded. Nothing ruins a date or a good conversation like TV, even muted — all male eyes are mesmerized, more interested in the stupid sports scores than in possibly “scoring.” The sound level’s pretty loud, though, even though the music wasn’t awful. Seemed to be mainly what Sam called “bad British boys making noise” and dipped into several decades (nearly all post-’60s).

We began with a quartet of raw oysters farm-raised in Carlsbad, perfectly shucked but very salty. I liked the complex sweet-tart house cocktail sauce, which was not much like the conventional ketchup version. Bacon-wrapped dates (not commercial bacon but house-cured pork belly), stuffed with blue cheese and minced walnuts, are a total treat, rivaling the paragons at Whisknladle. Deviled eggs are truly devilish, dyed red with hot sauce, and served atop lightly toasted baguettes thinly slanted toward the French selections because of these various meats are the basis of most of the house sandwiches. With a choice of 12, I slanted toward the French selections because (unlike the Italian ones) I know how they’re made and how they should taste. The pork pâté de campagne (country-style) is classic in fat-to-lean texture, wrapped in thin slices of belly-pork and served atop lightly toasted baguettes thinly

House-made charcuterie, pickles, and condiments emphasize local ingredients.
spread with butter and coarse mustard. It has chunks of cornichon pickles cooked into it (in France, these are served on the side), along with green peppercorns. The soft, fatty chicken-liver mousse resembled the one I ate recently at Blanca, but for a major technical slipup: livers for mousse are ideally sautéed to a dark rosy pink before they’re pureéd. Although the interior of the mousse was the proper pink, some of the livers must have been overcooked brown, leaving a faintly bitter, liverish flavor and a gitty texture, calling for a push through an ultra-fine sieve. The potted rillettes were also the texture of mousse (rather than the classic chopped-up meat or poultry). They consisted of shredded mystery-meat (pork? duck?) thoroughly embraced by duck fat.

On the Italian side, I couldn’t resist trying the whipped lardo ("Italian butter," the menu calls it) spread on toasted baguette croûtons — my first chance to fully experience this trendy favorite in quantity enough to learn what it actually tastes like. It tastes utterly delicious — but it’s got to be the fattiest fat in the known world. It fills you up in two bites. And later in the night, you crave more. It tastes like…a distilled essence of pork, sweet and friendly, sly and meaty, like no other meat.

As for Finnochiona (more typically spelled with a single n in the first syllable), it’s a salami flavored with fennel seeds. Served in large, thin rounds, it’s fatty, salty, slightly lacy. To my tastes, it really wants an accompaniment of a rich, assertive cheese such as fontina or provolone — or perhaps one of the California goudas on the cheese list. (It must be terrific in the Italian sub sandwich here.) The charcuterie comes with grilled bread and house-made sweet bread-and-butter pickles. We also ordered a “pot of market pickles,” which included carrots, beets, green tomatoes, each with a different cure. This seems like an apt-enough moment to mention that each table receives an assortment of a half-dozen house-made condiments poured into empty gourmet beer bottles — coarse mustard, barbecue sauce, ketchup, et al. Can’t say I’d know when to use them, since most items seem pretty well condimented in advance.

Had to try a side dish of macaroni and cheese made with stilton blue, cheddar, and gruyère, topped with buttered breadcrumbs. I love mac ‘n’ cheese and keep seeking a great restaurant version, always encountering disappointments. The blue cheese raised my hopes, the dish itself dashed them — buttery and mild, with gruyère up front and the stronger cheeses suppressed. The pasta is a thick, hearty type (e.g., penne or ziti) and could handle more bite from strong cheese.

For our grand finale, Sam and I shared a wonderful Portuguese Fisherman’s Stew that blended hunks of salt cod with shrimp, mussels, Carlsbad clams (which, like the Carlsbad oysters, are very salty), piquillo peppers, and minced chistorra sausage, all in a lively, thin tomato-based broth, topped with a slab of bread coated with boldly garlicky aioli. We were both pleased by the lightness of the tomato presence and especially by the tenderness of all the seafood.

“I wish I had enough appetite left to try the charred octopus,” said Sam, “seeing that the kitchen’s good with seafood.” ‘Or the Belgian mussels in alc,” I added. But we also wanted the local asparagus salad with “45-minute egg,” an indication of slow-poaching sous-vide. And we’d love to try the duck wings in harissa (Moroccan spice paste) with cucumber-mint raita.

The hamburgers are made from semi-free-range, near-local Brandt beef (from Brawley), and “ground daily” is the signal that the meat is probably safe to order pretty rare, indicating no weird, gummy ankle-trimmings from Brazil, Bolivia, et al. The “our way” version, dressed with that delicious aioli, includes cheddar, house-made bacon, and a fried egg, plus the usual veggies. As for the hotdogs, they’re made from scratch! Served “our way,” they’re topped Chicago style with pickle relish, onions, tomatoes, and sport peppers.

Among the sandwiches, the BLT is made with pork-belly confit, arugula, fried green tomatoes, and aioli. The reuben has house-made pastrami. The Italian sub has a house-cured salumi mixture plus provolone, et al. Even the grilled cheese sounds like grown-up bliss, with Sonoma Cheese Company cheddar on a brioche with a creamy tomato soup “back.”

There’s also an exciting selection of artisan California cheeses. Only problem: cheeses go best with wines. (Okay, some go with beers or ales.) I’ve read that somewhere in the realms of darkness here, there are wine vaults — but they’re apparently still largely empty. When we asked for a wine list, our waitress dashed to the bar and came back with a handwritten list of four California reds by the glass (including a pink zin), none of which Sam or I had ever heard of. I stuck with weak $10 margaritas, Sam experimented with various artisan beers. I presume that wines are on their way; (I’d also like to suggest that the creative-but-lean cocktail choices expand a bit into tropic trendy-land, e.g., caipirinhas, hurricanes, mojitos, maybe even something silly, like a “Blue Hawaiian,” which is easy to make and not all that frou-frou. Being a “dive bar” doesn’t mean your cocktail list has to echo some godforsaken joint in Lubbock, Texas, circa 1975. I’ve already done enough Jack back in real dive bars before it was safe to order Chardonnay west of Chicago or east of California. I want fun drinks now, and I don’t wear no damn shiny shirts since a long, long time ago.)

In sum: difficult location, good place. Wish they’d taken over South Park Grille instead; that’d be more apropos for the menu and the attitude. “Semi-casual food” is an oxymoron, but that’s precisely what’s happening here. As I said earlier, this was just a scout — Sam and I both want to come back and dive into the burgers, dogs, and sandwiches — but so far we like it lots.
Seagull Management

She's the kind of bustling, mothering, chatty gal men love to have fussing over them.

I feel this warmth in the palm of my hand. Great. It's BBQ Boots McGee has just peeled into my hand. He's a couple of months old, max. Golden Lab pup. Looks like a wind-up vehicle toy. Belongs to Stinky Pete and his band, who are whackin' out a great song called 'Hobo Stew,' right here where they're sitting on the sidewalk. Stinky Pete's face is young, but his voice is old — he sounds like Tom Waits. The band? Basically Charlie Baby, a bright gal in a squat top hat, like the one Justin Timberlake wears, and playing a, yes, saw with a violin bow; and Pete on percussion, tapping an empty penicillin pill bottle that happened to be handy. A piece of blue cardboard in front of them suggests donations: "Fruit, ice cream, tobacco, coffee," or "cool shiny stuff." Did I mention we're in O.B.?

I leave some cool shiny stuff and head for someplace where I can rinse It-Bit off my hand. And also, eat.

I don't have to go far. "Breakfast Specials, served from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.," reads a sign. The place is all blue and white, with "Old Townhouse Family Restaurant" painted on the giant windows. I head inside. You can tell most customers have been coming in for years by the way they sit and talk, sort of like they own the place. Blue booths on the left, cream Formica counter on the right, Tiffany lamps dangling. I head for the washroom and see the washroom first, scrub-a-dub, then come back and hoist myself aboard a counter chair.

Guy in a yellow baseball cap is pouring tomato juice, adds two, two shots of vodka, flick of Worcestershire sauce, some tomato juice, adds one, two, three shots of myself aboard a counter chair.

We three are here for breakfast, because it's the only thing we can afford. I'm dog-hungry. Worked three hours already on an empty gut. I check out the big-board comfort-food menu. Breakfast prices start at $4.50 for three eggs, any style, with toast and hash browns. Add ham, bacon, or sausage, and it's $6. Or with a pork chop or chicken-fried steak, it's $7.75. Pretty good deal. Oh, lookee here...you can get one biscuit with gravy for $3.50. With two eggs, you still pay only $4.25. Omelets, like the bacon, mushroom, and cheese, average $6.50.

Think I'll order me up that BMC omelet. But then I see four specials, just below. They're all $7. Biscuits and eggs, with sausages or bacon. Corned-beef hash and eggs. French toast with three eggs, sausage or bacon, and hash browns. Or three eggs, two pancakes or one waffle, sausages or bacon, and hash browns.

This last one hits the spot. For starters, I'll get to eat a waffle, which I never seem to do. And I can drown everything in syrup. Cholesterol city, but considering the number of buses I run for, I'll use up those carbs by nightly. So that's what I order.

Oh yes, it's bad. But in the mornings, you're immortal. I do have the eggs poached, and with lots of ketchup. (Don't they claim ketchup's good for you now?) And waffles and pancakes, I've heard, are some of man's oldest forms of bread — if it was good enough for our cave brothers, we're just honoring tradition here.

Caryn says that Ted, the Bloody Mary mixer, is the owner, also son of the original owners. Ted says his parents had to learn restauranting on the trot. "They were born in Greece. But they met in Canada. Dad was a highly skilled aircraft mechanic. He came down and worked at Convair during the time of JFK and the space race. It was pretty exciting, but he left because of the bureaucracy. And then he found this place, in 1973. No restaurant experience. Stole menus. Learned how to cook. Somehow made it. Mom's the glue. She still comes in every morning at 6:30 to prep. Old men turn up just to see her. She has fans."

And his dad? "Dad specializes in 'seagull management': he comes in, he shits on everybody, and leaves."

Ted breaks out laughing. "Kidding. He gave us our chance in life. And they're both good to everyone around here. Staff and customers. The homeless, the schools. They won't let us stop that, even though business has been down 10 percent compared with last year. Even though my wife Kathy and I have pretty much taken over now."

And is he into seagull management? "Well, I leave my staff alone. My joy is giving our customers a hard time."

Stinky Pete's still playing as I head out for the number 35 bus. Just make it in time. Except, there's a girl getting on ahead of me. Kerplunk, kerplink. She's paying her bus fare in The Amigo Spot.

You can tell most customers have been coming in for years.
$9 for $20 of food and drink at the Fig Tree Cafe!

Breakfast, Brunch and Lunch
5119 Cass St., Pacific Beach

1-day online sale
Wednesday, March 31

$14 for $30 of food and drink at the Soho Restaurant & Lounge

Modern American, Latin American, Southern & Soul
3025 El Cajon Blvd., North Park

3-day online sale
Friday-Sunday, April 2-4

ReaderSteals.com

Sign up early. We'll email you when the sale begins.
Alpine

Mediterraneo 1347 Tavern Rd., Alpine, 619-445-9902. Tasty, ambitious little trattoria with scenic patio dining. The pizzas are outstanding with airy, silken crusts. Entrees change with the seasons. Desserts are big and sweet. Expensive. 

Baja

From the United States use the prefix 01-32 when calling Mexico.

Big Boy Restaurant Boulevard Agua Caliente #9883, Tijuana, 664-886-3788. Besides having excellent Mexican-American food and big gringo breakfasts, this Big Boy knock-off draws a cross-section of Baja's big shots. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive.

La Espadana Avenida Sanchez Taboada #10113, Tijuana, 664-634-1488. This place does great oven-cooked leg of lamb, tasting like wine, garlic, and herbs, but the owners insist it's just Tocate lamb baked slowly in its juices with origano. Terrific flame-grilled beefsteaks, too. Moderate.

Mercado Sobre Ruedas Colonia Lucio Blanco (from Tijuana, on toll road, take first Rosarito exit; turn left at) Rosarito. This huge flea market materials every Sunday (morning to mid-afternoon) with a cornucopia of local foods and souvenirs. Come at daybreak for a carnival of authentic dishes like barbe- cued mutton, savory Jalisco-style goat tlaynda, the cuisine combines African, Italian, Arab, and Indian influences, emphasized fish, lamb, and goat meat. Start with a julienard, a mixed sampler plate of meats, spaghetti, rice, and veg- gies. Inexpensive.

Chula Vista

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 386 E St., Chula Vista, 619-585-1371. This chain prides itself on its Italian-California pas- tos, pizzas, and salads. Now it's adding marinated flank steak and a rib eye to the "bistro entrees." Moderate.

Galley at the Marina 50 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-425-3333. The tarty happy-hour specials make a visit worth the trip. Have a 1/2-lb hamburger with french fries, chicken Caesar salad with sourdough bread, or a feta mignon steak plate with steak fries. Inexpensive.

Village Club Card Room 429 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-688-6888. Fresh California cuisine in a luxurious hotel dining room. Moderate to expensive.

Nozomi 3030 Pico Pk Dr., Chula Vista, 760-728-7787. Gorgeous Japanese inn-style premises with food ranging from simple nigiri-zushi to party rolls to fusion grazing dishes and entries (including genuine Wagyu beef) and back to Japanese standards. Don't miss the antoimp (monkfish liver). Moderate to expensive.

Carmel Valley

Ruth's Chris Steak House 11582 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-735-1454. Also 1355 N. Harbor Dr., 619-233-1442. Flash-cooked steaks of USDA Prime, topped with butter and parsley are the hallmark of this chain. Side dishes are a la carte. The broiled tomatoes are a de-light. Very expensive.

Bonita

Romesco 4460 Bonita Rd., Bonita, 619-457-8627. Sophisticated Mexican food, including smoked marinon carpcios, grilled duck breast, esculat. The whole menu is worth exploring, full of surprising treats. Moderate to expensive.

Carlsbad

Armenian Café 3126 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-220-2323. Lamb shish kebabs is the house specialty, but even better are the owner’s mom’s köfte (nut-filled lamb meatball) and rosewa- ter-scented kashka-lad desert. Lovely elevated patio. Moderate-plus.

California Bistro 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-688-6495. Fresh California cuisine in a luxurious hotel dining room. Moderate to expensive.

Nozomi 3030 Pico Pk Dr., Carlsbad, 760-728-7787. Gorgeous Japanese inn-style premises with food ranging from simple nigiri-zushi to party rolls to fusion grazing dishes and entries (including genuine Wagyu beef) and back to Japanese standards. Don’t miss the antoimp (monkfish liver). Moderate to expensive.

Banker’s Hill

Bertrand at Mister A’s 2500 Fifth Ave., 12th floor, Banker’s Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hugh’s airy, open eatery offers a panoramic city view with a ca- sual-chic, romantic ambiance and fine modern French cuisine. Expensive.

Inn at the Park 3615 Fifth Ave., Banker’s Hill, 619-291-0999. Despite a touch of mango here, chipotle there, it’s the nice, conservative, meat-and- potatoes comfort food that the regu- lars here prefer. Wilder hits include calamaris fritos mano, duck breast, and coconut-lime créme brûlée. Moderate.

Banker’s Hill

Bertrand at Mister A’s 2500 Fifth Ave., 12th floor, Banker’s Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hugh’s airy, open eatery offers a panoramic city view with a ca- sual-chic, romantic ambiance and fine modern French cuisine. Expensive.

Inn at the Park 3615 Fifth Ave., Banker’s Hill, 619-291-0999. Despite a touch of mango here, chipotle there, it’s the nice, conservative, meat-and- potatoes comfort food that the regu- lars here prefer. Wilder hits include calamaris fritos mano, duck breast, and coconut-lime créme brûlée. Moderate.

Carmel Valley

Ruth’s Chris Steak House 11582 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-735-1454. Also 1355 N. Harbor Dr., 619-233-1442. Flash-cooked steaks of USDA Prime, topped with butter and parsley are the hallmark of this chain. Side dishes are a la carte. The broiled tomatoes are a del-ight. Very expensive.

Bonita

Romesco 4460 Bonita Rd., Bonita, 619-457-8627. Sophisticated Mexican food, including smoked marinon carpcios, grilled duck breast, esculat. The whole menu is worth exploring, full of surprising treats. Moderate to expensive.

Carlsbad

Armenian Café 3126 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-220-2323. Lamb shish kebabs is the house specialty, but even better are the owner’s mom’s köfte (nut-filled lamb meatball) and rosewa- ter-scented kashka-lad desert. Lovely elevated patio. Moderate-plus.

California Bistro 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-688-6495. Fresh California cuisine in a luxurious hotel dining room. Moderate to expensive.

Nozomi 3030 Pico Pk Dr., Carlsbad, 760-728-7787. Gorgeous Japanese inn-style premises with food ranging from simple nigiri-zushi to party rolls to fusion grazing dishes and entries (including genuine Wagyu beef) and back to Japanese standards. Don’t miss the antoimp (monkfish liver). Moderate to expensive.

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Downtown

Bay Cafe 1090 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-595-1083. If famished at the ferry landing, you can eat decent burgers, good clam chowder, or other basic fare in the bare-bones interior, or tote it upstairs to a serene bay-view terrace. Inexpensive.

Blue Point 565 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-6623. In a handsome, plushy, noisy dining room, pristine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops. Expensive.

Brita’s 24 628 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-792-8140. Open 24/7, it has a fabulous peanut butter burger with bacon. Plus a gothic bar with Joan Crawford’s head marks denting it where she danced. And bargain breakfast and lunch specials. Inexpensive to moderate.

Curren’ Sofia Hotel, 140 W. Broadway, Downtown, 619-702-6309. Parisian-chic brasserie decor with light, seasonal “American brasserie” cuisine that’s often uneven but can include a glorious five-onion soup with short ribs and marrow that beats the French classic, and creative desserts to finish with. Moderate to expensive.

Dobson’s 956 Broadway Circle, Downtown, 619-231-6771. Civilized oasis for tasty retro favorites, popular for pre- or post-theater grazing, including lush mussel bisque, creamy crab hash, perfect fried-oyster salad, plus heavy pastas, grilled meats. Moderate to expensive.

Dublin Square 554 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-239-5818. The pub was handcrafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. There’s a fine corned beef and cabbage, plus Guinness beef stew, shepherd’s pie (made with ground beef), steaks, and grilled fish. Moderate.

The Fish Market 750 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-3474. Additional locations in Solana Beach and Mission Valley. The sushi bar downtown is superb, with just-right rice, pristine seafood, and expert preparation. Otherwise, a noisy bar with plain cooking. Moderate to expensive.

Gourmet India 810 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-7967. Rare regional delicacies include appetizers of crunchy sev poori (wheat wafers with a fresh spicy topping), bhel poori (India’s railway snack), and Chennai’s s stopwatch, pancakes. Entrees include words tikka, tender tandoori chicken steeped in spicy lime-juice marinade. Moderate.

Grant Grill 326 Broadway, Downtown, 619-744-2077. Now thoroughly Southern Californian (although they did resurrect the fabled mock turtle soup) with nods to the “slow food” movement. Well-raised meats, local produce. Very expensive.

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Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 4, 2010, 10 am to 4 pm

Elegant Torreyanna Grille Buffet

Assorted Salads • Freshly Made Sushi Rolls
Omelet Station • Fresh Seafood Display

Cooked-to-order Omelets with Condiments to include:

- Crumbled Bacon, Baby Shrimps, Ham, Imported Cheeses, Mushrooms, Sausage, Scallions, and Fresh Spinach
- Egg Benedict, Hollandaise Sauce, Cinnamon French Toast with Bananas and Maple Glaze, Herb-Crusted Salmon, Pommery Sauce, Supreme of Chicken Provençal, Melange of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables with Shallot Butter

From the Torreyanna Grille Butler Block:

- Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus and Horseradish Cream, Herb-Roasted Leg of Spring Lamb with Natural Jus Lie and Mint Sauce, Bourbon-Glazed Ham with Orange Currant Sauce
- Assorted Breakfast Pastries, Crepe Station with Vanilla and Chocolate Crepes, Rum-Glazed Bananas, Warm Berry Compote and Chantilly Cream, Chef’s Selection of Petite Fancy Pastries

Children’s Buffet

Adults $55.00 • Children $17.95 • Children 4 and under are complimentary
Birch Enright is a refreshing spicy noodle restaurant offering delicious and authentic Asian cuisine. The menu features a variety of dishes, including hot, spicy, and cold options, catering to different tastes and preferences.

**La Posta de Acapulco**

1421 University Ave., Downtown, 619-450-5880. A Western-oriented eatery and social center for Iraqis, Syrians. Which means excellent meat dishes, wild fish, and local organic vegetables served in a glitzy, dubious setting. Very expensive, but special three-course main is $40.

**Top of the Market**

350 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-346-4867. The upper crust of the downtown Fish Market has largely the same food as downtown, plus a few luxury items (e.g., abalone) and occasional some creative appetizer specials. Expensive.

**El Cajon**


**Palmas Family Restaurant**

1253 E. Main St., El Cajon. Traditional Mexican dining, plus chef Deborah Zang’s cornbread. Inexpensive.

**Bombay Exotic Cuisine of India**

2793 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-388-6740. Great view, and an appetizer sampler and roast beefs, plus chef Deborah Scott’s creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a sauced aloha. Very expensive.

**Kansas City BBQ**

410 W. Market St., Downtown, 619-231-9680. Amazing bay-view venue with delicious steaks and roast beefs, plus chef Deborah Scott’s creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a sauced aloha. Very expensive.

**Sally’s Seafood on the Water**

One Market Place at Manchester Grand Hyatt, Downtown, 619-358-6740. Great view, and an appetizer sampler and roast beefs, plus chef Deborah Scott’s creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a sauced aloha. Very expensive.

**Sand Crab Café**

2229 Micro Pl., Escondido. Delicious Asian food, including a variety of crab dishes. Inexpensive.

**Monsoon Exotic Cuisine of India**

729 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-254-5555. The younger sister to Hillcrest’s Bombay Exotic Cuisine sometimes shares the same chef and serves the repertory of “Indian Indian cuisine made easy.” Inexpensive buffet lunches, moderate à la carte dinners until 11 pm.

**Nobu**

207 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-814-6124. Imaginative Japanese-based fusion from international celeb chef Nobu Matsuhita, ranging from miso soup and classic sushi to moderate-priced Nihon-Peruvian grazers to caesar-topped tartare and Wagyu beef (at “market price,” meaning “if you have to ask...”). No reservations for sushi bar. Upper-moderate to expensive.

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**Kearny Mesa**

**China Max** 1269 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-565-3353. Local Asians flock here for authentic Hong Kong cooking, including seafood in live tanks (black cod, Dungeness crab, abalone), dim sum daily, superb Peking Duck. Even honey-dijin (e.g., wonton soup, crab meat cake) sings with flavor. Inexpensive.

**Michele Coulon Pastries** 4474 Kearny Mesa Rd., Kearny Mesa, 858-505-0611. Japanese BBQ — called yakiniku, similar to Korean BBQ (minus the free side dishes) — offers cook-it-yourself over tabletop grills. Kobe boneless short ribs and tongue cook-it-yourself over tabletop grills. Tofu House

**Kensington Talmadge**

**Kensington Grill** 4055 Adams Ave., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-281-4014. This comfortable-but-sophisticated neighborhood restaurant has found a fine formula for seasonal California cuisine. Early-bird three-course dinner moderate; regular menu moderate to expensive.

**La Jolla**

**Brockton Villa** 1235 Coast Blvd., La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Great Cove view, with best food at breakfast/branch: Coast Toast, the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with orange flavor. Coffee is excellent. Moderate to expensive.

**Michele Coulon Pastries** 7536-D Fay Ave., La Jolla, 858-436-5098. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available as wholes, slices, and even “miniatures,” plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, jellies, and gourmet sweets, slices, and even “miniatures,” including the popular Greek eggs and American BBQ.

**Pannikin Coffee & Tea** 7467 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 858-434-5433. A glass-paned storefront with cafes on the street and a windowed back room, the downtown coffee shop is a favorite among locals and tourists, offering a full menu of coffee, tea, pastries, and specialty sandwiches. Moderate.

**La Mesa**

**Johnny B’s** 4728 Fourth St., La Mesa, 619-464-2465. This “Burgers and Brew” bar is a real ‘50s place with burgers and good bar snacks, including a zesty jalapeño dip. On Sundays (1 to 7pm only), their ten-ounce New York steak, fries, beer, and salad is a must. Inexpensive.

**Lake Murray Cafe** 3465 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, 619-435-0380. Comfort food in generous quantities. All the soups are four-egg-gainers, with sides like biscuits and gravy. Evening meals include meat loaf, liver and onions, stuffed pork chops, whole (head-on) fish. Inexpensive.

**Mystic Grill and Bakery** 6980 University Avenue (at 70th Street), La Mesa, 619-461-1985. Former pizza joint now offering exciting Middle Eastern revelations. The kitchen bakes its own bread and makes characteristic sausages from scratch. Among the pleasures are roasted bone marrow, chorizo-and-date fritters, pristine “simply grilled” sustainable fish, and delicate panna cotta. Moderate to expensive.
cooking from scratch create flawless falafel, thrilling kibbe (Mediterranean schnitzel), lemony spinach pie, sensitively grilled seafood and sausages, and sublime desserts. (Also basic take-out pizzas.) No alcohol. Inexpensive.

West Coast Barbecue
612 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, 619-462-3663. Pit-smoked Texas-style “Q,” but more like the Bushes of Crawford than the soulful South. Best bets are full-dressed ribs, chicken wings, and authentic Texas bean-free chili with classic fixins. Low-moderate.

Ye Olde Bicycle Place and Café
6792 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-582-4024. A bike museum with food offers tasty toasted panini and cold sandwiches. Inexpensive.

Little Italy

Anthology
1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-1000. User-friendly, modern American cuisine (local produce, natural meats, wonderful breads) in huge, chic jazz nightclub. Expensive on up, if you drink anything but tap water.

Logan Heights

La Doha
1784 Newton Ave., Logan Heights, 619-233-3499. This historic café serves home cooking, Mexican style, with super-salty sausages and meals like scrambled eggs and chorizos with rice and refined beans, chicharrones, pozole, and menudo. Inexpensive.

Mira Mesa

Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant
9225 Mira Mesa Bl., Mira Mesa, 858-685-3501. A food truck, with its laser lights, does make delicious pho bo (beef noodle soup) but also offers hundreds of other items, all cooked homemade style. Inexpensive.

Miran

Madras Café
9484 Black Mountain Rd., Mira Mesa, 858-695-6229. Vegetarian cuisine of South India, centering on stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp, crepe-like dosais stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-flour appams drenched in sweet milk to hefty, frutata-like setapams. (Try the last with the delicious, not-too-spicy chilli-stuffing.) Inexpensive.

Mission Hills

Izakaya Masa
325 8th St., Stockton Dr., Mission Hills, 619-342-1354. Friendly spot serves interesting Japanese tapas. Among the hits: crunchy, spicy chukka karaage (jellyfish salad), fried oysters (kaki); ethereal fried tofu in broth; and kara-age (spicy fried chicken). Inexpensive to moderate.

Saffron Thai Grilled Chicken
3731 India St., Mission Hills, 858-574-0177. Saffron Noodles and Sari is sit-down, all about Thai noodles and saté. Next door, take-out only, owner Su-Mei Yu serves seasoned grilled chicken marinated in the garlic, ginger, and spices. Delicious green curry, too. Inexpensive.

Mission Beach

Jake’s Tikis Bar at Mission Bay Deli
1554 Quivira Way, Mission Beach, 619-223-3506. This everyday deli does the usual sandwiches, burgers, and dogs for boatyard crews — but on Sunday afternoon don’t miss the scene at the palapa with beer and live music. It’s one of this town’s best-kept secrets. Deli daily till dusk. Inexpensive.

Midway District

Hannock Street Café
3334 Hancock St., Midway District, 619-296-2060. Marios is from New York and knows his pasta. You can expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he’ll throw in a bottle of Mira-Maes-dog,” the linguisa. Inexpensive.

Mardi Gras Café
3185 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-223-5301. N’awlins-style food to eat in to go, or to have catered at your party. Deli-grocery also sells the ingredients, including ready-made roux, Cajun taos (spiced ham), andouillette (rice sausage), and crawfish sausage in season. Inexpensive.

Sab-E-Lee
2485 Ulric St., Linda Vista, 858-650-6468. Tiny eatery serving authentic, fiery, fabulous food from northeast Thailand, as spicy as you want. Don’t miss onion-rich tom yum soup or amazing liver salad. Look for “Linda Vista Food” awning. Cash only.

Psychedelic Side

Bangin’ Burgers
San Diego
7070 Miramar Rd., 858-578-8000. www.bangin-burgers.com

Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Not valid with any other offer. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offer.

6.50 off entire bill, anytime

10% off entire bill, anytime

Two sushi rolls $7.25

Free burrito

Bought a Monster Burrito at regular price and receive any burrito of equal or lesser value free valid until San Diego County locations only. One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offer.

6.50 off Extreme Pizza

With purchase of second entrée or Italian dish, get a free Extreme Pizza. Inexpensive to moderate.

Free Thai dinner for two $20

Pick one appetizer and two main courses. Served all day. Ask for menu options. Limit valid with any other offer. Some restrictions.

Free small cheese pizza

With purchase of large pizza at the regular price of $7. Not valid with any other offer. Valid with any other offer. Some restrictions.

Free mini yogurt

With purchase of 3 or more items. Toppings not included. No stamp cards. Originals only accepted. One coupon per customer per day. Not valid with any other offers.

Visit us online at www.bangin-burgers.com

Mission Valley

All American Grill
7510 Hazard Center Dr., Mission Valley, 619-296-9600. This huge indoor-outdoor sports pub offers genuinely good food from a wood-fired oven and grill. The chef’s highlights season American ingredients (local in) in creative mini-pizzas, grazes, hearty entries, smart desserts. Mission TV’s sound turns on for game Sundays. Low moderate.

Bully’s East
2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-291-2655. Word is, they serve more prime rib than any other place with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. Or try the Bally Burger, French dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Ikea Restaurant
2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166. Healthy Swedish food amidst Nordic woods: meathalls with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seafood is big: the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli, and the Gravad Lox Plate (cured salmon) are always on. Inexpensive.

King’s Fish House
3250 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley, 619-277-1230. Generously sized entries come with soup or salad and two hefty side dishes. The menu changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, England, New Mexico). Moderate.

National City

Lai Thai Restaurant
1349 E. Pass Ln., National City, 619-474-5546. The soups, tom kai (spicy coconut) and tom yum (hot and sour), are good, as is the house Lai Thai Fish (usually tilapia) in delicious panang coconut-curry sauce. Inexpensive to moderate.

Thai dinner for two $20

Pick one appetizer and two main courses. Served all day. Ask for menu options. Limit valid with any other offer. Some restrictions.

Basil Thai
1320 El Cajon Blvd., North Park, 619-297-4007. Georgian food sings with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. Don’t miss the world-beat

The Linkery
3970 15th St., North Park, 619-255-8778. The artisanal “slow food” cuisine here features local ingredients and made-from-scratch preparations. The focus is on soups. Of the best include the juicy “super bean” curry. 8.49

Pomegranate Russian-Georgian Restaurant
3302 El Cajon Blvd., North Park, 619-297-4007. Georgian food sings with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. Don’t miss the world-beat

Leucadia

The Calypso Café
576 N. Coast Hwy 101, Leucadia, 760-632-8252. The cuisine is French, ranging from warhorses like onion soup and coq au vin to Gallo-Cal-Italian-Pacific Rim hybridents. Mussels are the specialty, and their rapid turnover here ensures freshness. Upper-moderate.

Linda Vista

Sab-E-Lee
2485 Ulric St., Linda Vista, 858-650-6468. Tiny eatery serving authentic, fiery, fabulous food from northeast Thailand, as spicy as you want. Don’t miss onion-rich tom yum soup or amazing liver salad. Look for “Linda Vista Food” awning. Cash only.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free entrée or sushi roll</td>
<td>With purchase of a second entrée of equal or greater value and two drinks at regular price. Maximum value $8. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per table or per party.</td>
<td>Kirin Sushi, San Diego: 4111 Voltaire St. 619-223-3388 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Asian fusion entrée</td>
<td>Buy any lunch or dinner entrée and two beverages, receive a second entrée of equal or lesser value free. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Khan’s Cave, Kearny Mesa: 9310 Claremont Mesa Blvd., Ste F 858-279-9799 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Italian entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. One coupon per table. Dine-in only. Max value $10. Lunch specials not included. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays.</td>
<td>Da Nino’s Bay Park: 410 Ashton St. 619-275-0210 • 619-275-4935 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Sizzler entrée</td>
<td>Up to $10.99. Purchase one adult entrée with two beverages and receive one adult entrée of equal or lesser value free.</td>
<td>3750 John J. Montgomery Dr. Montgomery Field: 3750 John J. Montgomery Dr. 858-292-4716 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% off breakfast or lunch</td>
<td>Purchase one entrée and two beverages at regular price and receive a second entrée of equal or lesser value at 50% off. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Honey’s Café, San Diego: 7947 Balboa Ave. 858-565-4244 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Sizzler entrée</td>
<td>With the purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. One coupon per table. Dine-in only. Max value $10. Not valid with any other offer. Not valid on holidays. Lunch specials not included.</td>
<td>619-444-3667 Geno’s BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Thai lunch or dinner</td>
<td>With the purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. Up to a $10 value. Not valid on holidays. One per table.</td>
<td>Jade Thai Cuisine, Mission Valley: 11310 Fries Rd. #105 619-280-4048 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free special sushi roll</td>
<td>Buy one special roll and get a second of equal or lesser value free. Our special rolls include the rainbow roll, free roll, cajun roll and more.</td>
<td>858-685-7575 Convoy Sushi &amp; Fish Market, Kearny Mesa: 7695 Engineer Rd. 858-634-3233 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Indian buffet</td>
<td>Limit one per customer.</td>
<td>Sher Punjab Indian Cuisine, Mira Mesa: 9245 Scrianton Rd. Ste. 102 858-456-2858 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 off Asian buffet</td>
<td>With purchase of an entrée and two beverages. Up to a $9.95 value. Excludes pizza and calzones. Not valid on Fridays. Dine-in only.</td>
<td>858-565-4244 Buy one special roll and get a second of equal or lesser value free. Some restrictions. Sushi roll, King’s Crest, El Cajon: 6155 Lake Murray Blvd. 619-667-CAFE Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free buttermilk pancakes</td>
<td>Short stack with purchase of two entrees. May not be combined with any other offer. One coupon per table. Not valid on holidays.</td>
<td>Yo Yo’s Frozen Yogurt, El Cajon: 2560 Jamacha Rd. 619-660-7362 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free smoked BBQ sandwich</td>
<td>With the purchase of a sandwich of equal or greater value and two large beverages. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Geno’s BBQ, El Cajon: 291 West Main St. 619-444-3667 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian dinner for two $16.95</td>
<td>Or lunch. Dine-in. Monday-Thursday. Includes salad and choice of six pasta entrees. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Little Roma Cucina Italiana, La Mesa: 5135 Baltimore Dr. 619-461-7000 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free breakfast, lunch or dinner</td>
<td>With purchase of equal or greater value and two drinks. Excludes manager &amp; sandwich specials. Some restrictions. Max $7 value.</td>
<td>Boll Weevil, Lemon Grove: 4866 Federal Blvd. 619-589-6966 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5 off Mexican cuisine</td>
<td>Any check over $25. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Casa Machado College Area: 6590 El Cajon Blvd. 619-287-6680 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free frozen yogurt</td>
<td>Buy any yogurt for $2.50 or more and get a free yogurt valued up to $2.10. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Mira Mesa: 9254 Scrianton Rd., Ste. 102 • 858-456-2858 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free sushi roll</td>
<td>With purchase of a sushi roll of equal or greater value and two beverages. Maximum value $12.95. Dine-in only. Not valid during Happy Hour. Some restrictions.</td>
<td>Neighborhood Eatery San Carlos: 7389 Jackson Dr. 619-467-CAFE Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Free Mexican entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of another entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. One coupon per table. Present coupon before ordering. Some restrictions. Casa Nueva Santa Fe 10179 Woodside Ave. 619-258-5557 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% off Greek entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. Some restrictions. Taste of Athens El Cajon 1784 Main St. 619-447-0886 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free frozen yogurt</td>
<td>Buy one frozen yogurt for $3.50 or more and get a free yogurt valued up to $3.50. Limit one coupon per party. Not valid with any other offers. Penguin Yogurt Factory Santa Fe 9621 Mission Gorge Rd. 619-562-1879 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% off Mexican entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. Max discount 50%. Valid Monday-Thursday. One coupon per customer. Some restrictions. Hacienda Casa Blanca El Cajon 700 N. Johnson 619-442-9827 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free taco</td>
<td>With purchase of 5 or more. Not to be combined with any special offers or coupons. Extra sales included. Limit one coupon per customer. Sombrerito Mexican Food Visit <a href="http://www.sombreromex.com">www.sombreromex.com</a> to find a location near you! Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free Japanese entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value. One per party/table. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Sushi FII San Diego 8700 Cayucos St., Ste. K 619-562-5151 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free steak, chicken, or gyro wrap</td>
<td>With purchase of wrap and two drinks. Spiners Fresh Mediterranean El Cajon 2644 Jambacha Rd. Ste. 101 <a href="http://www.lovespiners.com">www.lovespiners.com</a> Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10% off catering</td>
<td>Not valid with any other offer or discount. Rally’s Burgers El Cajon 1215 E. Main St. 877-758-9837 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free torta or quesadilla</td>
<td>With purchase of entrée and two drinks. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. La Torta Café Mexican Deli La Mesa 8316 Allison Ave. 619-241-0200 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free American entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of regular-priced entrée of equal or greater value and two drinks. Valid Mon-Thurs. Max value $15. Not valid with specials. Dine-in only. Ranch House Restaurant Santa Fe 1150 Woodside Ave. 619-448-2087 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$11.99 large one-topping</td>
<td>(Original thin crust only) Additional fee for thick crust Not valid with other offers. Not valid with any other offers. Not valid after 3 p.m. Dine-in or carry-out or delivery. 520 minimum purchase for delivery. Limited delivery area and hours. Some restrictions. Round Table Pizza La Mesa 8032 La Mesa Blvd. 619-462-8000 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free pizza</td>
<td>Free with purchase one pizza. Dine-in only. One coupon per table. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some restrictions. The Ultimate Bar &amp; Grill Encinitas 1495 S. El Camino Real 760-765-9020 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% off Chinese entrée</td>
<td>Buy one entrée at regular price, get a second of equal or lesser value at 50%. Not valid on party trays, lunch menu, dinner combinations or family dinner. Some restrictions. Panda Chef Chula Vista 2260 Otay Lakes Rd. Ste. H 619-431-7777 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free pasta dish</td>
<td>Buy one pasta dish and two drinks, get one pasta dish free. Dine-in and take-out only. Excludes other offers. Big Red Pizza Carlsbad 7740 E. Camino Real Ste. F 760-635-9000 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50% off Nigiri &amp; Sushi rolls</td>
<td>23 reg and 36 sushi rolls to choose from. Sushihana San Diego 9869 Carmel Mtn. Rd. 858-484-5100 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50% off pasta, pizza, or entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of one of equal or greater value and two beverages. Some restrictions. D’lish Chula Vista 386 East Hwy St. 619-985-1371 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$15 off upscale Mexican cuisine</td>
<td>With minimum purchase of $50 in the dining room area. One per table. Some restrictions. Romesco Bonita 4167 Bonita Rd. 619-675-8627 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50% off deep-fried spring rolls</td>
<td>With any purchase of $20 or more. Dine-in only. Can’t be combined with any other offer. Pho Nam Long Santa Fe 9928 N Magnolia Ave. 619-448-8888 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% off pasta, pizza, or entrée</td>
<td>With purchase of one of equal or greater value and two beverages. Some restrictions. D’lish Chula Vista 386 East Hwy St. 619-985-1371 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two Sunday champagne brunches $20.95</td>
<td>Includes champagne, mimosas, coffee or orange juice. Some restrictions. Murietta’s Fine Mexican Food Bonita 5710 Bonita Rd. 619-479-8024 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% off Asian-Pacific entrée</td>
<td>Buy one regular entrée, get the second of equal or lesser value at 50%. On any purchase of one or more. Piano’s Deli Carlsbad 2886 Paseo Delicias 619-430-9191 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10 off dinner</td>
<td>Buy 2 entrees and 2 beverages, get $1 off. One coupon per customer. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers. Cafe La Maze Steakhouse National City 1641 Highland Ave. 619-478-3222 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free Mexican entrée</td>
<td>When you purchase one of equal or greater value. Monday thru Wednesday only. One coupon per table. Some restrictions. Jalisco Café Bonita 4028 Bonita Rd. 619-267-7865 Expires 4-22-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Blurt

Tribune, are on something of a crusade. “Where music still matters,” announces the blog’s masthead.

David Coddon, T. Michael Crowell, and Michael Kinsman, all 25-year-plus U-T veterans, were laid off in recent years during the newspaper’s presale downsizing. This February, Crowell and Kinsman launched Frogger Dogger. Crowell says that David Coddon joined the team later.

“We have our own niches,” says Kinsman, who also produced the now-defunct San Diego Blues Festival. “I do blues, roots rock, and ’60s rock. Mike Crowell covers jazz and Americana. David Coddon covers classic rock and singer-songwriter things.”

A quick perusal of recent posts turns up a remembrance of Rory Gallagher’s debut album, an Alex Chilton obit, a plug for blues guitarist Frogger Dogger paid timely respect to Alex Chilton and Mike [Crowell] and I read them over.

But, Frogger Dogger? “It’s a name my daughter calls our dog,” Crowell says. “We both gonna have a real broad readership.” Later he says, “It’s a quirky site. There’s no agenda. There’s no editor. There’s no one calling the shots. Contributors write whatever, and Mike and I read them over.”

“That way,” he says, “clubs are going to want to drive traffic to us.” He says they are talking to clubs now but doesn’t want to spill the beans prematurely on which ones they are negotiating with. “We haven’t approached them all, frankly because we don’t know what we have. We just want to write it and see what it becomes, what it feels like, and then go from there.”

You can check out Mike and Mike’s music blog at froggerdogger.com.

— Dave Good

Apes Break Out

The Apes of Wrath just returned from South by Southwest, calling the four-day music festival in Austin, Texas, overwhelming, daunting, and extremely exciting all at the same time. Watching so many sets of music paired with playing our own set over and over has really helped us see ourselves outside of ourselves.

“In San Diego, it’s really easy to fall into playing the same local venues since they are all so awesome,” says Robert Kent. “We could happily play at the Soda Bar, Tower Bar, Ken Club, Beauty Bar, and Casbah circuit for all of our friends for forever, but over the past year we have finally ventured out…. With the way-overdue release of this album, we have something to take on the road with us that represents the past two years of writing. Some songs are as much as two years old, and others were written just before we went in to record as a three-piece.”

“This last period of punk energy, but the melodies and dynamics are still there.”

“Less is more has been the mantra for a while now,” continues Kent, “but it is definite-ly not how we started out. It is fun to challenge ourselves to write tricky arrangements and extensive riffage, but we’ve all come to agree that there is something special about bands who can quell the fire of technical ability with tasteful restraint and stick to themes in a song. We are still learning how to do this and find it much more challenging, but progress is being made…. All in all, the new sound of Apes of Wrath is not drastically changing again, but we are definitely exploring new territory constantly to keep things fresh.”

The Apes are transplants who met in SD and have been together for three years. Robert Kent (lead vocals/guitar/bass) is from Irvine, CA. Jake Bankhead (bass/backing vocals/guitar) is from Atlanta, GA, Dustin Elliot (drums/backing vocals) is from Vienna, Austria. The Apes of Wrath are touring the West Coast this May with Hotel St. George. Album release is this Saturday, April 3, at the Ken Club. Ten dollars gets you admission and the new full-length.

— Chad Deal

Da Bears Remodel Da Den

One year after Da Bears lost four of its six members, what they refer to as a “total band transformation,” the San Diego surf-pop act says their metamorphosis is nearly complete. During the past year, the two founding members (guitar-vocalist Ryan Solomon and guitarist E.L. Biens) scoured the city in search of (continued on page 88)
We are who we are; just a couple of local guys who wanted to provide the priceless experience of good friends, great sushi and cool beats. 9 years later, our iconic growth has jammed our unassuming location. We never tried to be anything we weren’t: we are a cozy 80 seats, long waits, DJ’s who’s notorious deafness makes it loud, and a tough park away from award winning cuisine, creative rolls and a great local experience. Mind the crowds and you will see how it is the YOU that make us who we really are...we simply try to make your chopsticks dance to the tune of your taste buds singing.

- Bay, Wine & Food Festival “Chef of the Fest,” 2009
- Citysearch.com “Best First Date Spot,” 2008
- San Diego Home and Garden, “Best Sushi” 2009
- NBC, “Golden Local – Best Sushi,” 2009

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the missing pieces. They finally found those people in bassist Justin Smith, guitarist Trung Ngo, and pianist Garrett Irving. “It’s been crazy,” said Binns during a March 18 phone interview. “There’s always people to play with, but finding the people you want to play with and are ready to tour is tough.”

While most of the pieces are in place, the band’s search for the right drummer hasn’t been as productive. “Drummers from San Diego can be a bit sketchy sometimes. They can’t seem to sit for too long.”

Without a permanent drummer, they haven’t played a show since January, and recording their new EP and drummer, they haven’t played for almost two years. “It’s been a hindrance so far, but we have to make do with what we’ve got.”

In early March, drummer Mike Murdock agreed to sit in and see if it’s the right fit for both him and the band. But Binns isn’t saying the transformation is complete: “As far as the drummer goes, nothing is set in stone…The search continues.”

Da Bears will play Tin Can Ale House on April 3.

— Dorian Hargrove

Now You Know:

D/Wolves “Look at that guide in the parking lot,” says Patrick Scafidi, bassist of D/Wolves. “There’s nothing to set us apart, and all the other kids think we’re straight edge,” adds guitarist Alex Pitta. The group formed last summer and recorded a five-song EP in their garage, which was pressed last Saturday by noise label Little Fury Things. They are currently working on a full-length to be put out this year by Removador Records (founded by Jim James of My Morning Jacket). D/Wolves (the name is a Dune reference) define a genre, if anybody ever gets around to naming it, best called something like post-spokey dreampop gypsysgaze. Their Facebook calls it freakpop/mud/noise-fi. “That’s the hardest question,” says Alex. “We don’t write with a style in mind.”

The band has been compared to the Shrines, the Velvet Underground, Radiohead, Beethoven, and Animal Collective. They cite their (equally eclectic) influences as the Soft Machine, Daedelus, My Bloody Valentine, Outkast, the Mars Volta, and CKY. Guitarist Joel Williams and Jessie use laptops to trigger synth patches and samples of homemade circuit-built Casios, pedals, and even an electronic parrot. “We were using pedals with really brutal names like Black Death Metal Blood and Hot Monkey Screamer, just rewiring them, licking our fingers and touching the circuit boards,” says Jessie. “We sing about ghosts and girls,” Joel says. “We stay up a lot, for, like, a couple days straight. That’s how we write our songs.”

“We are inspired by the paranormal,” says Jessie. “We were sponsored by Lucha Libre to find the Blue People in Proctor Valley. We have it all on videotape.”

When asked if they have seen a chupacabra, Alex replies, “We haven’t, but we believe they exist.”

D/Wolves plan to tour the West Coast with Paper Forest and Primitive Noyes this summer.

Next show is April 3 at Tin Can Ale House with Da Bears and Lanterns.

Got a wicked pissah new band? Let us know by sending your MySpace thing to barnaby_monk@sandiegoreader.com. We’ll check you/’em out for our next installment of “Now You Know.”

— Chad Deal

Contributors
William Cowis, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Ken Leighton, Burt Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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San Diego Reader
April 1, 2010
88
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**Boundless**

“I won a remix contest for my version of the song ‘Foul,’ by Restiform Bodies.”

My music has no boundaries,” says multi-instrumentalist Brian Ellis, whose two solo albums cover all the musical bases, from free jazz to psychedelic, world, and experimental electronic music.

I use computer programming and multitrack recording to create the impression of a much larger live band jamming. As for the music, one could draw comparisons to Miles Davis, Squarepusher, Tortoise, Sun Ra, or the Mahavishnu Orchestra.

For both albums, Ellis plays guitar, bass, drums, sitar, kalimba, sax, trumpet, keyboards, xylophone, and mandolin.

Under the name Brian E, he also releases full-on synthesized dance music, ranging from disco to old-school electro.

“That music is all about paying homage to electronic pioneers like Kraftwerk, Giorgio Moroder, Black Devil Disco Club, Lime, and Yellow Magic Orchestra. I even cover the Magma masterpiece ‘De Futura,’ for which I had approval by the actual band.”

**WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?**

1. David Hurley, Outer Nebula Inner Nebula. “It’s a fantastic album showcasing some of San Diego’s most creative musicians. For fans of Sun Ra and other otherworldly music, it’s highly recommended.”

2. Space, Magic Fly. “Great 1970s French progressive disco featuring Magma bassist Jannick Top. If your party is feeling a little stale, do yourself a favor and put this on.”

3. Paul Hardcastle, Zero One. “Who said smooth jazz doesn’t drop the bass? Listen to ‘King Tut’ and reconsider that for the rest of your life.”

4. Teddy Lasry, E=mc2. “I can’t get enough of this out-of-print album. It’s everything Air wishes they were, without all the fluff. Very nice atmospheric soundtrack music from a practically unknown synthesizer and saxophone genius.”

5. Egyptian Lover, On the Nile. “A bold debut album that will get you dancing and rapping, no matter where you are and no matter what you’re doing. You can’t mess with original greatness. I would recommend this music for fans of Giorgio Moroder, Space, Lime, Bruce Haack, and Black Devil Disco Club.”

**DESERT-ISLAND DVDS?**

1. The Holy Mountain. “This film by Alejandro Jodorowsky is simply the most amazing movie I’ve ever seen, with nonstop, mind-blowing visuals and music. Could this be the best thing the Beatles ever paid for? I’d lean toward ‘yes.’”

2. Magma, Mythes et Légendes (four volumes). “Amazingly well-shot concerts! It documents Magma’s month-long stay at the Triton venue in Paris, where they performed most of their catalog in chronological order over a series of concerts.”

3. UHF. “‘Weird Al’s movie! Michael Richard’s best role, as the character that eventually became Kramer.”

4. Miles Davis: Miles Electric. “Amazing concert at the Isle of Wight Festival in 1970. Watch the Bitches Brew group take on a 600,000-person crowd. Incredible.”

5. Cool Runnings. “Feel the rhythm! Feel the ride! Get on up! It’s bobsled time!”

**IT ALL STARTED WHEN...**

“...I was on the Disney Channel show Inside Out with George Foreman when I was 11 years old. YouTube it!”

**BEST THING YOU EVER WON?**

“I won a remix contest for my version of the song ‘Foul,’ by Restiform Bodies, which ended up on an Anticon Records 12-inch.”

**SEXIEST LOCAL?**

“Shem, the Spanish pop star. You can’t beat this Latin lover and his models.”

**MUSIC**

**JAY ALLEN SANFORD**

Brian Ellis: “I was on the Disney Channel show Inside Out with George Foreman.”

**LENNON OR MCCARTNEY?**

“I’m not that fond of either, but I’ll pick Lennon because McCartney will never win me over with his grandma songs.”

**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?**

“Keep the River on Your Right by Tobias Schneebaum. It’s got nonfiction journal entries from an American artist who traveled to Peru in the 1960s to study art and, eventually, he lived with a cannibal tribe.”

**FAVORITE WEBSITE?**

“zeuhnmusic.blogspot.com, with rare Magma and related recordings.”

**SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?**

“I can do some mime tricks.”

**LIVE MUSIC**

**JEFF MOORE**

**FIRST FRIDAY – TWO BANDS**

**SUN: APRIL 4**

**BLUE FROG**

**10 PM**

**ROYAL KROWN**

**FRIDAY: APRIL 2**

**CHRIS JAMES & PATRICK BYNN**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3**

**MISSY ANDERSEN**

**BAYOU BROTHERS**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3**

**BILL MACEE**

**SUN: APRIL 4**

**MYSTERY TRAIN**

**APRIL 4**

**BANKERS HILL**

**APRIL 4**

**ROADSIDE AFFAIR**

**APRIL 4**

**APRIL 4**

**MONDAY, APRIL 5**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 9**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**

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**DJ KA**

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 3**

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**HACIENDA SHOW**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 6**

**1/2 OFF HOOKAH**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 2**

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**ROOSEVELT + LIZARDFISH**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

**AS THE SUN SETS FIRE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2**

**ROYAL KNOWN ROADSIDE DRIVE**

**ROOSEVELT + LIZARDFISH**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

**SWEETTOOTH & FRIENDS**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10**

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4/1

5:30PM
Mimosa Social
8:30PM
The Wagon
Help I'm Alive

4/2

OCEAN BEACH
Comedy w/ Andrew Dean & Dan Venti

4/3

3PM-1AM:
Hodad's Hootenanny

4/4

THE SCREAMIN' YEEHAW'S
Downtown DINO

4/5

THE BORDERTOWN SKANKS
Black Sheep Reunion
SUBJECT: GROSS NEGLECTANCE

4/6

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4/18 Salsa Sunday w/Orquesta Primo
4/19 PM 94.9 pres.
The Temper Trap — SOLD OUT
4/20 DVD presents 4:20 Party
4/21 John Brown's Body & Toubab Krewe
4/22 Nanci Griffith
4/24 Lisa Kepping Benefit - matinee
4/24 Reggie Nighthawks pres. by Boogie Nights
4/25 Steve Kimock Crazy Engine feat. Melvin Seals
4/26 Club Kingston - Shinehead, DJ Carlos Culture, TRC
4/27 Rogue Wave
4/28 John Mayall

5/18

Dark Star Orchestra
5/19 The Radiant Wilson Band - matinee
5/20 Needlesbreath w/Stephen Kellogg
5/21 The Hold Steady
5/22 Reggae de Mayo - Stranger & The Devastators
5/23 Martin Sexton
5/25 Stanton Moore Trio with Anders Osborne and Robert Walter
5/26 Marcia Ball
5/27 Club Kingston - Jah Mali w/DJ Carlos Culture
5/28 Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars
5/29 Groundation
5/30 Khali Fortunato
5/31 Joe Louis Walker

5/18

Jay Pochet and the Zips
5/19 Eric Johnson & Ron B. Turner
5/20 The Holy Moly's
5/21 Hot Buttered Rum
5/22 The Boom Boom Room
5/23 Andrew Bird & the Bowl of Grain
5/24 The Drums
5/25 R. Ring & The Clear Blue
5/26 The Shins
5/27 Copeland
5/28 Ben Folds
5/29 Flogging Molly
5/30 The Alligators
5/31 The Canadian-American Lovefest

5/18

Superior Viaduct
5/19 The Mars Volta
5/20 The Mars Volta
5/21 The Mars Volta
5/22 The Mars Volta
5/23 The Mars Volta
5/24 The Mars Volta
5/25 The Mars Volta
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5/29 The Mars Volta
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The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497. Wednesday, 8pm — Taters. Acoustic. $5-$16.


There was a time in the ’80s when British indie bands had a predictable pattern: First become press darlings in the U.K., slowly conquer the hearts of suburban American teenagers, and then hit the big time with a song on a John Hughes movie soundtrack. Sometime after the Smiths broke up, the pattern stopped working and British and American music became isolated from each other in the ’90s.

One of the great British bands that never really made the leap Stateside during that time was the Wedding Present. Led by David Gedge — the only constant member through the band’s rocky 25-year history — the Wedding Present was beloved in the U.K. The Weddoes, as they were known in the press, had the jangly guitars and romantic lyrics of mid-’80s British indie, but rather than a skinny, androgynous guy standing center stage, they had Gedge, who looked and sounded like an affable, ordinary guy and would do anything such as name an album after soccer star George Best.

Gedge would also do strange things like record an album of Ukrainian folk songs or a cover of the theme song from Twin Peaks. More importantly, he’d write simple-but-heartbreaking songs such as “My Favorite Dress,” about a lover’s infidelity: “A stranger’s hand on my favorite dress/ That was my favorite dress, you know/ That was my favorite dress.”

Gedge switched gears in 1997, forming the mellower Cinerama, and in 2004 he rebranded Cinerama as the new lineup of the Wedding Present. Today, Gedge melds the more professional sound of Cinerama with the exuberance of ’90s-era Wedding Present. And his lyrics are just as romantic as ever.

WEDDING PRESENT: Casbah, Thursday, April 1, 8:30 p.m. $15. 619-232-4355.

BY WILLIAM CRAIN


Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7088. Friday, 7pm — Otep. With Bury Your Dead, Through the Eyes of the Dead, Destroyo, Loot-N-Rok, Drownuswerve, Lord of War, and Fight the Shark. Saturday, 5pm — Eluveitie. With Holy Grail, Within the Swarm, and Shining Sword. Metal/hardcore.

Rancho San Diego Library: 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, Rancho San Diego, 619-660-5370. Tuesday, 6:30pm — Dean Ratzman. Swingin’ with Dean. ‘40s swing through ‘50s and ‘60s tunes. Piano, trumpet, trombone, and vocals. Free. 3 and up.


There was a time in the 80s when British indie bands had a predictable pattern: First become press darlings in the U.K., slowly conquer the hearts of suburban American teenagers, and then hit the big time with a song on a John Hughes movie soundtrack. Sometime after the Smiths broke up, the pattern stopped working and British and American music became isolated from each other in the 90s. One of the great British bands that never really made the leap Stateside during that time was the Wedding Present. Led by David Gedge — the only constant member through the band’s rocky 25year history — the Wedding Present was beloved in the U.K. The Weddoes, as they were known in the press, had the jangly guitars and romantic lyrics of mid80s British indie, but rather than a skinny, androgynous guy standing center stage, they had Gedge, who looked and sounded like an affable, ordinary guy and would do anything such as name an album after soccer star George Best.

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Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Friday, 8pm — U-Melt. Rock. $8.


UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
April 9 — Firehouse.
April 11 — The Prescription.
April 17 — Assasin.
April 19 — Jeff Beck.
April 24 — Sprung Monkey.
May 4 — Too Short.
May 21 — Queensryche.
June 4 — Enrique Bunbury.
June 24 — A Flock of Seagulls.
August 28 — Los 805 Live.

AMSDconcerts: 4630 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-503-8176.
April 10 — Jimmy Webb.
April 17 — Houston Jones.
April 26 — Rory Block.
May 1 — Neil Innes.
May 8 — Dave Afin.
May 14 — Michael Chapdelaine.
June 4 — Crooked Still.
June 17 — John Keave.


Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
April 9 — Colin Hay.
April 11 — Brandon Saller of Atreyu.
April 13 — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue.
April 14 — Bill Frisell.
April 16 — Floyd FX.
April 20 — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue.
April 22 — Earl Thomas.
April 24 — Marilyn McCoo and Billee Davis Jr. Band.
April 27 — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue.
April 30 — Paul Rodgers’ Band (tickets available for purchase).
May 15 — Richie Havens.
May 28 — The Average White Band.
June 11 — Greg Laswell.

Ballboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
April 11 — Elvis Costello.
April 21 — Monterey Jazz Festival.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
April 8 — The Mutaytor.
April 9 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.
April 10 — Spencer Fox Benefit.
April 10 — Super Diamond.
August 29 — American Carnage Tour.


San Diego Reader
April 1, 2010

House of Blues
San Diego

Just Announced!

Steel Panther
APR. 28

Buzzcocks
JUN. 7

Cyndi Lauper
JUL. 30

Okay Go
MAY 22

On Sale Now

DJ Dan
APR. 2

VNV Nation
APR. 14

Aver Kill
APR. 15

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- Kings of Leon
- Dave Matthews Band
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EVERYONE’S A CRITIC

Slayer: World Painted Blood
CD Review by Michael Caldwell
With World Painted Blood, Cali thrash-metal band Slayer continues to push buttons. However, they don’t push the musical envelope. Here, the quartet has plagiarized their own work, but they were wise enough to choose their best album and decade for inspiration. Kerry King, one of the group’s guitarists and songwriters, acknowledges as much: “The new music has an ’80s vibe to it.”

The blistering hornet nest that is “Unit 731” harkens back to 1986’s “Postmortem.” “Beauty Through Order,” with its single-string guitar runs and 16th notes played on the bell of the ride cymbal, sounds reminiscent of Reign’s signature cut, “Angel of Death.”

Slayer mixes things up slightly with a melodic, catchy number about the plague called “Human Strain.” Lead vocalist/bassist Tom Araya even sings for a fleeting moment. But the group hasn’t gone soft. The crooned lyrics, in true Slayer fashion, are disturbing. “Skinless resurrection/ of the bodies of the dead/ Sickness is increasing/ as the oceans turn red.”

Yeasayer: Odd Blood
CD Review by Rollo Cabeza
Odd Blood, the new LP from Brooklyn band Yeasayer, doesn’t sound new at all. It’s a transporter to the ’80s of big hair and keyboard scarves.

The album starts off with dark, rumbling, experimental tune “The Children,” in which Chris Keating’s voice is drenched in effects. This is Yeasayer’s experimental side, the side that takes the backseat of the Camaro to their more polished ’80s dance tunes, like “Ambling Alp,” where Keating’s lyrics would fit a John Hughes flick: “Stick up for yourself son, never mind what anybody else has done.”

On “I Remember,” Keating starts off in a high-pitched voice only to bust into a Simon Le Bon–inspired howl: “You’re stuck in my mind all of the time.”

Whereas on “O.N.E.,” the beat and the music would be a perfect fit for a Culture Club reunion album. This album will have you “backing the bus up” or doing the “dolphin” out on the dance floor.

Up to $100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReaderCritic.com

San Diego’s #1 Venue for Cutting-Edge Music

MiraCosta College: One Barnard Dr., Oceanside. April 16, 17 — Fifth Annual Oceanside Jazz Festival.


Neurosciences Institute: 10640 John Jay Hopkins Dr., La Jolla. April 14 — The Anthony Wilson Trio.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252. April 18 — Tony Bennett.


Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008. April 9 — Denim and Leather. April 10 — Fear.


Santee Street Fair: 100 RiverView Parkway, Santee. May 29 — The Santee Street Fair.


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San Diego’s #1 Venue for Cutting-Edge Music

Otep: Bury Your Dead • Through the Eyes of the Dead
DestroPHY • LootN-Rock • DrowsnWerve • Fight the Shirk

April 7: Euvlieite • Holy Grail Aventale • Shining Sword Helsoft

April 8: Denim and Leather (ft. James Rivera of Helstar and members of Flotsam and Jetsam playing many of their hit songs plus other Metal hits)

April 9: Phantasm • Abscission • On Descent

April 20: David Allen Coe • Sickstring Outlaws Zombie Cartel

April 3: Audio Invasion Drum & Bass Night with APX One (Ghetto Life, Torz of Drumz) MK Ultra (Bulletproof, Drumz Clothing) • Bleix & Crossbred with MC Agez • Dr. Greenthumb (Swm) 1979 (Spain, S.D.) • Destroyer & Gloworm • MsC • WErD • ArkA • Agez • Moises 1

April 10: Live Last • Pelican Sam • April 17: Wither • Netemacyst

April 24: Deathriders (ft. Neil Turbin, orig. singer of Anthrax)

April 30: Street Infantry Presents: Drum and Bass

May 7: Pathology • A Band of Orcs • Arka • MictlanTeucuh • Gannondorf • Imbalanced

May 20: Chase Long Beach • June 1: Pat Travers

June 6: Pestilence • Warbringer • Vital Remains • June 11: Helstar

June 28: PowerMan 5000 • June 30: The Original Sugar Hill Gang

626 Main St. • Ramona • 760-789-7008

Purchase tickets online at www.ramonamainstage.com For booking inquiries call Joe Troutman: 760-532-8609

Rent Ramona Mainstage for your private event
Bellingham
Concert Review
by Wate Charles

It’s just before ten at the Radio Room and Fkenal’s ending their set. A dude with long hair bums me a Top rolled cigarette. His name is Andy and his band Sugar Sugar Sugar is touring from Bellingham with friends Lozen. A few dates in Chihuahua, Mexico, then to Austin for SXSW.

Radio Room looks like an artsy dungeon. “What’ll it be, my man?” The bartender cracks open a Pabst. Andy launches into their set on bass. Lupe rolled cigarette. His hair burns me a Top 100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReadercritic.com

“Three one G historic beast — Athletic Automaton, Lightning Bolt. Drummer Sal, cofounder of Three One G records, says: “Here we go. It’s quick.”


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San Diego Reader April 1, 2010 101
Now booking all genres. Do not hallucinate.
Fridays, 10pm: DJ BDP. Saturdays, 10pm: DJ BDP; With DJ MIC-E. Wednesdays, 10pm: DJ WhO. Hip-hop/rock. 1200 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-272-6866.

**Tiki House:** Tuesdays, 9pm: Tunes by Joe Marson. Every Tuesday. 1152 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734.

**True North:** Thursdays, 10pm: DJ WhO. Hip-hop/rock. 3815 30th St., North Park. 619-291-3815.

**San Diego Reader April 1, 2010**

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HAPPY HOUR

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

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Call 619-235-3000 x700, night or day by 5pm Friday, the week prior to publication. You may also fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hours, P.O. Box 8850, San Diego, CA 92116, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

ALLIED GARDENS
San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

ALPINE
Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, $2.50 domestics, $3.50 imports & house wine, $6 Long Islands, $3 wells.

BALBOA PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $3.50 pints, pins, house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.

BANKER’S HILL
Avenue 5: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $2 off bar food, $2 off wines by the glass, $3 drafts, wells.
Azuki Sushi Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $5 large Saki, $5 large Sapporo, $4 sushi rolls, discounted specialty rolls and appetizers.
Berthold at Mister A’s: Monday-Friday, 2:30-6pm: Special priced cocktails, beer, wine, small plates on patio.
Pizzicato: Every day, 3-7pm: $3 pizza, house wine, $6 pizza slice + pint or wine.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $5 big glass of wine. $2 small bites.

BAY PARK
Bay Park Fish Company: Every day, 3-5pm: $2 fish tacos, 20% off specialty rolls and appetizers.

BONITA
Sapphire 18+ Lounge & Hookah: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-9pm: Two-for-one all well drinks. $4 six-piece chicken wings, fajita, or monzarella sticks, $5 small hummus. 1/2-off hookah all day Tuesday.

CARDIFF
Beach House: Every day, 4-7:30pm: $2.95 draft, domestic, $3.95 margaritas, Bloody Mary, mai tai, house wine.
Besta-Wan Pizza House: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $1 pint, glass of house wine. $3 pitcher.
Chart House: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 premium drafts, wells, glass of wine, $5 cocktails, $6 martinis.

CARLSBAD
The Alley: Every day, 11-7am: $2.75 well, domestics.
Argyle Steakhouse/Golf Clubhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Drinks priced by the hour (4-5pm: $4, 5-6pm: $5, etc.), offering wine, beer, premium liquors.
Bellefeur: Every day, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, happy hour wine, well hightails.
Offshore: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestics, $3 sangria, well and micro imports, $5 Tommy Bahama mojitos.

CHULA VISTA
905 Sushi: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.25 Bud Light, Corona, $4.50 large Kirin, Sapporo, sake. 1/2-off appetizers.
Achote Restaurant: Every day, 4-7pm: Two-for-one drinks.
Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: $1 off drinks, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.
BJ’s Brewhouse: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: $1 off beer, cocktails, 1/2-off mini pizza, $2 off appetizers.

CORONADO
Beach ’n’ Diner: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 beer, well drinks, floats, malts, appetizers. All day: $3 off domestic beers.

CROWN COAST
Bistro d’Asia: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, $3.75 draft beer, $4.50 house wine. $1 off hand rolls.

CULVER CITY
Tabula Rasa: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.75 well, domestics, $3.50 imports & house wine, $3.95 imported drafts.

CUTLER CREEK
The Brew House at Eastlake: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm, 9-11pm: $3 Bud Light drafts, house wine; $3.50 well drinks, house pint; $4 well margaritas; $5 well martinis; $12 Bud Light pitcher, $14 house pitcher.

D’Lish Gourmet Pasta: Monday-Saturday, 11am-10pm: $2 off drinks, house margaritas; $4 premium margaritas, $5 wings.

DUMBO
Mr. Peabody’s: Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, spoolots, wells + juice, $3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

EAST HILLCREST
Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 street pizza, $2 off domestic drafts, wells; $4 imported drafts, $6 imported beers.

ENCLAVE
Weirdos: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, well, specialty martinis, bar appetizers.

FAIRVIEW
Arteesa: Every day, 4-8pm: $3 snacks, 1/2-off appetizers, $5 premium drafts, $6 Arteesa wines, $7 specialty signature collection.
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $5 pins, $4 wells, house margaritas.

FAXBURG
Cowboy Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 off all domestic bottles and drafts, 75% off premium drafts, $2 off well liquor, $2 off all appetizers.

FOLLETT
Cucina Italiana: Wednesday, 1/2-off select wine bottles.

FRANKLIN
Don Patrons Mariscos Bar & Grill: Every day, 2-7pm: $4 domestic drafts, wells; $4 imported drafts, specialty shots; 1/2-off appetizers: chicken wings, nachos, sliders.

FREDERICKSDALE
Steve’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, wells, $4 imported drafts, specialty shots.

GROSSMONT
Bean’s BBQ: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3.50 imports & house wine, $3 pitcher.

GUNNISON
Café: Every day, 3-7pm: Discounted wine, well, specialty margaritas, bar appetizers.

HAPPY HOUR

Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks, specialty cocktails and appetizers.

LA COSTA
La Costa Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks; $2 off daily food specials.

LINDA VISTA
D'Lish Gourmet Pasta: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 off all domestic bottles and drafts, 75% off premium drafts, $2 off well liquor, $2 off all appetizers.

MAYFIELD PARK
Argyle Steakhouse/Golf Clubhouse: Every day, 4-7pm: $2.95 domestic bottles, $3.75 wells (short), $3.75 wells (tall).

MATANOCA
Pizza House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-off all bottles, incl. champagne.

MISSION VALLEY
La Costa Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks, specialty cocktails and appetizers.

LONG BEACH
Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $5 big glass of wine. $2 small bites.

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DEL MAR
Brigantine: Every day, 4-6pm: $1 off Redwood wines; $5.50 Georgia Peach Mezzacorona, Chardonnay; $4 Alaska white ale, Brig Brew golden ale; $6 house margarita.
Bully’s Del Mar: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 5-7pm, 10pm-close: $3 because wine; $3 domestic pints; $4 micro-brew pints; $4.50 wells; $3 house wine by the glass; $6 wine by glass, 1/2-off appetizers.
Clubhouse Grill: Every day, 4-7pm: 1/2-off draft beer, wine by the glass.
Shimbashi Izakaya: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $5 cocktails, $5 glass of wine, $3 draft beer. Sake & appetizer specials. Saturday-Sunday, 12-6pm: $5 cocktails, $5 glass of wine, $3 draft beer. Sake & appetizer specials.

DOWNTOWN
400 West: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 domestic; $5 wells, imported beer, 1/2-off appetizers.
923 Dive Lounge: Wednesday-Saturday, 8-10pm: $2 well-drafts. All night Thursday: $2 Manhattan, martini.
Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 domestic drafts. $5 premium wells. 1/2-off Artisan flat bread.
Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $1 off drinks, appetizers (only in the lounge).
Asti Ristorante: Every day, 3-6pm: 1/2-price cocktails & appetizers.
Athens Market: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30 pm: $5 appetizer menu, 4 shots, Jameson, Jack Daniel’s, Jager, Jose Cuervo Gold.
Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine: Friday, $6 pomegranate martini. Saturday, $6 cosmos.
Bella Luna: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 house wine, 1/2-off appetizers.

Happy Hour
4-7 pm Every Day
3 BURGERS & OTHER FOOD SPECIALS
$2 DOMESTIC BEERS
$3 PREMIUM BEERS, WINE & WELL DRINKS

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: Friday, 5-9pm: $5 menu cocktails, Saturday-Sunday, 7-9pm: $5 menu cocktails.
Elphant & Castle Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4.50-2 oz. drafts, house wine, well liquor; $1 off appetizers.
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, 5-6pm: $3.75 draft, $3.95 wells, $2.95 domestic beer, $3.50 fish tacos, $3.50 mahi mahi sliders.
The Fleetwood: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: $4 calls.
Funky Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Sunday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks; $1.50 carne asada and pollo asado tacos. Wednesday, all day: 1/2-off all drinks; $1.50 carne asada and pollo asado tacos.
Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 drafts, house wine, wells. Appetizer specials.
La Gran Tapas: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 5/$5 wine, sangria draft.
Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm; 10pm-midnight: $2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts; $3 margaritas, wine, wells, 1/2-off seafood bar and appetizers.
Horton’s Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $5 wells, $6 house wine, $7 margaritas/cosmos; $7 potato skins/mozzarella sticks; $7.50 nachos grande/buffalo wings.
House of Blues: Every day, 2-7pm: $2 drafts, $3 wells & wines, $4 margaritas, 1/2-off select appetizers.
Jaxx: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-price wine by the glass, $2 off bottle & draft, including local brews.
The Local: Monday, 4pm-close: $3 Bud Light, Miller Lite. $6 burgers. Tuesday, 4pm-close: $3 Corona, Paci-fico, Dos Equis. $2.50 chicken/street tacos. $3 lobster/fish tacos. Wednesday, 4pm-close: $10 big pitchers. $2 BBQ pork slider, corn dogs. Thursday, 4pm-close: $3 Jager, wells/drafts, bottled beer. $3 lobster tacos. Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off wells, wine, drafts. Saturday, 8-10pm: $5 premium liquors.
Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $5 Haole mai tai, Lilo’s mojito, Coconut Kiss martini, large Sapporo, house wine. $5 sushi roll specials, pu pu specials.
O’Brothers: Every day, 3:30-6:30pm: $3 bottled beer, 5/8 glass of wine. $7 drinks with fries.
Ocean Room and Lounge: Every day, 4-6pm, 9pm-midnight: $3 drafts, $4 house wine, $6 martinis. 1/2-off sushi, $1.50 oyster shooters, $5 crab cakes, popcorn shrimp, calamari, spring rolls.
Patrick’s II: Every day, 10am-4pm: $2.50 bottle beer, $3 wells, Bud Light pints, $4 calls, margaritas, Bloody Marys.
RA Sushi: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off select sushi & appetizer; discount on caviar; $1 oysters. $4 40% off appetizers. 1/2-price garabato.
Rock Bottom Brewery: Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm: $3.50 pints, $5 wells, house wine. $4.95 specialty drinks/martini.
Rockin’ Baja Lobster: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $3.50 margaritas. $4 Long Islands. $3-5 $3.50 drafts.
Sally’s Seafood on the Water: Monday, 2:30-5:30pm: $3 local beer on tap. Tuesday, 2:30-5:30pm: $4 margaritas. $3 Mexican bottled beers. Wednesday, 2:30-5:30pm: $3 hot sake, $3 Japanese bottled beers. Thursday, 2:30-5:30pm: $3 drafts, $5 wells/house wine.
San Diego Wine and Culinary Center: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $3 house wine, wells, $7 Christopher’s Cavee. Noon-9pm: tasting flights.
Stage Saloon: Every day, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all drinks, beer, wine.
Stout Public House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 premium pints, $4 wells; $6 cosmos, apple/pepper, margarita; $1/2-price appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 11pm-6pm: 1/2-off domestic and Canadian bottled beer. $4 wells, Bloody Mary, $5 mimosa.
Suit & Tender: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $20 bottomless wine, 1/2-off specialty cocktails.
T.G.I. Friday’s: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: 10pm-close: $3 large domestic & bottled beers, $4 well/wine. $5 Ultimate Long Island Iced Tea & Ultimate Margaritas. 1/2-off appetizers.
Tabule: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 2-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers.
Taste & Thirst on Fourth: Monday-Saturday, 5-8pm: All drinks two-for-one.
Tequila 100: Monday-Wednesday, 11-11pm: $2 draft, $4 margarita, mojito, glass of wine, $5 Patron shot. Thursday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $2 draft, $4 margarita, mojito, glass of wine, $5 Patron shot.
Tivoli Bar: Every day, 4-7pm: 1/2-off pitchers, $3.50 off liquor.
Tom Ham’s Lighthouse: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 house wine, domestic/import.
Urban Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 9pm-close: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.
Wolf’s Place: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Two-for-one all beers, $4 wells & house wine. 1/2-off all appetizers.
Xavier’s Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-8pm: $3 wells, drafts. $2 off wine. $2 off appetizers.
Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5 domestic pints, $4 craft/import pints, $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.

EAST VILLAGE
Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Tuesday, 4-7pm: $5 mason jar Russian standard vodka, $3 carafe, beer, $6 wine. Complimentary basic pizza.
Cafe Cholo: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 verdejo, Côtes du Rhône, oatmeal stout; $5 white Bordeaux, Monte Bacciano, blonde ale; $6 Chardonnay, Zinfandel, Trapezoidal.
East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Thurs, 5-7pm: $3 drafts. $4 premium drafts, margaritas. Saturday-Sunday, 11pm-close: $3 drafts, wells, $4 premium drafts/margaritas. $4 Jager, Bacardi, Stelida.
Hive Sushi Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $2.50 sake, $4 house wine. Miso, edamame, $9.95.
Hotel Indigo: Every day, 5-8pm: $4 domestic & local bottles, wells, wines.
Jewel Box: Wednesday, 6pm-2am: $5iger bombs, happy hour all night w/military ID. Thursday, 6pm-2am: Industry Night. $3.75 calls.
Happy Hour in Little Italy
Mon-Sat. 4:30-7:30 pm
DRAFT BEER & WELL DRINKS $3.50
HOUSE MARTINI $1.50
HOUSE WINE $3/glass
30% OFF APPETIZERS

LATE NIGHT
Daily 4-6 pm and late night
starting at 10 pm

Pacific Beach's Best Happy Hour!
4-8 pm Daily & ALL DAY
Mon. & Wed.!
$1 Domestic Drafts
$2 Import Drafts
$4.50 Shots/Drinks
$5.50 Appetizers
$2 Hookahs and $10 Refills
11 am-8 pm daily

Happy Hour Station
Tues.-Fri. 4-8 pm
$3 WELLS DRAFTS
$2 OFF APPETIZERS

Daily Drink Specials
Monday: $2 Pints
Tuesday: $2 Pitchers & $2.50 Beer
Wednesday: FREE Pool after 7 pm
Thursday: $2.50 wells & $4.50 wine
Friday: $2.50 wells & $4.50 wine

Playboy Party
Contest for Best Bunny!
Sat., April 10

THURSDAYS
2 Pints, 6 Pitchers & FREE Pool after 7 pm
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS
DJs Dance Party & Karaoke
9 pm-1 am
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
Karaoke 9 pm-1 am

LA JOLLA
Clay’s La Jolla: Every day, 4-7 pm: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 sangria, $6 house wine.
Crab Catcher: Monday-Friday, 3-7 pm: $3 domestic beer, wine, champagne by the glass, margaritas. $5 select specialty martinis. 1/2-off select appetizers. $1.50 oyster shooters.
Ido Sushi: Monday-Friday, all day: Buy one saki, get one half off. 3-6:30 pm: 25% off select nigiri and maki rolls.
Extreme Pizza: Every day, 3-6 pm: $3 premium beer.
Karla Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30 pm: $3.50 beer.
La Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 3-7 pm: $3 wells, house drafts. $4 house wine. $5 premium.
La Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Friday, 3-6 pm: $4, $2.50 domestics, $2.75 imports.

Encinitas
Boston Gourmet Pizza: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-close: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner; $5 Bloody Marys, screwdriver.
Bulpen Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-2 am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pint, $2 off wine.
El Callejon Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-8 pm: $2 domestic, $2.75 imported, $3 house margarita, $2-$7 appetizers: pork tacos, fried calamari, grilled shrimp skewer.
Cap’n Kenos: Monday-Friday, 6-9 pm midnight: $2.50 domestic beer, $4 domestic bottles, $4 domestic pints. $2.50 wells.

Kensington-Talamague
Beauty Bar: Wednesday-Thursday, 3-7 pm: $5 martinis. 1/2-off select bottles.
Kensington Cafe: Every day, 3-7 pm: $3 all beers, $4-$5 all glasses of wine, all tapas under $5.25.
The Kensington Club: Every day, 10 am-6 pm: $2.50 wells, domestic bottles.

La Jolla
Alfonso’s of La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.
Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Every day, 4-6:30 pm: $2.50 small saki, $4 large saki, 15% select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 Cali, spicy tuna, veggie roll.
Beaumont’s: Every day, 4-6 pm: $3 draft, well, $5 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Special prices on margaritas, sangria, wine cooler.
Bird Rock Pizza & Sports: Monday-Friday, 4-6 pm: $3.50 pint, $12 pitcher; $7.50 pint with appetizer, $15 pitcher with appetizer. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $3 pint, 126 pitcher; $7.50 pint with appetizer, $15 pitcher with appetizer.

KEARNY MESA
94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 4-8 pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells, domestic pints, Free munchies.
Churasaun: Monday, Sunday, football special: $4 hot dog, garlic fries, small beer. Tuesday-Friday, 5-8 pm: $4 large domestic bottles of wine.

LA JOLLA
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, All day: $9.99 fish tacos. 3-6 pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special.
House Martini: Every day, 4-6 pm: $2.50 well, 10 Refills. Mon-Sat. 4:30-7:30 pm

LA MESA
Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Thurs., all day: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, margarita, $5 select specialty martinis. 1/2-off select appetizers. $1.50 oyster shooters.
Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill: Monday-Thurs., 5-8 pm: $2 off drafts, wells, house wine, California/philley/veggyl roll, gyoza, calamari, shrimp tempura.
Brigantine: Every day, 4-7 pm: $4 pint, $6.50 bottle, $7.50 carafe special: $4 hot dog, garlic fries, fried calamari, fried shrimp skewers.

ENCINITAS
Boston Gourmet Pizza: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-close: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner; $5 Bloody Marys, screwdriver.
Bulpen Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-2 am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pint, $2 off wine.
El Callejon Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-8 pm: $2 domestic, $2.75 imported, $3 house margarita, $2-$7 appetizers: pork tacos, fried calamari, grilled shrimp skewer.
Cap’n Kenos: Monday-Friday, 6-9 pm midnight: $2.50 domestic beer, $4 domestic bottles, $4 domestic pints. $2.50 wells.

Hillcrest
The Alibi: Every day, all day: $3 draft, $3 wells, $3 domestics.
Baja Betty’s: Monday-Friday, 2-6 pm: $3 bottled beer, salsa margarita, well’s house wine, sangria, queso/adas.
Bangkok Thai Bistro: Every day, 4-7 pm: $2-.50 wine, $2-.50 beer, $2-.50 appetizers.
Bite Bistro and Wine Bar: Monday-Saturday, noon-2 pm, 5-7 pm: $3-54 bar menu. $4.50 glass of wine or champagne, 25% off champagne bottles.

Kensington-Talamague
Beauty Bar: Wednesday-Thursday, 3-7 pm: $5 martinis. 1/2-off select bottles.
Kensington Cafe: Every day, 3-7 pm: $3 all beers, $4-$5 all glasses of wine, all tapas under $5.25.
The Kensington Club: Every day, 10 am-6 pm: $2.50 wells, domestic bottles.

LA JOLLA
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Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Every day, 4-6:30 pm: $2.50 small saki, $4 large saki, 15% select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 Cali, spicy tuna, veggie roll.
Beaumont’s: Every day, 4-6 pm: $3 draft, well, $5 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Special prices on margaritas, sangria, wine cooler.
Bird Rock Pizza & Sports: Monday-Friday, 4-6 pm: $3.50 pint, $12 pitcher; $7.50 pint with appetizer, $15 pitcher with appetizer. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $3 pint, 126 pitcher; $7.50 pint with appetizer, $15 pitcher with appetizer.

KEARNY MESA
94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 4-8 pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells, domestic pints, Free munchies.
Churasaun: Monday, Sunday, football special: $4 hot dog, garlic fries, small beer. Tuesday-Friday, 5-8 pm: $4 large domestic bottles of wine.

LA JOLLA
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, All day: $9.99 fish tacos. 3-6 pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special.
House Martini: Every day, 4-6 pm: $2.50 well, 10 Refills. Mon-Sat. 4:30-7:30 pm

LA MESA
Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Thurs., all day: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, margarita, $5 select specialty martinis. 1/2-off select appetizers. $1.50 oyster shooters.
Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill: Monday-Thurs., 5-8 pm: $2 off drafts, wells, house wine, California/philley/veggyl roll, gyoza, calamari, shrimp tempura.
Brigantine: Every day, 4-7 pm: $4 pint, $6.50 bottle, $7.50 carafe special: $4 hot dog, garlic fries, fried calamari, fried shrimp skewers.

ENCINITAS
Boston Gourmet Pizza: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-close: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner. Saturday-Sunday, all day: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner; $5 Bloody Marys, screwdriver.
Bulpen Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm, 10 pm-2 am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pint, $2 off wine.
El Callejon Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-8 pm: $2 domestic, $2.75 imported, $3 house margarita, $2-$7 appetizers: pork tacos, fried calamari, grilled shrimp skewer.
Cap’n Kenos: Monday-Friday, 6-9 pm midnight: $2.50 domestic wells.

Hillcrest
The Alibi: Every day, all day: $3 draft, $3 wells, $3 domestics.
Baja Betty’s: Monday-Friday, 2-6 pm: $3 bottled beer, salsa margarita, well’s house wine, sangria, queso/adas.
Bangkok Thai Bistro: Every day, 4-7 pm: $2-.50 wine, $2-.50 beer, $2-.50 appetizers.
Bite Bistro and Wine Bar: Monday-Saturday, noon-2 pm, 5-7 pm: $3-54 bar menu. $4.50 glass of wine or champagne, 25% off champagne bottles.
MISSON HILLS
The Aero Club: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 2-7pm: $5 off beer, Monday-Wednesday, 2-7pm: $4 drafts, $3 bottles.

Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic bottles and drafts, 3$ beers. Free from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Cafe Bleu: Every day, 4-6pm: $5 select wine by the glass; special prices on starters, bar for 2dinner, sandwiches.

Eluminarios Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-5pm: $1 of all beer. Bar for dinner.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Every day, 4-7pm: $4.95 imported 20-oz. beer, $3.75 well drinks, $1 off all beers.

Starfish: Monday-Saturday, 5pm: $3 drafts, $1 off alcohol. Sunday, all night: $5 mules. $15 off beer.

MISSION VALLEY
950 Lounge: Monday-Wednesday, 3$ beers, house wine. The Filling Station:

Adams’ Steak & Eggs: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: Double well drinks, complimentary beers on tap. The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: Monday: 4$ domestic beers, $5 wells.

Every day: $2.75 select beer of the day.

El Camol: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 2$ beer, house wine.

Craze Burger: Every day, 6-3pm: $2.99 drafts, $15 pizzas, $3.99 select glasses of wine. Every day: 3pm-7pm: $2 off all appetizers.

Lips Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, all day: Industry Night, $3.50 wells, $5.50 calls, 25% off entrees & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

The Office: Every day, 5-8pm: Two-for-one on all drinks.

Redwing Bar & Grill: Every day, 11am-8pm: $2.75 drafts, $3.50 well drinks.

Bull’s Eye: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.75-$3.50 domestic draft; $3.50 well drinks, $5 wine: Chardonnay, Merlot, Jacob’s Creek Cabernet.

Came’s Breath Inn: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.75 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

In Cahoots: Every day, $2.50 Coors/Coors Light, Sunday, any drink $2.50.

OCEAN BEACH
The Arizona Bar: Every day, 4-6pm: $3 house wines, 20-oz. domestic, microbrew pints, wells, 1/2-off all pitchers.


GOT SANGRIA?

Draft Beer $2 • House Wine $3
Complimentary Appetizer Station (Mon.-Fri.)

Daily Happy Hour Specials
Margarita Mondays: $3 gold margaritas
Taco Tuesdays: $2 tacos
Martini Wednesdays: $5 any martini
Thirsty Thursdays: $3 wells & $1.50 appetizers
Mardi Gras Fridays: $3 bottled beer
$1 off any tequila shot (over 30 to choose from)
Live Mariachis with the Franco Brothers (6-30pm)

Look for our newly expanded bar area, featuring 2 large flat screens playing NCAA March Madness
Coming in April: Marielde Saturdays with Judy Ames!

7-10pm. Over 8,000 Spanish and English Karaoke titles

The Amigo Spot
Authentic Baja Mexican Cantina, located at Kings Inn
1333 Hotel Circle South, San Diego 92108

Ocean Beach Bar & Lounge: Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $10 everything, $2.50 domestic bottle, $3.50 draft.

El Comal:

Craze Burger: Every day, 6-3pm: $2.99 drafts, $15 pizzas, $3.99 select glasses of wine. Every day: 3pm-7pm: $2 off all appetizers.

Lips Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, all day: Industry Night, $3.50 wells, $5.50 calls, 25% off entrees & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

The Office: Every day, 5-8pm: Two-for-one on all drinks.

Redwing Bar & Grill: Every day, 11am-8pm: $2.75 drafts, $3.50 well drinks.

ToroAzado: Every day, 11-10pm: $1 off drafts.

True North: Monday, noon-close: $1 off all beer, wine, spirits.

West Coast Tavern: Every day, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks.

MISSING BEACH
Coaster Saloon: Monday-Friday, all day: $2.75 select beer of the month. 5$ for 1/2-price appetizers (some exclusion).

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, free shots.

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic drinks, $1 off premium beer/wine by the glass, $3 off appetizers. 1/2-price appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.
How do you prove you aren’t an “interesting human being”?

Since he broke up with his girlfriend, Khaled’s lived in a dinky, book-clogged studio where he starts but can’t finish short stories. He’s got writer’s block so bad he doesn’t “feel solid” about anything. Enter two men in suits, without a warrant. Claiming to be government agents, they ask friendly questions (like how to pronounce his name: in the “back of the throat”). While one talks, the other snoops under the bed (that’s a porn mag?), in a chest of drawers (a well-used passport, hmm...), in the bathroom. They joke and describe their methods (“this is not an ethnic thing,” says Bartlett, the older of the two). In no time they make, to them at least, telling discoveries.

Along with books by international authors (a thick collection of Borges, the latest Pamuk), the duo spots a copy of the Koran and two texts in Arabic. But Khaled said he doesn’t know Arabic. In the minds of these carte blanche xenophobes, that puts him “neck deep in doo-doo” for an unnamed 9/11-type disaster. Khaled, who shifts from amiable to paranoid, talks about having rights and wanting a lawyer. Neither Bartlett nor Carl blinks.

Yussef El Guindi’s Back of the Throat draws an invisible line down centerstage. Khaled went to the Eiffel Tower Club. People spotted him with Asfour, who recently committed the terrorist act. Khaled’s ex-girlfriend, the least reliable witness on the planet, suspects collusion, either that or he was cheating on her. Whichever: give him the third degree. The agents revel in their ability to generate volcanoes from anthills. Thus the invisible line: Was Khaled involved or suffering guilt by propinquity? And thus his need not to be an interesting human being.

The interrogation moves from casual chat to hard-nosed torment. Bartlett and Carl play smiley agent/thug agent and unearth what may, or may not, be evidence. They make “homeland security” an oxymoron. Also, like today’s slash-and-burn media hacks, who jumped from trashing one black genius, Michael Jackson, to trashing another, Tiger Woods (but, of course, that wasn’t “ethnic” either, was it now?) they see “right to privacy” and read “enquiring minds need to know.” They brim with information entitlement.

Back of the Throat runs in repertory with Elliot: A Soldier’s Fugue in Ion Theatre’s new space. The company knocked out a back wall, installed a chevron of seats and sophisticated lighting, and, as both plays demonstrate, created a handsome, flexible black-box theater.

Much of the play has a haunting, it-couldn’t-happen-here quality. But it also has an unreal level of comedy. Among other things, Bartlett and Carl are a clown act. They banter like wannabe vaudevillians. Thanks to Sara Beth Morgan’s smart direction, neither Walter Ritter (Bartlett) nor Tom Hall (Carl) overplays the shtick, but it detracts...
from their otherwise strong, menacing work.

Brian Abraham makes Khaled an appropriately tough read, treading the invisible line throughout (he also has one of the play’s most telling lines: “Twenty degrees of separation makes everyone a suspect.”). Ryhs Greene does a fine cameo as As-foor’s slowly seething ghost, and DeNae Steele plays several women, one of whom does a pole dance in a club to Neil Di- amond’s “America.”

**

Alive and Well, in a world pre- miere at the Old Globe, is neither. Kenny Finkle’s light-weight, relentlessly talky play pits a Yankee journalist, Carla, against rebel Zachariah, a Civil War reenactor. Zach’s convinced that the “Lonesome Soldier”—

the last living Confederate (either a ghost or he’s found the Fountain of Youth) — hangs out somewhere along General Lee’s westward retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox. As they rough it and lose their way, differences (she’s cold and always right; he’s romantic and weepy) dissipate.

The writing’s occasionally funny. After a quaff or twain of moonshine, Zach assures Carla, “I’m not drunk, Ms. Keenan, I’m pacified.” But like so much of the Old Globe’s timid play selection of late, it’s almost all surface and merely aims to please.

Except for an air-conditioning system that still over-compensates — shivering patrons cover floor vents with their programs — the new Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre struts its stuff with Alive and Well. Robin Sanford Roberts’s set, lit from numerous angles by Michael Gottlieb, is a bas-relief topography of the Blackwater River area around Lynchburg, Mesas become tables and chairs; at other times Carla and Zach loom over the land like symbolic giants. Shelly Williams’s gray Confederate uniform for Zach and Union navy blue for Carla look authentic (and appropriately itchy).

Kelly McAndrew and James Knight sustain a nice byplay as the unlikely couple. But, except for a funny game of comebacks, the weak second act dwindles into two long speeches in which the pair blurs differences. In a third, equally facile speech, both gaze at sunlit Appomattox and hope the country can accept differences as well.

Next time: Cygnet’s Sweeney Tod’s hottest show in town.

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**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.

**The Abbey Road Band**

The nationally touring Beatles tribute band performs Sundays at the Welk Resort Theatre. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELL DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7465. 7PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 18.

**Alive and Well**

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of Kenny Finkle’s romantic comedy about a down-on-her-luck journalist and a Civil War reenactor who search for the Lonesome Soldier, the oldest living veteran of the War Between the States. Jeremy Dobrish directed. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM WEDNESDAYS, 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 25.

**An American Duet: Elliott, a Soldier’s Fugue**

Someone said “History doesn’t repeat itself, but it rhymes.” The three-generation Ortiz family, including Pop’s wife Ginny, is both close and far apart, since the elder men never shared their war stories with Elliot. In Iraq, he replicates his father’s Vietnam experiences almost exactly. For Ion Theatre, under Sylvia Enrique’s subtle direction, monologues meld and tug apart, as in a fugue. Goyo Flores and John Padilla give Grandpop (who fought in Korea) and Pop hard-edged, disillusioned dignity; Steven Lone blazes as gang-ho Elliot; and San Diego newcomer Miriam White shines as Ginny — wife, nurse, and compulsive gardener — who exclaims, “When your son goes to war, plant every goddamn seed you can find…let green things run wild.” Elliot runs in repertory with Back of the Throat.

**Back of the Throat**

Ion Theatre stages Yussef El Guindi’s tale of a Muslim-American man and a seemingly friendly visit by two government officials —
runs in repertory
and the performers
F. Kathleen Foley,
SUN
FRI A
8
or 800-982-ARTS
a French farce both sexist and
109-111  3/30/10  8:55 AM  Page 111
Amanda Sitton directed.
cure student in the '60s to a suc-
New Village Arts stages Wendy
search winner Paula Bowers-
Comedy host a live engagement of
Goin' Native: The American
7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS,
COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-529-9140.
SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N.
WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE
ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999.

Three lovers, no waiting.
Bernard, as the saying goes, “has it
APRIL 10.
DAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH
CREST. 619-600-5020. 8PM THURS-
ION THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILL-

and lots of maidens in distress.
Soft-hearted pirates, cowardly police
and lots of maidens in distress.

or a country home, and three fiancés —

Romeo and Juliet
prepare and deliver six works of art
Siguenza’s tribute to the great
Pablo Picasso
SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS,

Speech and Debate
Diversionsary stages Stephen
Karam’s “subversive comedy about sex,
secrets, performance art, drugs, and
blackmail — just a typical day when you’re a teenager in Salem, Oregon.” Jason Sutherland directed.
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK
BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-
0097, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, 7:30PM
THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATUR-
DAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS.
THROUGH APRIL 11.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon
Barber of Fleet Street
Cygnet Theatre stages Stephen
Sondheim’s musical about “barber-
ism and culinary crime.” Sean Mur-
ray and James Vasquez codirected.
CYGNET THEATRE — OLD TOWN, 4040
TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525.
7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, 7:30PM THURS-
DAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM
SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS.
THROUGH APRIL 25.

Triple Espresso
For four weeks only, San Diego’s
longest-running show comes to the
Luceum. Hugh Butternum’s done his
lounge act at the Triple Espresso
Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While
patrons sip a house blend —
“Grape,” “Scandinavian Blizzard,” or
“Mokoko Coca Mocha” — Hugh plays
’70s tunes on the piano. He and his
companions, here to celebrate his
anniversary, got stuck in the ’70s (they’re “losers,” they admit, but not “ordinary ones”). And hey,
their reunion could help them face
searing issues from their mediocre
past. The story line’s straight from
Forever Plaid, and the performers are
far too talented to play inert
characters (one’s a welder at the
plumber’s first-rate minds, and the
third’s a crackerjack magician).
The trio’s so talented, when the plot
has them complain of difficulties to
overcome, you wish they’d quit
trumping up the pseudo-drama and
get on with this highly entertaining,
if lightweight, show.
Worth a try.
LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA,
DOWNTOWN. 619-544-0500. 7:30PM
WEDNESDAYS, 7:30PM THURSDAYS,
7:30PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM
SATURDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS, THROUGH
APRIL 11.

A Weekend with
Pablo Picasso
The San Diego Rep hosts a work-
shop production of Herbert
Sigsawa’s tribute to the great
artist. Picasso has a weekend
to prepare and deliver six works of art
to a buyer on Monday morning.
LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA,
DOWNTOWN. 619-544-0500. 7PM
WEDNESDAYS, 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM
FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS,
2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH
APRIL 11.
Alice in Wonderland — Tim Burton’s adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic gives him license, free rein, greased rails, to stage a congenial freak show in a hermetic netherworld: a 3-D moving-picture book. The customary merger of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and its sequel, Through the Looking Glass, has the innovation of a mar-riageable age-of-consent heroine, diving down the rabbit hole to escape a surprise engagement party and an odious snooty suitor. This innovation serves the dual pur-pose of heading off all the tired old sophis-ticated drolleries about the Reverend Hodgson’s fondness for little girls and, secondly, of feeding the bottomless contemporary ap-petite for feminist fantasies of empower-ment. (The Australian newcomer Mia Wasikowska evolves from a pasty spaced-out flower child to an armored and sword-wielding Saint Joan, Jabberwock-slayer.) In due time, in fact in short order, the movie achieves a different sort of dullness from that of the forced and haphazard novel, a dullness of satiation, just as Alice has been taught to pinch herself to return from a dream, you can try pinching yourself to re-verse your slippage into a CGI stupor, and therefore your story clearly told, with an interesting cast of characters and a wide variety of vil-lains (“I brought the Barnes,” one proclaims proudly, “out of the Dark Ages”), lacking only a Gary Cooper or a James Stewart to transform it into a Capra story. 2009. ★★ [LA JOLLA VILLAGE].

Avatar — Ambitious merger of live action and computer animation, with at least one groundbreaking 3-D effect: English subtitles for the language spoken on the celestial body of Pandora inserted on a plane in the middle distance between a foreground figure and an upstage figure, as if the foreground one could look down and read the subtitle himself. This effect is silly, is preten-tious, is pointless, and nonetheless is fun. Much the same could be said of the movie as a whole. Silly, pretentious, pointless, and fun is surely less than writer and director James Cameron had in mind for his first feature film since Titanic twelve years be-fore, a two hour and forty-five minute “vis-ionary” 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 Pocahontas culture-clash romance, an ecological message, and a tree-felling that insistently recalls the toppling of the World Trade Center. There appears little doubt that Cameron drew upon all his mental powers, yet happily those powers prove too feeble, too reliant on convention and stere-typing, or if you wish to make it sound better, on tradition and archetype, 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. ★★★ (HORONT PLAZA 14)

The Art of the Steal — Documentarist Don Argott relates the story, with the aid of a roundtable of talking heads, of what happened to the Barnes Foundation, specifi-cally its collection of post-Impressionist and early modern art, after the death of the philanthropic Philadelphia pharmaceutical king, Albert C. Barnes. The paintings, ex-pressly intended never to be sold, loaned, or moved, were simply worth too much — “billions and billions” — for everyone to obey the terms of the trust. It is at bottom a story of money, how money makes people lose their heads and their hearts, as well as a story of money, how money makes people lose their heads and their hearts, as well as a story of race, class, and politics, a compli-cated story clearly told, with an interesting cast of characters and a wide variety of vil-lains (“I brought the Barnes,” one proclaims proudly, “out of the Dark Ages”), lacking only a Gary Cooper or a James Stewart to transform it into a Capra story. 2009. ★★ [LA JOLLA VILLAGE].

Titanic — The customary merger of the kitschy fun. Sam Worthington, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi, Michelle Rodriguez. 2009. ★★★ (HORONT PLAZA 14)
Broken Embraces — Almodóvar, as is "The Girl of my Life," the narrative of a shallow hauteur (shades of Woody Allen’s Hollywood Ending, albeit darker shades), a kept woman turned movie starlet, a manipulative millionaire, his conniving gay son, etc. He doesn’t, however, give you much to believe in, except in this instance the undoubted radiance of Penélope Cruz, who, in her mid-thirties, would appear to have yet done nothing surgically to disguise herself. It’s a sad comment on our times that what’s worthy of comment about an actress of her age. With Maggie Gyllenhaal, Colin Farrell, and Ralph Fiennes, directed by Louis Leterrier. [CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; O’TAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 4/2] ★★★

Brooklyn’s Finest — Crime drama treats what would be an historically bad week for the NYPD as simply the average run. Amid a series of racially charged shooting incidents, three diverse policemen (the brin’-of-rettin’ beat cop, the straight-laced rogue cop) pursue their individual paths on what we come to suspect will be a collision course but we find out instead it is a mere geographical convergence to three separate simultaneous shootings on the same city block. Antoine Fuqua’s return to the precinct of Training Day, opposite coast, holds the attention about as pleasurably as a thumb screw (if you can imagine it), with Ethan Hawke now graduated from rookie to the rank of Bad Lieutenant, trying desperately to finance a real-estate deal with confiscated drug money while behaving as if he is at the same time trying to kick heroin or else to win a scholarship to the Actors Studio. His purpose, his function, seems to be to make the other cast members (Richard Gene, Done Cheddle, Wesley Snipes, Will Patton, Brian O’Byrne) look good in comparison, and from that angle he succeeds spectacularly. 2010. ★★★ (GALAXY 15; MISSION VALLEY 7)

Chloe — A renaming and reworking by Atom Egoyan of the French film Nathalie by Anne Fontaine. Despite the pedigree (Egoyan, if you need reminding, has signed such tonny items as Avrat, The Sweet Hereafter, Exotica, among others), this would fit comfortably on the Lifetime Movie Network: a suspicious wife sics a high-endescort onto her husband as a temptation, a test. True, the escort’s oral reports have a graphicness you mightn’t hear on LMN (“I could feel he was excited through his pants,” “I put my tits in his face”), and Julianne Moore, as the middle-aged gynecologist who lives in a luxurious red box with musicologist Liam Neeson, gives you more acting per second than you get from Judith Light or Joanna Kerns, and the expenses of flesh (not just the always game Moore, but also the unimpeachable Amanda Seyfried as the escort) are decidedly “R” rated, though these are matters of degree, not substance. The odor of cheesiness, both the main attraction and the main limitation of the film, never dissipates, only intensifies: the escort, gradually proving herself even crazier than her client, develops an at first reciprocated crush on the woman and then, when rebuffed, turns her attentions to the latter’s teenage son. (Fatal Attractions might have been a franker title.) Neither of the women, in fairness, takes further leave of senses than Egoyan. The Canadian locale only firms up the Lifetime affinity. 2010. ★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Crazy Heart — Jeff Bridges is pretty much the whole show, and a generous show it is. His Bad Blake, given name to be held back for the gravestone, is an over-the-hill and down-on-his-luck C&W singer still living the life of a C&W song, four marriages behind him, long lonely drives and cheap motels and cheaper women in front of him, a chain smoker and a hard-at-it alcoholic (preferred poison, fictitious McClure’s bourbon) on a free fall to the unseen bottom, and, on impact, the uncertain bounce-back to redemption. As one of his lyrics neatly sums it up: “I used to be somebody, now I’m somebody else.” The actor’s singing voice amounts to a dull blade that has a hard time cutting through the expert arrangements by 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 marbles, has a hard enough time cutting through thin air, as if he could use a hit of oxygen before and after each utterance. To outward appearances, he’s approximately one-third Kris Kristofferson (the constipated voice and the wherewithal to produce it) and two-thirds Waylon Jennings (the gravelly stringy hair, the bedraggled beard, the shades, the leather vest, the paunch), in no part original but in every part authentic. With Maggie Giffenhaal, Colin Farrell, and Robert Duvall, directed by Scott Cooper. 2009. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GALAXY 15, 3-D)

Clerks II — Crime drama might have series, for comparison, and from that angle he succeeds spectacularly. 2010. ★★★

Brooklyn’s Finest — Crime drama treats what would be an historically bad week for the NYPD as simply the average run. Amid a series of racially charged shooting incidents, three diverse policemen (the brin’-of-rettin’ beat cop, the straight-laced rogue cop) pursue their individual paths on what we come to suspect will be a collision course but we find out instead it is a mere geographical convergence to three separate simultaneous shootings on the same city block. Antoine Fuqua’s return to the precinct of Training Day, opposite coast, holds the attention about as pleasurably as a thumb screw (if you can imagine it), with Ethan Hawke now graduated from rookie to the rank of Bad Lieutenant, trying desperately to finance a real-estate deal with confiscated drug money while behaving as if he is at the same time trying to kick heroin or else to win a scholarship to the Actors Studio. His purpose, his function, seems to be to make the other cast members (Richard Gene, Done Cheddle, Wesley Snipes, Will Patton, Brian O’Byrne) look good in comparison, and from that angle he succeeds spectacularly. 2010. ★★★ (GALAXY 15; MISSION VALLEY 7)

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How to Train Your Dragon — A movie awash in wishfulness.

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. Kim Cattrall, Timothy Hutton, James Belushi, Eli Wallach. 2010.★★

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — Homegrown adaptation by Niels Arden Oplev of the international best-seller by Stieg Larsson, from the Scandinavian wave of detective novels. The movie, like the book, is long; two and a half hours with almost half an hour of anti- or post-climax. In the early going, it juggles two separate cases and two separate investigators, a Leftist mauckingraek journalist (Michael Nyqvist, with his Richard Burtonish full-moon cratered face) and a security-firm computer geek (Nooji Rapace, a sort of young Claire Bloom) who sports two nose rings, numerous ear piercings, a goth hairdo and wardrobe, and of course the titular tattoo. When at last he elects to turn up the heat — bedrock of political piety pretty well buried. In the end, but it comes close. Kim Cattrall, Timothy Hutton, James Belushi, Eli Wallach. 2010.★★

The Ghost Writer — A literary hack (Ewan McGregor) — “You name it, he ghosts it” — lands the plum assignment of, for a cool quarter of a million, polishing up the memoirs of a Tony Blair-ish former British Prime Minister (Pierce Brosnan), stepping into the shoes of the previous silent collaborator who has unaccountably left his car on the ferry and washed up on shore: accident? suicide? And it is only a coincidence that the ex-F.M. is just now coming under fire for alleged human rights violations in the War on Terror? The adaptation of a Robert Harris political potboiler really doesn’t amount to much: standard portions of knee-jerk paranoia and mechanical plotting, to say nothing of the so-what final revelation that feels as concocted as it feels anticlimactic. But director Roman Polanski proves himself a masterful judge of the material, placing himself prudently, walking a razor’s edge between anxiety and mirth, allowing the plot to unfold without rush, getting to know the cast of characters as palpable human beings — Oliva Williams a standout as the politician’s astringent wife — and keeping the bedrock of political party pretty well buried. The ambush in mid-lightening. And the defusing of bombs — the hide-and-seek triggers — are highly entertaining. In a color-free wasteland appear per-tinent, walking a razor’s edge between anxiety and mirth, allowing the plot to unfold without rush, getting to know the cast of characters as palpable human beings — Oliva Williams a standout as the politician’s astringent wife — and keeping the bedrock of political party pretty well buried. When at last he elects to turn up the heat — bedrock of political piety pretty well buried. The ambush in mid-lightening. And the defusing of bombs — the hide-and-seek triggers — are highly entertaining. In a color-free wasteland appear pertinent, walking a razor’s edge between anxiety and mirth, allowing the plot to unfold without rush, getting to know the cast of characters as palpable human beings — Oliva Williams a standout as the politician’s astringent wife — and keeping the bedrock of political party pretty well buried.

several commercial time constraints on CNN. Any deficiencies in the image or the dialogue will not detract from the pill-mell propulsiveness of the action, mostly confined within a single hectic day, the sheer breathless pace of it and the distance over which that pace is sustained. The relentless churn of the story doesn’t really seem to help with that, but apparently can’t help itself. Greg Kinnear, Amy Ryan, Brendan Gleeson, Khalid Abdalla. 2010.

Hot Tub Time Machine — Guy-jinks involving three middle-aged buddies and a nephew who, for R&R, repair to a rundown mountain resort, the playground of their salad days, where a malfunctioning hot tub transports them magically (as opposed to science-fictionally) back to 1986. They still look middle-aged to us and themselves, but everyone else sees them as their younger selves, excepting the already young nephew, who looks no younger. So we get the raunch and all the grossness of guy comedy, and all the slobbery appearance in photograph and set design, plus all the details of time travel into the bargain. And what sense does it make for one time traveler to travel back to 1986, when John Lennon got shot six years earlier. With John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke, Chevy Chase, and the ex-Meat Loaf Caleb, directed by Steve Pink. 2010.★★

How to Train Your Dragon — Computer-animated, seemingly computer-written, Viking tale, revolving around a twiggly little lad named Hiccup, “different” from his strong-willed, rody-rottent, queer brother in Los Angeles, maybe building a doghouse for Mahler the family pet, firing off letters of complaint to imperious corporations, and, not least, drinking like a fish. The lacklessness infects the entire film, which is sort of like a Woody Allen without a cloak-and-dagger daydreams (Aldrich’s Lightening), and in a cataclysmic climactic battle against an unifying monster beyond all understanding. A movie awash in wishfulness. With the voices of Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, Craig Ferguson, and America Ferrera; directed by Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders. 2010.★★

The Hurt Locker — Fictitious countdown of the three weeks in the twenty-four-month tour of an army bomb squad in Baghdad. The living and working conditions in a color-free wasteland appear perfectly credible, and the cinematic fiction details of the job — the spacebom 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 would the concept of conspicuous spending in our faces — carries a guaranteed ten-minute laugh. As a critic, as a movie commentator, Aldrich’s Ten Seconds to Hell or Michael Powell’s and Emric Presbury’s The Smell Back Room. The ambush in mid-desert, outside the squad’s normal sphere of operations, is if anything even tenser.
SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA
Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)

Clash of the Titans (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:30, 7:00, 9:45; Sun.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:30, 7:00, Mon.-Thu.: 4:30, 7:15; Mon.-Thu.: 4:30, 7:15, The Last Song (PG) Fri. & Sat.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:45, 7:40, 10:00; Sun.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:30, 7:15, Mot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri. & Sat.: (11:45, 2:30), 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; Sun.: (11:45, 2:30), 5:15, 8:00; Mon.-Thu.: 5:15, 8:00, The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (12:30, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun.: (12:30, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; Mon.-Thu.: (3:15, 5:45, 8:15); Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Fri. & Sat.: (11:00, 1:15, 3:30), 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; Sun.: (11:00, 1:15, 3:30), 6:00, 8:15; Mon.-Thu.: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, Repo Men (R) Fri. & Sat.: (11:45), 5:00, 10:15; Sun.: (11:45), 5:00, Mon.-Thu.: 3:00 pm; Our Family Wedding (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:15, 1:30, 3:45), 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; Sun.: (11:15, 3:30, 3:45, 6:15, 8:30; Mon.-Thu.: (3:45, 6:15, 8:30, She's Out of My League (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:25, 2:15, 4:30), 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:35, 7:25, 9:55, Green Zone (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 10:15), Hot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri. (11:45, 2:35, 5:10) 7:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35, How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri. (11:50, 12:00, 2:30, 2:35, 4:55) 6:40, 7:49, 9:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 12:20, 2:30, 2:45) 4:50, 7:05, 7:35, 9:45, 10:15; Our Family Wedding (PG-13) Fri. (11:45) 7:15 Sat. Sun. 4:45, 7:15, She's out of My League (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:40, 2:45), Why Did I Get Married Too? (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:00) 7:20, 10:10 Sun. (12:00, 5:00) 7:20, 10:20

SANTEE

Sanette Drive In
39900 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7474)
Alice in Wonderland (PG); Clash of the Titans (PG-13); How to Train Your Dragon (PG); Perry’s Why Did I Get Married Too? (PG)

Clash of the Titans (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:30, 7:00, 9:45; Sun.: (11:30, 2:00), 4:30, 7:00; Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (12:15, 3:00), 5:30, 8:30, 10:30; Sun.: (12:15, 3:00), 5:30, 8:30, Mon.-Thu.: 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, Tyler Perry’s Why Did I Get Married Too? (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:00) 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; Sun.: (11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:00), 6:00, 8:15; Mon.-Thu.: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, Repo Men (R) Fri. & Sat.: (11:45), 5:00, 10:15; Sun.: (11:45), 5:00, Mon.-Thu.: 3:00 pm; Our Family Wedding (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:15, 1:30, 3:45), 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; Sun.: (11:15, 3:30, 3:45, 6:15, 8:30; Mon.-Thu.: (3:45, 6:15, 8:30, She’s Out of My League (R) Fri.-Sun.: (11:25, 2:15, 4:30), 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:35, 7:25, 9:55, Green Zone (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 10:15), Hot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri. (11:45, 2:35, 5:10) 7:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35, How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri. (11:50, 12:00, 2:30, 2:35, 4:55) 6:40, 7:49, 9:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 12:20, 2:30, 2:45) 4:50, 7:05, 7:35, 9:45, 10:15; Our Family Wedding (PG-13) Fri. (11:45) 7:15 Sat. Sun. 4:45, 7:15, She’s out of My League (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:40, 2:45), Why Did I Get Married Too? (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:00) 7:20, 10:10 Sun. (12:00, 5:00) 7:20, 10:20
SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California W.) (760-426-2124)

Clash of the Titans (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:45) 7:10, 9:50; Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 2:10), 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10) 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; The Last Song (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:25, 7:05, 9:45); Why Did I Get Married Too? (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:35) 7:15, 10:10

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7649)

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 2:00, 4:40) 7:20, 10:00; Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:40, 5:15) 7:30, 10:30; The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:50, 4:35) 7:15, 9:55; Clash of the Titans (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:15, 4:30, 6:10, 8:30) 10:15, 12:30; Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:20, 4:55) 7:35, 10:10 Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:20, 4:55) 7:35, 10:10; Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:25, 4:45) 7:00, 9:25; Hot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:50, 5:15) 7:40, 10:05; How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00, 8:00, 9:00; How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, 10:15); The Last Song (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 11:50, 1:50, 2:30, 4:10) 7:10, 7:30, 9:50, 10:15, 11:35; She’s out of My League (R) Fri.-Sun. 10:15pm.; Why Did I Get Married Too? (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:45, 5:05) 7:25, 9:45

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2305 Mission Avenue (760-228-7499)

Clash of the Titans (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 7:00, 9:25; Hot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00) 7:15, 9:45; The Last Song (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 12:30, 2:50) 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Highlands Road (858-646-9420)

Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun.-Thu.: (10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45) The Last Song (PG) Fri. & Sat.: (11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, Sun.-Tue. (11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, Wed. (10:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00), Thu. (11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00); Hot Tub Time Machine (R) Fri. & Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45) Sun.-Thu. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45); How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30) Sun.-Thu. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30); The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 10:30, 12:30) 5:30, 8:15; Greenberg (R) Fri. & Sat.: (10:15, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:10; Sun.-Thu.: (10:15, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, The Ghost Writer (PG-13) Fri.-Sat.: (10:30, 1:15, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00, Sun.-Wed. (10:30, 1:15, 4:00) 7:00, Thu. (10:30, 1:15, 4:00). The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Män som hatar kvinnor) (NR) Fri. & Sat.: (10:00, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45; Sun.-Thu.: (10:00, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30)

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469) Shutter Island (R) Fri. 6:00, 9:00 Sat. (3:00) 6:00, 8:00 Sun. (4:00) 7:00, The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) Fri. 12:00am.

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
9641 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-399-4211) Clash of the Titans 3D (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; The Last Song (PG) Fri. & Sat. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45) Sun.-Tue. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, Thu. (10:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, Hard Tub Time Machine (R) Fri. & Sat.: (12:15, 2:45, 5:45, 10:15, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:00, 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45, 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30, Sun.-Thu. (10:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. (10:00, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45) Sun.-Thu. (12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, Tyler Perry’s Why Did I Get Married Too (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, Sun.-Thu. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:00, 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, The Last Song (PG) Fri. & Sat. (11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, Sun.-Thu. (11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri. & Sat. (12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 4:45, 7:25, 10:15, Sun.-Thu. (11:15, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 10:15; Sep: ...
DAVID MATT GREEN
Associate producer and technical advisor, Return to Dwight and Niles: The Crash of PSA Flight 182; ShyCloud
DAVID FERNANDEZ
Actor, actor/fernandez
I would like to recommend Patch Adams, starring Robin Williams as a man who believes laughter can heal; and Life Is Beautiful starring Roberto Benigni as a Jewish man who takes a unique approach to surviving the horrors of a concentration camp. I love these two movies because of their powerful messages! I feel the movies have great symbolism, a positive approach and attitude toward life. They just show how ordinary people live extraordinary lives.

**PATCH ADAMS** (USA) 1998, Universal
List price: $5.98
**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL** (Italy) 1997, Miramax
List price: $19.99

Patch Adams
To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com

**The Blues Brothers**

**DAVID PATRONE**
Crooner, davidpatrone.com
I first saw The Blues Brothers when I was in my early teens and was amazed by the juxtaposition of músician, crusader, and criminal married to an incredible soundtrack and eclectic, relevant cameos that helped to frame an invaluable era of influential music in a new world that had seemingly passed it by. Although it’s an obvious comedy, there lies beneath an amazing story that captured the imagination of a young man and has inspired an amazing journey so far.

Ray tells the powerful true story of an amazing musician who overcame unbelievable obstacles such as blindness, racism and drug addiction to affect multiple generations with his struggle and brilliant musical adaptations. On another level it demonstrates a virtuoso performance by another amazing performer, Jamie Foxx. The overall production quality of the storytelling and cinematography combine to create a real masterpiece.

**SEEN ON DVD**

Townes Van Zandt: Be Here to Love Me
DAVID FERNANDEZ
Actor, actor/fernandez
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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 619-231-0499 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92118-5803, 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 JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly! And now for the really small print:
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.

Across
1. It can carry a tune
2. An arm or a leg
9. Door parts
14. Philosopher Descartes
15. Japan’s continent
16. Dickens’ Heep
17. You’re doing one in German
19. Sculptor Richard
20. 1972 Olympics swimming phenom Mark
21. Pitcher’s tour de force
23. Proactiv target
25. Inner: Prefix
26. “All systems go” signals
30. You’re doing one in French
36. Item with underwires
40. Family reunion activity
42. It commonly follows a game at a time
44. It can carry a tune
46. Happy birthday, Andrew!
48. “High School Musical” song
51. Natural flavoring
52. Zenith competitor
54. Spot overlooking center court, say
57. “Holy smoked”!
59. It’s full of holes and traps
60. Sportscaster Hershiser
61. “It’s now or never” time
64. Sounds from a librarian
67. “We gonna handle this stuff”
68. Item with underwires
70. Be “_” in the ointment
71. Three-line poem
72. Three-line poem
73. You’re doing one in Spanish
74. A loser: A gigolo with chapped lips
77. “Holy smokes!”
78. “Thou _ votary to fond desire”
82. “Bring it on!”
83. A loser: A gigolo with chapped lips
84. “Bring it on!”
85. Song of Spring
86. “We gonna handle this stuff”
87. “Bite the bullet”
89. “I love you”
90. “I love you”
91. “Bring it on!”
92. “The Wind in the Willows” amphibian
93. “Bring it on!”
94. It’s full of holes and traps
95. “Bring it on!”
96. “Bring it on!”
97. “Bring it on!”
98. “Bring it on!”
99. “Bring it on!”
100. “Bring it on!”

Down
1. Bugs
2. Cop’s target
4. Old Test. book
5. Counselor’s area
6. Knows about
7. Spanish artist Joan
8. National Institutes of Health location
9. “Bring it on!”
10. “Am not” response
11. Bog
12. Pitcher’s tour de force
13. Al Green’s “_”-La-La (Make Me Happy)
14. Word “used to suggest the smell of snoring,” according to the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary
15. Japon’s continent
16. Old Test. book
17. Bog
18. William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 12. Check out “She and Him.” Zooey is the band.
19. Harry Engel, La Jolla, 12. Happy birthday, Andrew!
21. Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 12. There’s no one fighting for our love. God loves you. Jesus Christ is Savior.
22. John Pertle, Santee, 12. Honey, I do love you and miss the cuddling.
23. Michael Panther, Point Loma, 11. Please don’t burn the surf club.
27. Susan Morfrey, Little Italy, 8. Cautions! I brake for no good reason.
30. Dean and Bob Bekken, San Diego, 7. Please, see this message in real time.
31. Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, 7. Jewish ice cream — ice cream Cohen.
32. Ellen Bourne, San Carlos, 2. I’m Famous again.
33. Rebecca Barnett, Clairemont, 1. Better the pain of discipline than the pain of regret.
34. Vince Cusso, San Marcos, 1. Fat kids always win at see-saw.
35. Laura Stanger, Santa Cruz, 1. The jerk store called — they’re running out of you!
36. Pam Mecklenberg, Pacific Beach, 6. I love you my Lary! Hi to all my friends.
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5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly.
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7) Late entries will not be considered.
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9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Neighborhood/City: __________________________
State: __________________ Zip Code: ________
Circle T-shirt size: L XL
Personal Message: __________________________

See your ranking online!
Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the “comments” feature, you must be a registered site member.

This week’s contenders:
Indicates T-shirt winner.

EASY:
Don Bowman, Santee, 12.
John Pertle, Santee, 12.
Sebastian Certik, Bonita, 6.
Josie Ranches, San Diego, 6.
Stuart A. Young, San Diego, 6.
Ken Hanson, Clairemont, 4.
Peter Mound, Santee, 4.
Alford Claiborne, Encanto, 12.

MEDIUM:
Dane a dozen.
Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 11.
Linda Bible, El Cajon, 11.
Roy Chung, San Diego, 11.
Thomas B. Billings, San Diego.
Jeff Loeb, San Diego, 4.
Todd Wilkins, San Diego, 4.
Edwin Salvador, Spring Valley, 3.

HARD:
Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 12.

EVIL:
Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 2.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:
EASY:
MEDIUM:
HARD:
EVIL:

NEIGHBORHOOD/CITY:

ROCKY:

CELL PHONES:

Thank you for all your help!

THE CANADIAN PUZZLE:

KING OF THE NORTH:

EVIL:

EASY:

MEDIUM:

HARD:

EVIL:

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

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MEDIUM:

HARD:

EVIL:
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Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

How Does Our Garden Grow?
O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day, from about midnight until three o’clock in the morning; gentle and warm so that it can soak in... that there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough worms, no plant lice and snails, no mildew, and that once a week thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven.

Karel Čapek
The Gardener’s Prayer

You can identify the various members of this little plant community by filling in the spaces in the answer key.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: __________________________
Address: ______________________
Neighborhood/City: ____________________________
State: ______________________ Zip Code: ________
Circle T-shirt size:   L   XL
Personal Message: ______________________________

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:
1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another 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 sandiegoreader.com.
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.
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 92186-8583 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 .jpg format; 800 by 800 pixels maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another 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 sandiegoreader.com.
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THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:
  ☼ indicates T-shirt winner.

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 4.
  Thanks Pete and Downtown Library.
  Everett Conrad, San Diego, 4.
  I wonder what #4 is?
  Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 4.
  Thanks for the T! Best odd ever.

Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del Mar, 4.
  Peter, congratulations on your persistent pursuit of puzzle perfection.
  Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 4.
  Aves of a feather flock together.

Ed Barno, San Diego, 3.
  Number 2 must have been Avis Fordo Boomboom.
  A.T. Certik, Bonita, 3.
  Alles Affenschenk
  Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 3.
  Birds of a feather.
  Richard Hutchings, Santa Cruz, 3.
  Tricky! 25 Images and only 24 pseudo-scientific names!

Susan Morfrey, Little Italy, 3.
  Co-rape!! How far are the birds now we know.
  Ted Scafidi, San Diego, 3.
  Hi Man!
  Ralph Hayward, El Cajon, 2.
  Just like the old Reader puzzle!
  What fan?
  Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 2.
  Happy birthday Brenda! Hella Kiera and Bada!

Donn Larsson, San Diego, 2.
  Fly fast, fly a mooney.
  Barbara Larson, San Diego, 2.
  I’ll fly away Oh glory.
  Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 2.
  More to love.
  Michael Carchini, Chula Vista, 1.
  One in the hand is worth 2 in the bush.
  Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 1.
  F

John Porter, Santee, 1.
  Consider the birds
  Susan Williams, North Park, 1.
  Birds of a feather!
**RED MEAT**

overturned school bus on memory lane

from the secret files of Max cannon

by Max Cannon ©2010

Ah...the glorious shimmer of an endless white beach laid out before me. Almost perfect for some au naturel sunbathing.

Almost perfect.

Too bad it's the ashes of civilization.

by Max Cannon ©2010

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Church services or blessings on the beach. Call 858-272-2813. See: www.personalizedweddings.zoombook.com

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Creative services for your special occasion. Videography, video editing, and event coordinators for all occasions! We offer affordable, high-quality services for every budget. Serving all of San Diego. www.azulproductions.com, 619-246-0915 or 760-224-8287

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**AUDITIONS FOR APA.** Dance. Salsa, salsa, salsa. All styles. Video submissions acceptable for auditions; 20 audition fee Saturday April 3, 2pm, 619-282-1884. Address on class/scholarships.html

**FOUR WEEK ACTING WORKSHOP**


**NEW TV PILOT!** San Diego. Auditions for TV series host, writers, actors for new Christian sitcom for singles celibate in the city. San Diego, CA. Email: callbsalzbacher@yahoo.com, or call 323-300-1313.

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**NOTICE**

AED on campus.

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**ACTION/REFLECTION DIARY:** Can be read privately or shared with others.

**4th WEEK ACTING WORKSHOP**


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**NOTICE**

AED on campus.
What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm a pretty ordinary person, so I don't know if there's anything people would be surprised to know. People that I know professionally may be surprised to know that I play poker online. I finished number one out of 10,000 people once. I started with 1500 chips and ended with more than three million. But it's just pretend. I would never do it for real because I wouldn't want to lose the money. I'm a pretty pedestrian person.

**Kevin Ramos**

Program Coordinator

Vista

That I want to be Tumblr famous!

A Tumblr is like blogging, I have this Tumblr that my friends don't know about with all these weird pictures on it that I think are funny or that I think are interesting that no one really knows that I have. I'd love to share it, because I'd love to be Tumblr famous.

**Catherine Rodman**

Legal Service Attorney

South Park

I'm a copy machine repairer, and I also repair e-mail servers.

**Manuel Vasquez**

Production Supervisor

La Mesa

Like country music. People probably look at me and they judge me — they probably think I like rap or something like that, but I like country music, I just listen to it on the radio — it's kind of a recent thing, so I don't really know the artists or their names, but I like Brad Paisley. Friends at work turn me on to it.

**Ashlee Dawn Morris**

Assistant Stylist

Sherman Heights

My father is a former professional baseball player. It's a big family and that I come from a really big family and that I come from a Christian family, because I look so crazy. People don't know that I was actually a missionary in high school, I went to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. I'm still a Christian, but I don't really go to church that often because I'm gay, so they don't really accept me that much. I kind of stopped going when I was, like, 18 — I no longer had to go because I was out of my parents' house. I still have my same beliefs. I just don't really do that anymore. I believe what I believe, and I go about my life. I have compassion for the community and for people. I'm a big humanitarian.

**Nubia Martinez**

Legal Service Attorney

Valle

I like to be Tumblr famous. Things that I know professionally that I want to be Tumblr famous about with all these weird artists or their names, but I like Brad Paisley. I really love country music. People probably think I like rap, but I like country music. I just listen to it on the radio — it's kind of a recent thing, so I don't really know the artists or their names, but I like Brad Paisley. Friends at work turn me on to it.

**Theresa Ackman**

Student

I was in the World Body Surfing Championships this summer and got third. That was in Ocean-side. I had to go there because I was out of my parents' house. I still have my same beliefs. I just don't really do that anymore. I believe what I believe, and I go about my life. I have compassion for the community and for people. I'm a big humanitarian.

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Dr. Robert Walcher, Palmer graduate, voted Pacific Beach’s top chiropractor

Events Calendar

Healthy and Unforgettable, Saturday, April 3, noon-2pm. Vegan San Diego hosts healthy cooking demonstration with “recipes for entertaining every guest at every occasion” presented by “Sister Lang and her friend.” Gift bags, food samples. Admission free. Logan Heights Library, 811 South 28th Street, San Diego 92113. 858-705-3987.

Heal Your Body, Get Fit, Clear the Mind of Stress. Thursday, April 1, Tuesday, April 6 & 5pm: Fitness class — Core strength, stability and conditioning mat class. 6pm: Yoga—Hatha Vinyasa mix. 7:30pm: Alternative Wellness Clinic—Acupuncture/ Massage/ Energy Medicine learn meditation healing and more. $10 donation for the entire evening. Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, San Diego 92116. 619-884-2662, prakdesheffulgence@yahoo.com.


Loving the Skin You Are In. Thursday, April 1, 6-7pm. Scripps La Jolla dermatologist Darrell Gonzales, MD, offers discussion of skin cancer and sun damage prevention, as well as newest procedures, products “to rejuvenate your skin.” Admission free. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Avenue, San Diego 92037. Registration: 800-727-4777.

Wine and Food…For the Health of It. Saturday, April 10, 2pm. Course showcases “healthy, easy-to-prepare foods as well as several healthy wines to pair with the foods.” Culinary experts plan cooking demonstrations on preparation of delicious, healthy foods; wine-making experts discuss healthy qualities of the wines served with the foods. Fee includes all wines served, small portions of each food prepared, recipes to take home. Admission $20-$25. Ages 21 and up. Belle Marie Winery and Chateau Dragoon, 26312 Mesa Rock Road, Escondido 92026. RSVP: 760-796-7575.


How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Dog. Thursday, April 8, 6-30pm. Workshop covers topics such as house training, socialization with people and other animals, calmness in home, communication with your dog, basic nutrition, more. For people only. Admission $35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street, San Diego 92110. Required reservations: 619-299-7012 x2247.

Save Green by Going Green. Saturday, April 3, 10am-3pm. Eco Fair 2010 promises information booths, demonstrations from more than 25 local companies, government agencies, NGOs. “Environmentally friendly activities for families and children.” Admission free. National University, 9388 Lightwave Avenue, San Diego 92123. 858-642-8383.

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Andrea Martinez (Carmel Valley) $10

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reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at

p.100 Alvin..

p.149 Hick-ses

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Rental 
Houses

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| Cabrillo by the Sea | Full ocean view with beach access. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. One block from ocean. Tennis pillow. Very quiet. Laundry. Fireplace. 619-889-0798. |
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| La Jolla | $2500. Approximately 2000 square feet. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, corner, all utilities included. Great for lease in First Rock area. Previously was Butty’s Restaurant, tenant improvements. Negotiable. 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, 619-239-6609, www.centrecity.net. |
| La Mesa/ College Area | Workshops and art gallery. 10 affordable units available. Safe and secure. Indoor bathroom/ kitchen. Locked storage space. Price negotiable. 619-386-7853. |
| Pacific Beach Luxury | from $985 | Pacific Beach, San Diego. 6 rate plans to choose from. | San Diego Guide April 2010 159 | Rent a home by the beach. Great location. 619-992-7791. |
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- Very clean; great location with on-site parking.
- 2 bath, 1335 square feet. Upstairs.
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- Hillcrest. 7115. Huge 3-bedroom, 2 bath, 1335 square feet, heat, water, trash included. $850. "A must see!"

- Spacious rooms, fireplace, 2 parking spots. Available now! 3718, $1385.

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- Bright, charming studio; Near Coaster. $850. "A must see!"


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**MILD ABANDON**

by E.J. Pettinger ©2010
**LEAD STORY**

— A day spa for dogs ("Wag Style") in Tokyo offers sessions in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, supposedly easing doggy arthritis, healing wounds, and halting aging. (Some racehorse owners are certain that the chamber helps with equine muscle and joint problems, but an academic researcher told a HongBong.net writer that evidence of benefit is "anecdot al.").

**Compelling Explanations**

— At first, Rev. Fred Armfield’s arrest for patronizing a prostitute in Greenwood, S.C., in January looked controversial, with Armfield allegedly confessing that he had bargained Melinda “Truck Stop” Robinson down from $10 to $5 for oral sex. Several days later, however, Armfield formally disputed the arrest, calling himself a “descendant of the original Moro-Pithicus Disoch, Kopynathericus and Afro Pithecus,” a “living flesh and blood being with sovereign status” and someone who, based on his character and community standing, should not be prosecuted. Also, he claimed that any payment to “Truck Stop” with Federal Reserve notes did not legally constitute a purchase.

— Glenn Armstrong, 47, had a defense ready when police accused him of taking restroom photographs of boys in Brisbane, Australia, in January. He said he was having an ongoing debate with his wife and was gathering proof that most boys are not circumcised.

— Sheriff’s deputies in Austin, Texas, arrested Anthony Gigliotti, 17, after complaints that the teen was annoying women by following them around in public and snapping photographs of their clothing. Gigliotti told the deputies that he needed the photos because the sex education at his Lake Travis High School was inadequate.

**Ironies**

— In February, the trade group Mortgage Bankers Association announced the sale of its Washington, D.C., headquarters for $41 million. The association had purchased the building in 2007, at the peak of the real estate bubble, for $79 million.

**Our Litigious Society**

— Craig Show, 49, filed a lawsuit in January against the Idaho State Police and the Bonner County Sheriff’s Office, demanding compensation following his DUI arrest in August. Show said the cops had seized a “medicine bag” on his motorcycle and, in opening it for inspection, permitted the “mystical powers” inside to escape. The bag was blessed by a “medicine woman” in 1995 and, Show said, had been unopened since then.

— Sabrina Medina filed a lawsuit against the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Resort in Hawaii in January, claiming that an employee had caused her husband’s death. The late Humberto Murillo had swept two 12-packs of beer from a store at the resort, but the manager pursued and confronted him. Murillo started punching, and bystanders came to the manager’s aid, restrained Murillo, and held him down. Murillo, who was bipolar and had marijuana in his system, passed out, and asphyxiated.

— Teacher Karen Hollander filed a lawsuit in November against the New York City Department of Education after taking a fall on “slippery foreign substances,” including condoms, on the floor at the High School of Art & Design. Since schools distribute condoms on campus, she said, the department is responsible when students open them and discard them during the lunch period, littering the floor.

**Least Competent Criminals**

— Myessa Williams, 20, and a friend walked into the police station in DeLand, Fla., in January and demanded to know why their photos appeared in local crime news on TV. Following questioning, police decided Williams was the woman on their surveillance video robbing a beauty shop and arrested her (but since Williams’s friend had left before the actual robbery, she was not charged).

— The burglar who stole already-filled prescription orders from the West Main Pharmacy in Medford, Ore., in January limited his take to three group-ready packages filed under “O.” Police guessed that the burglar must have been after the commonly stolen Oxycodone and was unaware that outgoing prescriptions are filled by customers’ last names, not their medications.

**Recurring Themes**

— Last May, a 13-year-old boy in Galt, Calif., became the most recent inadvertent beneficiary of foolish behavior. Acting on a dare, the boy had chugged eight shots of tequila and lost consciousness. A routine CT scan at the hospital exposed an until-now-unrevealed brain tumor, and the boy is slowly recovering from his lifesaving surgery.

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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**Reader Comments**

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**San Diego Reader, April 1, 2010**

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**Glenn Armstrong, 47, had a defense ready when police accused him of taking restroom photographs of boys in Brisbane, Australia, in January. He said he was having an ongoing debate with his wife and was gathering proof that most boys are not circumcised.**
"Fun with Religion" by Bill Griffith ©2010
By Isabel Moreno

### What's Going on Here?

Accusations of election improprieties abound after recent elections in Jim Wells County. San Diego residents Tracy Lopez and her husband, Mark Anthony Lopez, accuse Mark’s stepmother, Cindy Lopez, of forging a mail-in ballot in her husband’s name. The Alice Echo-News Journal details the similar actions of election campaigner Norma Lopez (no relation to Tracy, Mark, and Cindy), who allegedly collected and hand-delivered (and may have even filled out) absentee ballots on behalf of residents who claim not to have voted at all. In a third election-related story, Eddie De Leon of Jim Wells County was turned away from the polls because “he’d already voted” via mail-in ballot. The next day, when election officials showed De Leon a copy of “his” ballot, De Leon denied its legitimacy. “That’s not my signature,” he said. “What’s going on here?”

### Beyond Strong

At the Region V Power Meet at Welasco High School, Justin Garcia placed second in the 181-pound division, with a total of 1350 pounds. The Alice High School senior’s statistics for the competition included a 540-pound squat, a 310-pound bench-press, and a 500-pound dead-lift. The score qualifies Garcia for the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Championships in Abilene, Texas.

### Stung

Duval County officials and U.S. Marshals, working alongside Texas state troopers and the San Diego and Freer police departments, ended a six-month sting operation during which undercover agents and criminal informants bought marijuana, cocaine, and heroin from local drug dealers. The operation ended with the arrest of 13 individuals on drug-related charges. “For us, it’s a huge victory,” says José Martinez, chief deputy for the Duval County Sheriff’s Department. “Where there’s drugs, you’re going to have burglaries and vandalism because [drug addicts] don’t have jobs and they need to support their habit.”

### Thick as Thieves

San Diego police, Alice police, and Jim Wells County sheriffs arrested several alleged members of a burglary ring operating in and around San Diego. Isasuro Franco III, Federico Juarez Sr., and Joel Salinas (all of San Diego) face multiple charges, including burglary, grand theft, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Police blame the ring for more than 20 break-ins during the first three months of 2010, including attacks on the Big Taco restaurant, Rosie’s Corner Store, and several automotive repair shops.
Sunday worship: 8:45 a.m. (contemporary), 10 a.m. (traditional)

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 10 minutes

Website: villagechurch.org

It was perhaps odd to see people dressed in their Sunday finery sitting on folding chairs in the pale gray utilitarian confines of a fellowship hall. But I learned quickly that the oddness would not endure. Next Sunday, on Easter, the congregation would take its seats for the 8:45 and 10:30 services in the new, just-finished sanctuary across the courtyard.

The oddness that would endure provided the theme for the service: the oddness of being a Christian. The oddness of people in a well-to-do 21st-century American suburb crying out during the call to worship, “Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you!” of those same people apologizing for “turning to gods of our own making and following pathways of our own choosing”; of choir and congregation thundering forth a song lyric full of contradiction: “Ride on, ride in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die/ Bow Your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, Your power and reign.”

Again, it was perhaps odd to hear Reverend Scott Mitchell acknowledge in prayer that his congregation, successful by most worldly standards, “must stand in opposition to the world’s ways.” To hear him ask for courage “to stand up for Jesus Christ... to minister to the outcast and the desperate. To work for that very same superhuman natural peace that everyone everywhere longs to have—that can only come from You. Help us not to scatter and leave You Alone. May we take courage, remembering that You have conquered the world.”

How do we know that Jesus has conquered the world? Because He said so, in the reading taken from John’s Gospel: “In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

And see what we mean.
Easter at Newbreak

Relaxed. Real. Relevant.

At Newbreak Church, you will find a relaxed atmosphere, a relevant message, and a real community of people who want to welcome you as you are! Kids will have a blast searching for eggs and making a special Easter craft, while adults get to hear an inspiring Easter message that can be applied to your life right now.

Newbreak is meeting you where you’re at in life, and around the county. Check out NEWBREAK.ORG to choose from 10 service times & 5 locations!

San Diego location: April 2, Good Friday Service @ 7 pm
Oceanides Services: Every Sunday @ 3 pm

CHRIST CHAPEL WORLD MINISTRIES
One Church, Two Locations
3004 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego
1690 Oceanides Blvd., Oceanides (853) 540-1113

HOLY THURSDAY – April 1, Mass at the Lord’s Supper. Presentation of the Eucharist at 10:00 AM. At 10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Passion of Christ. Consecration of the Cross and Holy Communion. 10:00 PM en espanol.

GOOD FRIDAY – April 1, 3:00 PM, Liturgy of the Passion of Christ, Consecration of the Cross and Holy Communion. 10:00 PM en español.

EASTER SUNDAY – April 2, Easter Morning Masses: 7:00 AM; 9:00 AM (especially for families of children under 15), 10:30 AM, (12:00 PM en espanol), (No evening Mass) Easter Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins and our bondage. On the third day he rose again! He is alive as we celebrate the holy mass in the scriptures on we read and in the breaking of the bread (the eucharist). Celebrate and celebrate with us the life in Christ!

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2717 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-297-3289

— Matthew Lickona

Video of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiegoreader.com.

St. Columba Catholic Church in Serra Mesa

HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of The Lord’s Supper • 7 pm
GOOD FRIDAY
Liturgy Services • 1 & 7 pm
EASTER VIGIL
Saturday, April 2 • 7 pm
EASTER SUNDAY MASSES
Sunday, April 3 • 7:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM
Children’s Mass at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall

St. Columba Church
Pastor: Rev. Mario Elias
3327 Glencolumb Drive, San Diego, CA 92123 • 858-277-3863

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcomed here!

You are invited to a solemn 45-minute Good Friday service at 12:05 PM on April 1st, and to a traditional Easter Sunday service on April 2nd at 10:30 AM.

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...Knock and It Shall Be Opened to You

For those seeking the peace that faith brings, join us in our journey...

Sunday Service: 9:45 am Pastor Wayne Riggins

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EASTER SUNDAY and EASTER EGG HUNTS

Sunday, April 3 • 10:00 AM & 11:15 AM

For those seeking the peace that faith brings, join us in our journey...

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Dionysus: Myth and Cult
Walter F. Otto

“Myth and Cultus” Whether we investigate the cultus and belief of a particular culture or human life as it is expressed in it, we always arrive at a great act of creation. . . . The total Gestalt of what we call religion rests upon a commanding and we the creation of this myth, culture and a national ethos are established. Prior to this they are not there at all. Of course, we do not mean by this that all of the varied perspectives of myth had to enter the world at one moment. The vitality which produced the great event could have had to create constantly something new — content and shows, and always the same.

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One thing we do not mean by this is that all the varied perspectives of myth had to enter the world at one moment. The vitality which produced the great event could have had to create constantly something new — content and shows, and always the same.

The Gods of Greece

The vitaliti of the gods, the, the of all the various creation is inseparably bound to the myth of one godhead. With the creation of this myth, culture and a national ethos are established. Prior to this they are not there at all. Of course, we do not mean by this that all the varied perspectives of myth had to enter the world at one moment. The vitality which produced the great event could have had to create constantly something new — content and shows, and always the same.

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