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<th>Age*</th>
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<td>Is your doctor “I Lasik” certified?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Will your exam, surgery and follow-up care be provided by the same doctor?</td>
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<td>Do they use the new “Iris Registration Tracking Device” for a safer, more effective procedure?</td>
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<td>Do they offer 4th generation FS IntraLase to create a safer, faster, more controlled, bladeless all-laser procedure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Do they have hidden prices or add-on fees?</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Will they diagnose your vision needs and recommend the most appropriate refractive surgery (LASIK, CK, PRK, Multifocal Implants/Restor, etc.)?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**UNDER THE RADAR**

**Jerry’s money**  This March 26, as in years past, San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders filed an annual Statement of Economic Interests, required under state law, listing something called Maxxum Equity Fund, which the statement identifies as a “hedge fund.” The mayor’s ownership stake was said to be in the form of a partnership share, with a fair market value of between $10,000 and $100,000. According to the statement, it was held at least through the end of 2009, the reporting period covered by the filing. But last year, Maxxum principal Jeffery Wetzel of Poway filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy liquidation after 77-year-old investor James Meredith filed suit in superior court here, claiming he’d lost $90,000 in the fund.

As Don Bauder reported last December, Wetzel didn’t pay his defense lawyer or show up for hearings, and the court moved to award a default judgment against him. Wetzel “pleaded poverty from the get-go,” Eric Benink, Meredith’s first attorney, told Bauder. “The judge got fed up and allowed us to take default.” A disgruntled investor from North County who didn’t want to be identified said she’d lost $135,000: “I have been saying, ‘Jeff, I have nothing; show me where the money went. All I have is your telling me I have nothing. He provided no documentation.” Somehow, though, based on his recent filing Sanders seems to have kept his investment. He didn’t respond to phone calls regarding the matter.

On November 30, 2009, Meredith filed an action against Wetzel in bankruptcy court, alleging the fund was “nothing more than a classic Ponzi/Madoff scheme.” A response filed December 21 on behalf of Wetzel by San Diego attorney Deborah Garvin denied the charge and said Wetzel had “fully explained the type of investment which was being made and the risks involved, including providing plaintiff a Subscription Booklet for Maxxum Equity Fund, LLC, which explained the investment and risk involved and which plaintiff signed.” Last week Garvin declined comment regarding the matter. A pretrial status conference has been noticed for April 15, but could be delayed, according to Meredith’s attorney. Meanwhile, the mayor’s disclosure report also reveals that his wife, Rana Sampson, an ex-New York cop and former director of public safety at the University of San Diego, received between $10,000 and $100,000 from a San Diego Center for Children, where the website identifies her as senior director of development and marketing. According to the San Diego Business Journal, donors to the center have included Sempra Energy, Cox Communications, and Wells Fargo bank. Many of the donors have had business before the City. State taxpayers also contribute to the center’s budget. In addition, Sanders reported that Sampson earned between $10,000 and $100,000 from her consulting outfit, Community Policing Associates, which was valued at between $10,000 and $100,000.

**Road to the poorhouse**  Two weeks ago the South Bay Expressway, run by a subsidiary of Australia’s Macquarie Infrastructure Group, filed for bankruptcy; a victim of high gas prices and generally recessional times. But before it went officially broke, the highway, which runs from Otay Mesa to Spring Valley via Eastlake and Chula Vista’s Otay Ranch, furnished some local politicos with last-hurrah cash. According to a state disclosure filing, dated last April 20, the expressway operation gave each assembly member Marty Block and Mary Salas, both Democrats, and to Republican state senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Democrat Mary Hayashi’s state assembly campaign got $500. Last year the now-bankrupt highway company spent a total of $36,606.38 on the lobbying firm of Aprea & Micheli.

**Shooters**  This year’s prize for most unusual source of income reported by a member of the San Diego City Council has to go to the Seventh District’s Marti Emerald, who reports selling her “personal gun collection” to Southern California Gun for between $10,000 and $100,000. The filing shows Emerald, a former TV reporter, still values her Emerald Group, a media consulting outfit, at between $2000 and $10,000, although it brought in less than $500. Third District councilman Todd Gloria gets the award for raking in the most freebies, listing no fewer than 31 gratuities, including a fruit basket from ex-city council hopeful Marshall Merrifield ($93.60); tickets to Ritz in the Zoo from the legal and lobbying firm of Hecht, Solberg, Robinson, Goldberg & Bagley ($185); admission to the San Diego County Taxpayers Association Watchdog Awards ($50); and a ticket to the play Cornelia, about the late Alabama governor George Wallace and his second wife, at the Old Globe ($58).

---

**Did Sanders Order Detective Reprimanded?**  New filings in the case of Scott Kessler versus the City of San Diego suggest Mayor...  

**Qualcomm CEO: Pay Down Slightly While Profits Plunge**  The New York Times published today (April 4) its performance as...  

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**Broke Cities (including this one)**

By Don Bauder

Those euro-zone countries get everything backward — working to live instead of living to work. That’s what we smugg Americans think. Take Greece. It has promised too much too soon to its pensioners, whose average retirement age is 61. And there’s excessive generosity in other financially ailing European countries known by the snotty acronym PIIGS, standing for Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and Spain. Actually, even the so-called stable countries of Europe, such as France, are too indulgent.

But let’s not get too overconfident in our own country, as the New York Times pointed out in a March 12 story, Jagadeesh Gokhale, economist with the Cato Institute, noted in that story that officially Greece’s debt would be 875 percent of output. Bad, huh? Yes. But the comparable ratio for France would be 549 percent and Germany 418 percent. The United States? About 500 percent, says Gokhale, who includes Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security obligations in his figures.

The Pew Center on the States says there is a $1 trillion gap between what the 50 states have promised workers in retirement benefits and what they have set aside. Some economists say phew to Pew. As noted in the March 15 cover story of Barron’s, finance professors Robert Novy-Marr at the University of Chicago and Joshua Rauh of Northwestern say that the funding gap for state pension plans alone might be more than $3 trillion. Take a deep breath: these professors say that state pension funds as presently set up have only a 1 in 20 chance of paying their obligations 15 years from now, according to Barron’s.

In California, State Treas... continued on page 12
Sly Smart-Meter Swap-Out

By Moss Gropen

Chris Faust thinks San Diego Gas & Electric’s approach to installing the new, much-ballyhooed smart meters isn’t “smart.” In fact, he alleges, it’s dishonest — part of the utility’s campaign to raise rates whenever possible and by whatever means it takes.

On the afternoon of February 8, as he stood in the front yard of his house in Bay Park, he was approached by an SDG&E employee who’d just stepped out of a typical service truck used by the utility. According to Faust, the clean-cut young man said he needed to perform “routine maintenance” of the meter at the side of the house. “When I saw this guy with a clean uniform — he didn’t look like a maintenance guy — my bullshit alarm went off. When you’ve been around awhile, you get an intuitive sense when something just doesn’t seem right.”

Faust was puzzled. As far as he knew, there’d been neither a gas leak nor a meter malfunction. He says that he hadn’t received a notice from the utility. He asked if, perhaps, his wife had made an appointment, but the SDG&E man (whom Faust described as “charming, gracious, and polite”) replied that no appointment had been set. And when the increasingly suspicious homeowner asked just what the maintenance entailed, an admission finally at some undetermined time, which was cryptically linked to completion of the conversion process. Faust says that the employee attempted to “intimidate” him by warning that if Faust initially refused to allow the exchange, SDG&E would enter his home to “inspect” his appliances for some sort of “compliance,” the meter on a customer’s property. For an answer to that question, I contacted Michael Shames, the executive director of the Utility Consumers’ Action Network, a not-for-profit group that describes its mission as, among other things, protecting consumers from “utility abuse.” Shames, whose organization takes credit for saving San Diego consumers “billions of dollars in unfair utility rate hikes” since 1983, seemed unsympathetic to Faust’s complaints. According to Shames — whose battles with the utility have been numerous, lengthy, and well documented — SDG&E has wide latitude when it comes to meters. He states that, because the San Diego monopoly owns the meters, it is entitled — through the jiggery-pokery of easement law — to get access to them as it pleases without notice. Further, says Shames, the company can repair or replace meters without approval. The sole right of the customer, he opines, “is the right to an accurate meter.”

For its part, the utility, which is one of five subsidiaries of the energy behemoth Sempra, has little to say about Faust’s allegations of lies and intimidation in the swap-out process. SDG&E’s local media gatekeeper, April Boklis, rebuffed my attempts to uncover details that might validate (or cast doubt on) Faust’s account. Apparently peevish about a past story that delved into the continued on page 12

San Diego Reader, April 8, 2010
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Broke cities
continued from page 6
surer Bill Lockyer says that past pension guarantees are legally cast in cement. The City of Vallejo, in the Bay Area, filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy two years ago because its employees’ pay and pensions ate up a staggering 90 percent of its budget, according to Barron’s. Vallejo has slashed employment. There have been so many cuts in police that the crime rate has risen sharply. But the root problem — excessive pension promises — has not been touched.

Over the last several decades, government pay and fringe benefits have soared while private sector remuneration sagged. Economist Chris Edwards of the Cato Institute, using figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, points out that the average salary of state and local government workers is $26.01 per hour, compared with $19.39 in the private sector. And there is a yawning gap in benefits: state and local government workers get $13.65 an hour, private sector workers $8.02. If you have been keeping track of this on your calculators, you see that total compensation (wages plus benefits) is $39.66 an hour for state and local government workers and $27.41 in the private sector.

Of those benefits, government workers get $4.34 an hour in health insurance, more than double the $1.99 of folks in the private sector. Government workers rake in $2.85 an hour in defined benefit pensions versus a mere 41 cents in the private sector. (In a defined benefit plan, retirees get a set amount each month, no matter what happens to the fund’s investments. In a defined contribution plan, employees plunk money in monthly, but their pots go up and down with the markets.)

Here’s the punch line: a whopping 80 percent of government workers get that guaranteed defined benefit pension. Only 21 percent of workers in the private sector have defined benefit plans, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Vallejo’s employees’ pay and pensions ate up 90 percent of its budget.

The stark truth is that, increasingly, governments know they can’t meet future obligations. But fearing that they can’t break pension promises, they punish the citizenry by raising taxes and fees and slashing services, maintenance, and urgently necessary infrastructural spending. Sound familiar, San Diegans?

To play catch-up, public sector pension funds are putting money into gamy things such as hedge funds, venture capital, private equity funds, junk bonds, commodities, and the like. Also, they are not slashing the high percentage of their portfolios that they had in stocks in the fat years. Back in 2006, both public and private sector funds had about 60 percent of their assets in stocks, according to the National Institute on Retirement Security.

Now, despite all the mayhem in the stock market, public funds still have 57 percent in stocks. But private sector funds are down to 38 percent equities as they put more into conservative bonds. Some of that is no doubt due to caution, and some relates to a change in the law. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires companies with underfunded plans to plunk in more money that often take both long and short positions, similar to hedge funds. Also, the City’s fund is 53 percent invested in stocks — gamier than the County’s — versus only 26 percent in bonds.

Both funds, along with others all over the country, vastly overstate their expected long-term returns. The City’s fund claims it will make 7.75 percent a year; the County ups the ante to 8.25. But the City’s fund has only chalked up a performance of minus 1.84 percent over three years, 3.3 over five years, and 5.1 over ten. The County’s performance has also badly lagged its bogey.

A government’s annual contribution to its fund is based on these unrealistic expected rates of return. Many scholars suggest using a “risk-free rate of return,” which would be about 5 percent. At a meeting last month, one of the officials of the City fund said that if the expected rate of return were cut to 5 percent, the unfunded actuarial liability would double and the required annual contribution rise by 50 percent.

But a 50 percent boost in the City’s required contribution would be backbreaking. So maybe going to 5 percent would lead to reform: the City of San Diego would be forced into bankruptcy, and a judge might challenge the notion that excessive benefits are embedded in the law. ■

Smart meter
continued from page 7
company’s practices, she announced, “We don’t do interviews with the Reader because factual information doesn’t make it into articles.” She suggested that I go to the company’s website, which she claimed has “the answers to all questions about the smart-meter installation process. Before shunting me off to the website, however, she did admit that the company has an “extensive” training program for its meter-switchers.

Just what is the extensive training? Does it, as Faust suggests, consist of a carefully crafted, pseudo-sales script intended to deceive and intimidate customers? Does it provide the installers with responses to objections — prepare them with responses to “noncompliant” customers, those who ask inconvenient or unexpected questions? The website to which I was directed doesn’t say. Perhaps these just aren’t “frequently asked” questions. It does, however, furnish clues as to how SDG&E is selling the smart-meter concept to San Diegans.

According to the smart-meter website, the new meters constitute a “mandatory service upgrade,” albeit one that, SDG&E claims, “can help save energy on high-use days, keeping the lights on for everyone.” The website also proclaims, “Smart meters can also help you make choices to save money on your energy bill every day,” yet goes on to assure customers, “There are no plans to charge customers for time-of-day billing.” But if energy consumers aren’t penalized for peak-hour usage, what incentive do they have, one might ask, to do their laundry at 3:00 a.m. or forgo the air conditioner in midafternoon? Chris Faust has a theory. He’s convinced that the company will abandon its current flat-rate billing in favor of billing that — in the name of energy conservation and brownout mitigation — will penalize those who choose to consume energy during conventional hours.

Faust, who bought his home on Garfield Road in the mid-’90s, alleges that not only does SDG&E employ lies and intimidation to effect the changeover but that the end result — the mandatory service upgrade — is merely another ploy to raise San Diegans’ rates. Faust says that continued on page 14
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Smart meter
continued from page 12
the swap-out technicians (whether from the utility or its contractor, VSI Meter Services) are part of the sales process wherein locals are, in effect, being sold a bill of goods.

I asked Michael Shames if he’d heard from locals with similar experiences. “I think it might be an aberration,” he says. Shames is an advocate of the smart meters. He doesn’t believe that increased profits for the utility and benefits to consumers are mutually exclusive, noting, “This is one of those rare situations when I support what SDG&E is doing.” He does note, however, that the changeover adds $650 million to the company’s rate base, which, loosely defined, is the valuation of a utility’s assets for the purpose of determining the rates a utility is permitted to charge its customers. (Whether the smart-meter costs should be properly considered part of SDG&E’s assets — as a necessary component of operating expenses — continues to be a point of contention.)

Chris Faust, who says that he’s followed the utility’s machinations over the years, thinks that the swap-out process is just another example of SDG&E’s duplicitous way of doing business — a way to raise rates without “raising rates.” He notes, “Look at the Sunrise Powerlink project. SDG&E originally said they needed the transmission lines to bring renewable energy into the area, but they have no such commitment in their updated [Public Utilities Commission] filing. In any case, they can rely on RECs [renewable energy credits]. RECs allow a renewable generator to sell electricity to one buyer and the RECs to other utilities. In some cases, SDG&E could buy the energy and resell it to other states like Arizona — it would never reach San Diego — but [SDG&E] still gets the RECs. So the Sunrise Powerlink is superfluous. In the historical context, it just reinforces the personality of the company.”
Faust doesn’t know when SDG&E will be back on Garfield Road to give him the ultimatum, but given his experience to date, it’s likely that whenever he looks at his new smart meter he’ll see an offer he couldn’t refuse.

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Waiting in the Wings
Residents Debate Future of Arts Center
El Cajon — The lights were dim and the stage was set. Fifty El Cajon residents sat inside council chambers waiting to address councilmembers on what the city should do with the East County Performing Arts Center.

In recent years the 35,000-square-foot building has fallen into disrepair. The roof is shot. The restrooms are inadequate. Since 1995, the center has cost the city an average of $403,000 a year to manage.

City officials hired a consultant to help them reassess the entire performing arts center production, who proposed three alternatives: call the final act and demolish the building, close the center down but keep the building — “mothball” it as some councilmembers have stated in the past — or keep the building open and find new tenants.

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Stringers continued from page 7
Desert dandelions, chuparosa, desert chicory, and brittle bush were in abundance, adding a sweet fragrance to the dry desert air.

I noticed the trail had gotten much worse. I’m not sure I would have ventured much past the east fork turnaround without 4WD and low range. My guess is that the winter rains have affected the trail and Carrizo Gorge has seen a lot of flowing water in the past few months.

After bungling along in low range for 30 minutes, the trail became impassable, blocked by large boulders and overgrowth. I parked and began scouring the area for signs of a cave. First thing I found was a “water drop” of a dozen one-gallon containers. (This area is a frequently used route for Mexican immigrants making their way through the desert.) A few minutes later, I was able to locate the cave.

The pictographs are very dark, leading me to believe they have been touched up at some point. Nevertheless, the cave is impressive, with morteros and a spectacular view down into the Carrizo Gorge. I sat in the cave and finished my water in preparation for the long drive back down the trail. The only sound was the water rushing over the rocks of the creek and a few birds that seemed upset by my intrusion.

Wave of Concern
Reporting Child Abuse vs. Privacy Laws?
Mission Beach — On April 2 at 12:30 p.m., I witnessed an adult male physically abuse his son, who was about two years old.

The child walked away from the approximately 6’1”, 220-pound man as they were entering the Wave House membership office. The man turned and grabbed the child by one arm, carried him approximately eight feet into the membership office, and thrust him into a chair.

The sobbing child got up from the chair and the man grabbed him again, squeezing his arms just below the shoulders, and thrust him back into the chair. I could see the man yelling at the child, his face close to the boy’s face, as he squeezed his arms and shook him.

A Wave House employee informed me that the company’s privacy policy would not allow him to share the man’s identity with me so I could report the incident to the Department of Child Protective Services. I gave him my name, phone number, and email and requested that he report it on my behalf.

I also called the San Diego Police Department, asking if SDPD could obtain the perpetrator’s name from the Wave House so that a DCSS report could be filed. The dispatcher informed me that due to privacy laws, they would not be able to provide me with the perpetrator’s name — even if they were able to obtain it, which he doubted would be the case.

The police department suggests that those who witness an incident of child abuse call the police as it is happening. The call can be made anonymously.

“I would agree with you that child safety should trump privacy laws, it doesn’t at the moment,” said an SDPD representative. “Doesn’t look like there’s a whole lot we can do if you don’t have the guy’s name or license number.”

By Carolyn Grace Matteo
Sunday, April 4

Thanks, Obama
New Courthouse Construction Begins
Downtown — The old Hotel San Diego was demolished four years ago to make room for a new federal court building, an annex to the existing federal court building across the street on Broadway. Construction of the new courthouse was delayed for a while until funds were made available by the Obama administration.

The pouring of concrete for the basement garage and foundation on March 27 was probably one of the biggest continuous pours in recent years. It appeared that every available mixer truck in the area had been pressed into service. Traffic and trolley tie-ups were held to a minimum by a crew that seemed to know exactly what they were doing.

By Lyle Davidson
Wednesday, March 31

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STRINGERS
continued from page 14
put it — or successfully operate the center and provide “cultural benefit to the community” and “economic benefit to downtown.”

Most of the residents applauded the latter option and urged the city to take full ownership of the performing arts center. Many called it a “jewel of East County.”

There were other speakers, however, who opposed pouring more money into the center. “As a taxpayer, to see you take our tax money and put it into the center and call it a ‘risk worth taking’... well, that’s not a good risk to take,” said one local developer. Boos from the crowd followed the speaker’s comments.

The full city council will hear the issue at a future council meeting.

By Dorian Hargrove
Tuesday, March 30

Into the Path
80-year-old Driver
Slams into SUV, Fence
Ramona — An accident involving two cars occurred at the intersection of San Vicente Road and Arena Drive on March 30.

According to several witnesses, Barbara Bremer, 80, drove her Pontiac Grand Am into the intersection and directly into the path of a west-bound Ford Expedition. The other vehicle, driven by Heather Rufchak, 34, struck Bremer’s car, sending it into a spin and onto a curb, where it then hit a fence.

Rufchak and her two-year-old daughter appeared to be okay and were driven home by a friend. Bremer was taken to the hospital with what appeared to be minor injuries.

“There wasn’t anything I could do!” explained Rufchak. “She was sitting at the stop sign, and when I got over there (gesturing to the skid marks before the intersection) she just pulled out.... [My daughter] was crying, so I was afraid she was hurt. I’ve never been so scared.”

By Dixie Pettit
Wednesday, March 31

Phony Phone User
Female Burglar Targets the Elderly
El Cajon — On March 26, an elderly woman living on Brockton Street in El Cajon allowed a stranger into her home and became the victim of a robbery.

The perpetrator gained entry into the home by telling the victim she was stranded in the area and needed to use a telephone. The victim then left the female criminal — described as a heavyset African American in her 40s — alone to make the telephone call. Upon returning to the room, the elderly woman found that the criminal had left and her purse was missing.

During a neighborhood discussion, it was discovered that another elderly person had fallen prey to a similar ploy in San Carlos. San Diego police say that at least three other similar incidents have recently been reported.

By Nathaniel Uy
Wednesday, March 31

When the Sex Stopped
Prostitute Raid in TJ, Hundreds Arrested
Tijuana — A health-department raid on “hooker bars” in Tijuana pulled some 230 sex workers out of circulation early on March 30.

The surprise raids occurred en masse at around 1:30 a.m. as health authorities swooped down on the popular bastions of ribaldry and began check-
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- **MSRP**: $22,319
- **MKB Discount**: $1,131
- **Sale Price**: $21,188
- **Mitsubishi Rebate**: $3,500

**2 at this net cost**

$17,688

#AE003886 / AE004046

---

**2010 Lancer Sportback GTS**
5-speed transmission, power windows, power locks, tilt steering, remote keyless entry, cruise control, alloy wheels, AM/FM/CD player.

- **MSRP**: $19,910
- **MKB Discount**: $922
- **Sale Price**: $18,988
- **Mitsubishi Rebate**: $1,000

**1 at this net cost**

$17,988

#AU004055

---

**2010 Outlander ES-2WD**
Automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows, power locks, remote keyless entry, cruise control, AM/FM/CD player.

- **MSRP**: $21,095
- **MKB Discount**: $1,007
- **Sale Price**: $20,088
- **Mitsubishi Rebate**: $1,500

**1 at this net cost**

$18,588

#9Z007358

---

**2009 Eclipse Coupe GS**
Automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows, power locks, tilt steering, cruise control, remote keyless entry, alloy wheels.

- **MSRP**: $21,944
- **MKB Discount**: $1,156
- **Sale Price**: $20,788
- **Mitsubishi Rebate**: $3,000

**1 at this net cost**

$17,788

#9E03103

---

**2009 Eclipse Spyder GS**
Automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows, power locks, tilt steering, cruise control, alloy wheels, remote keyless entry, mesh windscreen, iPod adapter.

- **MSRP**: $28,342
- **MKB Discount**: $1,854
- **Sale Price**: $26,488
- **Mitsubishi Rebate**: $3,000

**1 at this net cost**

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#9E015251

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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.

Beatle Booster
Thanks much for the short piece on Brian Ellis (“Boundless,” Music, April 1). One thing I have learned from decades of reading music journalism is that performers who publicly disrespect the Beatles are often trying to overcompensate for their own deficiencies, so I suspect that you have saved me some time and trouble. If nothing else, referring to the most popular and successful musician of our age (Paul McCartney) as a writer of “grandma songs” suggests a lack of good judgment on Ellis’s part, but it probably also tells me all I need to know about this immature artist.

Markel Tumlin
via email

Twister Sister
I just want to give the Reader a big thank you for bringing the brain-twister puzzles back (“Brainstorms!”). When I opened the paper to look at the crossword, I got a pleasant surprise; actually, I couldn’t believe my eyes. The anticipatory feeling I get with my weekly Reader is back.

Thank you, thank you.

Mary Buscar
via email

Quote, No Quote
I wanted to let the editor, Jim Holman, know that I really did not appreciate, nor did all of the people that I know appreciate, the article about Pastor Jim Garlow (“S.D.on the QT,” March 25). That was extremely misleading. That was very misleading in that you had quoted everything from him. There was nothing on that page or in that article — this was the article regarding Prop 8.5 — to say that this was a joke or a satire. And actually, there could be lawsuits against the Reader for doing that. It is appalling to me that you did that and that you allowed that.

Vicky C.
Lemon Grove

Crockery
Regarding the article by Chad Deal, “The Wild Wild East” (Cover Story, March 25). You talked to a Mr. Steve Scaroni, who is also a harvest contractor. He says that money is not the issue. He also said he could double the wages he offers in the United States and still come up short-handed. What a crock!

An article in the San Diego Union-Tribune published Friday, February 23, 2001, written by Diane Lindquist, states that in Mexicali, “At the peak of the 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. commute, as many as 5,000 Mexicans walk through the pedestrian gates each hour. They have U.S.-issued permits, which allow them to work days in the United States and go home to Mexico at night. But even with this abundance of workers, Imperial Valley growers” — like Mr. Scaroni — “are leading the call for more foreign workers.”

The Union-Tribune article says that “as many as 10,000 people” are waiting in Calexico, California, parking lots, early in the morning, hoping for work. “Scaroni offered explanations for why there appear to be more workers than jobs most mornings,” the article continued. “They probably don’t want to work in the first place... A lot come for the socializing, to see their friends.” Another crock!

He is also quoted as saying, “I’d probably skip to El Salvador because they are great people and hard workers.”

To Mr. Scaroni, please double the wages now, and you will see how many people will go and work for you. Or is that another crook you are throwing?

Name Withheld
National City

Letters continued on page 66

Wait A Minute, Man
Dear Chad, I was extremely disappointed to see “The Wild Wild East” as a cover story in the Reader (March 25). The fact that you intended to positively feature a group of racist extremists such as the Minutemen is quite mind-boggling and disappointing, given all the other activities that are going on in our San Diego communities. The Minutemen are racists that despise immigrants, period, and do not differentiate between legal and illegal immigrants, despite their arguing the contrary. For example, Brandon mentions that Border Patrol doesn’t question his presence in the desert because he is a “gringo,” implying that the color of one’s skin determines nationality.

Officer Rosas was a Latino Border Patrol agent. I guess if he had not worn a uniform he would have been treated differently by both the Minutemen and his own agency. How about feature the good doings of the Border Patrol instead of Minutemen? These are exactly the causes why our immigration system is broken: prejudices!!! These prejudices don’t let us move forward as a country nor acknowledge the broken immigration system, only prolong it. The majority of “illegal” immigrants actually come in legally but overstay their visa term. Others who try to come in legally better be ready to be waiting in line for an answer.

If a Chinese national enters our country by boat without a visa, he is an “illegal.” If a Cuban enters our country by boat without a visa, then he/she is welcomed with legal permanent resident status and eventually U.S. citizenship under our “wet feet, dry feet policy,” and nobody seems to throw a fit about it. Don’t we owe a whole lot more to China than to Cuba?

I guess this is why Tony Dolz, a Cuban immigrant and one of the founders of the Minutemen Project, feels he has the right to speak out against illegal immigration. Fortunately, there was a policy in place to welcome him.
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Zeros Tolerance, Few Details

Apparently, some of the kids at Thurgood Marshall Middle School held a “Bring Your Guns to School Day” on Thursday, March 18, but the administrators were less than impressed with the show-and-tell. According to SignOnSanDiego, an unidentified Marshall student brought two unloaded guns (presumably handguns) and an unspecified number of rounds to campus; two friends “handled” the weapons, and the three were later nabbed by school-district police off campus. By the end of the day, seven students — including four whose roles remain unclear — had been arrested. Invoking what it terms a “zero-tolerance policy,” the San Diego Unified School District has recommended that six of the pistol-packing (pistol-palpating?) pubescents be expelled from the eucalyptus-rimmed campus in Scripps Ranch.

Those who read the story — especially locals — might have asked, “What kind of kid brings sidearms to a middle school in a quiet, white-bread upper-middle tract-home place like the Ranch?”

After all, this is a sleepy burg within the burbs, a neighborhood so tranquil, so orderly, so boring, perhaps, that the news shocker of the day might be something like a deer sighting or a squlbble over an easement. SignOnSanDiego’s account doesn’t fill in the, well, blanks, preferring instead to quote the district’s flackmaster, Jack Brandais, who said that no further details could be released.

Putting aside such issues as the public’s right to know and privacy (the latter always a handy shield for school administrators and other cogs in the commodious, bureaucratic machine) — what about those details? What can — or will — the news media tell us about the perps? Did SignOnSanDiego at least press the district for answers?

Off-Base, Off-Limits

Some Marines are looking for a few good parties — well, more than a few, actually — and that seems to be a problem for the brass at Camp Pendleton, who’ve declared a passel of San Diego County locales to be off-limits for its gallivanting gyrenes. Pendleton’s official online mouthpiece, the online iteration of the venerable Scout, recently gave notice that certain dens of iniquity will have to get by without help from USMC paychecks. Reriterating restrictions that have been in place since February 11, Sergeant Alvaro Aro, in an article posted on March 18, sought to remind Pendleton grunts about the extant advisory directed toward Marines wandering the greater San Diego–Tijuana region for fun. Writing that “federal holidays are probably the most awaited time for service members to…visit their hometown,” Aro surmised that the dearth of long weekends between Presidents Day and Memorial Day results in Marines partying close to Pendleton rather than traveling longer distances.

According to the Scout, Pendleton’s finest are barred from certain establishments “due to violent criminal and gang activity”; however, judging from the blacklisted businesses, the Corps’ concerns appear to center on drugs and (gay) sex. On the outs are two joints that peddle smoking accessories (“head shops,” in parlance of the recent past), the Get-It-On Smoke Shop in Mission Beach and Dream Crystal Gifts in National City. Marines are also warned against entering the doors of Club Mustang, Club San Diego, and Vulcan Steam & Sauna, male-only bathhouses in which, presumably, bathing is but a minor component of the activities.

I asked Sergeant Aro why these establishments — not generally known as gang hangouts or violence magnets — have been singled out; he stated, “I’m not permitted to give you my personal opinion.” The sarge did admit, however, that commanding officers at the unit level can override the order on a case-by-case basis: “Let’s say, for example, if your mother lived next to one of these places.”

The Scout goes on to delineate other county places that are “of concern” or “of caution,” including Otay Mesa, “San Diego City Park,” and Willie Henderson park (a sports
complex in Shelltown), as well as trolley stations and areas around the perimeter of the 32nd Street naval base. The Scout pulls no punches: whatever their motives, Marines who cross the virtual yellow caution tape are subject to punishment under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Despite restrictions in San Diego, local Marines aren’t without off-Pendleton leisure options. The Scout notes that those service-men who long for the traditional Tijuana sojourn are still permitted to trek south — provided they obtain signed authorization by a commissioned officer in their chain of command and, ideally, complete “an anti-terrorism course.” Once in Mexico, they’re urged to report all incidents involving extortion or assault by Mexican police or uniformed private security personnel, such as club bouncers. And one more thing, states the Scout: “[Marines] should not resist lawful arrest or attempt to settle disputes by offering or giving money to police.”

The Gang with No Name
Operation Winter Storm was a raging success, according to San Diego’s Fox 5. The just-concluded “sweep” — designed to cleanse America’s finest county of its most violent gangbangers — started in September 2009 and was carried out in Southeast San Diego by a consortium of local and federal officers, including the San Diego Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

On March 24, Fox’s comely Kathleen Bade issued the good word from the studio — the city has been rendered safer. Bade kicked off the story by saying that gang members are “off the streets and out of your neighborhood” and sent viewers out to Walter Makaula in the field. Makaula, covering a news conference presided over by SDPD boss William Lansdowne, reported that the “crackdown” had reeled in thugs, drugs, and guns.

With admirable specificity, Fox relayed the numbers. According to Lansdowne and sidekick Cesar Solis, the multiagency squad arrested 57 people accused of armed robberies, gang-related shootings, and pimping/prostitution; they also “confiscated 20 firearms, including an SKS assault rifle and a pistol shotgun” and seized “a pile of illegal drugs…including 4.5 ounces of powder cocaine, one pound of crack cocaine, more than 1.5 pounds of methamphetamines, and a couple hundred tablets of ecstasy.”

At police headquarters downtown, Fox 5 dutifully transmitted Lansdowne’s proclamation — that San Diego’s 2009 “crime numbers” were “some of the lowest…in the past five years,” featuring a “57 percent decrease in gang homicides.” Viewers were also treated to a glowing review from city councilman Tony Young (who presumably represents the “neighborhood” to which Bade had alluded), who credited Winter Storm with making San Diego “more livable.” However, Fox did attempt to inject a semblance of balance by broadcasting an on-camera interview with a “La Mesa mom” who — complaining stridently about hookers in her neighborhood and casting aspersions about local crime-fighting efficacy — said of Lansdowne, “He’s lying.”

But what about the gang members themselves? What sort of ethnicity, age, and gender are we talking about here? Sure, we could guess — e.g., black or Hispanic males from roughly 15 to 25 — but what if the “gangstas” turned out to be elderly Japanese women with Ph.D.s? Media Hawk wants to know.
Thirty-Five Years Ago
Carlos Santana sauntered quietly onto the stage of the Sports Arena. A soft, purple spotlight centered on his diminutive frame as he bowed for five seconds in a meditative moment. Santana, resplendent in an immaculate white suit, picked up his emerald Gibson. What the audience was offered was a thunderously loud and repetitious trip down the band's memory lane. "Black Magic Woman," "Oye Como Va" and "Soul Sacrifice" are hardly reducible musical vehicles and it appalls me that after all of Santana’s spews on divine essence he could succumb to commercialism.
— "WILTED FLOWER," Steve Esmedia, April 10, 1975

Thirty Years Ago
The music log of 13K, or KGB, as it was known before détente fell apart and the chicken flew the coop, lists about 15 tunes which are to be played every hour.
Talking fast isn’t a matter of choice for AM jocks. Even a case of the trots has got to be accommodated more rapidly by the jock than by other mortals. He’s got to wait out the tune, stick a four-minute number into the tape player, announce it, hit the start button, get out of the studio and down the hall to the john, where he has to do the old down and up and be back before the fadeout.
— "RIGHT BETWEEN THE HITS," Bob Dorn, April 10, 1980

Twenty-Five Years Ago
[T]he Del Mar City Council recently passed a law to discourage camграмes. Photographer Roscoe Smith got tangled in the unusual law last week when a Del Mar lifeguard lieutenant ordered him off the city beach, where Smith was shooting pictures. The lifeguard told Smith the City now "prohibits cameras on the beach."

The Del Mar law requires that any commercial photographer obtain a 25-dollar city permit before shooting pictures on public property.
— "CITY LIGHTS: "TEN DEL MAR LIFEGUARDS POUNCE ON RICHARD AVE DONO," Paul Krueger, April 11, 1985

Twenty Years Ago
When plans for an expensive new city hall were shelved into limbo last month, editor-
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T
oday marks 20 years writing this column. Follows is where it started, taken from a column I wrote in April of 1990.

The jukebox plays, I had a girl, Donna was her name, followed by Soldier boy, oh, my little soldier boy, followed by Wake up, little Susie, wake up. The sound is nauseating, but I will admit the barkeep has flawless 1950s musical taste. Me and Colleen pile dollar bills on top of the bar in case the music box falters and patrons consider, for even one moment, reverting to television.

We’ve set base camp at Elvira’s Cocktail Lounge, said lounge nestles in the belly of the Delano Bowling Alley, said bowling alley is of Delano, California, a town of 20,000-plus located a half-hour north of Bakersfield. It’s 6:45 p.m. and not a bowler in the house. The place looks like a vast underground bunker bathed in blue fluorescent light, dressed in blue carpets, blue molded plastic chairs, and blue bowling scoreboard tables. Forsaken and alone.

We have laptops open, busy at our work. I on the column, Colleen working on her feature story. Her piece is 12,000 words on tomatoes. I do not need to know more than this.

Earlier, we evacuated our motel room at the Islander, a ranch-style motel in the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the towns — Wasco, Firebaugh, Kerman, McFarland — are depressing collections of empty stores and middle-aged men leaning against cement walls. Walk around these towns and you’ll notice Mexicans run most of the still-functioning businesses.

The trade is Mexican jewelry shops, Mexican restaurants, and Mexican markets. There is the Spanish-language movie house. Seems like all the posters and handbills are written in Spanish. Everyone we talked to spoke Spanish.

What’s happening is the recolonization of California. When you hear about it, most people think of L.A., but the tide is most visible in small towns. Since there’s year-round agricultural here, tens of thousands of somewhat legal or not-at-all legal Mexicans come up to work American farms. They need services, and as an unintended but happy consequence of that need, the downtowns of small San Joaquin Valley communities are being kept alive by Spanish-speaking employers.

¡Viva Mexico!

That was then. I was working a new job in a new profession and traveling with a new love. I had made the impossible transition from Alaskan laborer to employed California journalist. The longest of long shots came through.

Picture a double bed in the now-demolished Hotel San Diego. We two, my back propped up against the wall, hers against the bed’s headboard, our legs stretched out and overlapping, writing our stories on tiny Toshiba laptops for 24 hours straight, only going out for vending-machine food and beer.

Then getting up in the next morning with a hangover, setting off to interview strange, unpredictable people in neighborhoods that sucked the breath out of your lungs. It was cold-calling criminals and asking for interviews on topics that could send them to jail. Then coming back at day’s end to the dive hotel, soaked with sweat from fear and adrenaline, writing up the day’s material, interrupted now and then by, “Listen to this,” as one read a particularly good sentence to the other, then laughing because it was so much fun.

I was doing things I didn’t know I could do, in a job I did not believe I’d ever have, holding a ticket to talk to anyone in the world. True, I had to learn as I went along, and the mistakes and missteps are unending and on view for anyone to see. Fair enough.

This was never a sports column — it’s always been about nothing in particular, about what the world was offering up on column day. Themes emerge as they will. It’s been a glorious ride, and I thank you for your company.

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Expires 4-29-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**50% off any dry clean**
$35 or more. Some restrictions. One coupon per customer.

Uptown Cleaners
Expires 4-29-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

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$35 or more. Some restrictions. One coupon per customer.

Uptown Cleaners
Expires 4-29-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**2-for-1 Free cut with color service of $50 or more**
Some restrictions.

Fantastic Sams
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**Organic men’s shirt cleaning $195**
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Seagull Cleaners & Alterations
La Jolla: 5541 La Jolla Blvd. - 858-459-9911
Pacific Beach: 4454 Inglaugh (inside Tammie’s Alterations) - 858-274-9420
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**Free cut**
With color service of $50 or more. Some restrictions.

Fantastic Sams
Expires 4-29-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

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With whey protein purchase. MetRx or Dymatize

Pro Body Warehouse
El Cajon: 301 West Main St. - 619-593-0466
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Excludes laundry, leather and alterations. Maximum value $5. Not valid with any other offers.

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San Carlos: 4135 Navajo Rd. - 619-466-8584
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**Acrylic nails $25**

Chic Nails
Solana Beach: 116 Solana Hills Dr. - 866-363-6298
Expires 4-29-10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**2-for-1 Free cut with color service of $50 or more**
Some restrictions.

Fantastic Sams
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**Free cut**
With color service of $50 or more. Some restrictions.

Fantastic Sams
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**Free cut**
With color service of $50 or more. Some restrictions.

Fantastic Sams
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35% off any tree service

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BestBuys

“The constant generation of chlorine produces water with a higher pH, so you have to add muriatic acid each week to bring the pH down. It actually costs a little bit more than adding chlorine to the pool. And you still might have to add a little chlorine sometimes” — such as after a heat wave that burns off more chlorine than your system is generating.

“This means that there is less chance of algae getting started during the chlorine’s low point or a swimmer suffering stinging eyes during a chlorine spike.” Also, the electrical current gets rid of chloramines. When you smell chlorine, you’re not actually smelling chlorine; you’re smelling what’s called chloramines. It’s your body’s oils, ammonia, stuff like that, all mixed with the chlorine. That’s what produces that smell. The electrical current gets rid of it.”

But, says Ryan, it’s not all good news.

“A refrigerator in your pool and, lo and behold, her eyes were not red, not stinging. “It’s because I have a saltwater pool,” said my neighbor. “I make my own chlorine. Their hair doesn’t turn green, either.” Curious, I called Aaron Ryan at Pool Time (619-977-8976; sdpooltime.com) to learn more.

“As far as sanitizing a pool,” he begins, “you’ve got several parameters you look at. The first thing you want to balance is your pH — you want it somewhere between 7.2 and 7.6. You adjust it by adding either soda ash or muriatic acid. San Diego water is very acidic, and if you don’t balance it, your chlorine won’t work like it should. If your pH is above 7.6, even if you add a bunch of chlorine, it’s going to disappear in a matter of hours. After that, you want to dial in your alkalinity and then you can go ahead and add your chlorine. You can use granular chlorine, liquid chlorine, or tablet chlorine that sits in a floater in your pool. I like tablets because they last longer, especially in the summertime. That’s because the tablets also contain a chlorine stabilizer that keeps them from being degraded by the sun’s rays. I use them on all my pools that don’t have salt generators.”

And what about those salt generators? “It’s a mini chlorine generator. You add anywhere from five to ten 50-pound bags of salt to your pool, and then you plumb the chlorine generator into your PVC line. Inside the generator are steel plates coated with tungsten. When you pass the saltwater in between those plates and add an electrical current, that gives you chlorine.”

The first advantage of such a system, says Ryan, is that “the water will feel softer. It’s better for your hair, your eyes, skin, nails, all that good stuff. If your pool guy is doing it right, the water will be less salty than the tears in your eyes, so it shouldn’t feel salty to the eye.”

More pluses: “You have a constant chlorine level, without a lot of spikes and valleys.” This means that there is less chance of algae getting started during the chlorine’s low point or a swimmer suffering stinging eyes during a chlorine spike. “Also, the electrical current gets rid of chloramines. When you smell chlorine, you’re not actually smelling chlorine.

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

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“Mommy, my eyes don’t hurt!”

My ten-year-old had just finished a three-hour session in a neighbor’s pool and, lo and behold, her eyes were not red, not stinging. “It’s because I have a saltwater pool,” said my neighbor. “I make my own chlorine. Their hair doesn’t turn green, either.” Curious, I called Aaron Ryan at Pool Time (619-977-8976; sdpooltime.com) to learn more.

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“The constant generation of chlorine produces water with a higher pH, so you have to add muriatic acid each week to bring the pH down. It actually costs a little bit more than adding chlorine to the pool. And you still might have to add a little chlorine sometimes” — such as after a heat wave that burns off more chlorine than your system is generating.

“You shock the water with the additional chlorine and then adjust your system’s output upwards. And you have to run your pump more than you would if you used tablets — maybe two hours more a day. Oh, and you get calcium buildup on the cell, and you need to do an acid wash on it once a year. I charge my clients $55 each time.”

The up-front cost for a cell is $700–$1000, plus $150–$300 for installation. The cells last three or four years and cost $500–$600 to replace.

After talking to Ryan, I was torn — the pluses were nice, but the minuses did pile up. I put in a call to Alison Osinski at Aquatic Consulting Services (619-602-4435; alisonosinski.com) for more information.

“Calling them saltwater pools is nonsense,” she begins.

“It’s a chlorinated pool that happens to have salt in it. There is no difference between the chlorine you make and the chlorine you buy. Also, as soon as you put saltwater into a pool, you’re causing all kinds of other problems related to the longevity of equipment and surfaces.”

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

1. Chlorine tablet floater
2. In-line chlorine generator
Zoo: An excellent place to study the habits of human beings...
— Evangeline

The sky was clear and the air was an agreeable 68 degrees — ideal conditions for visiting the zoo. When I renewed my membership a few months ago, I did so as a “single” — David rarely joins me, and all of my critter-loving friends already have memberships. But, as this was a special occasion — not one of my typical visits, during which I gawk at the meerkats and monkeys for hours — David was by my side. This time, I was there to attend the opening ceremony for the revamped Polar Bear Plunge exhibit, an occasion that, fortunately for my date, had specific start and end times.

Once we’d checked in, I led David to the left, toward the Skyfari ride, which would take us up and over the park and deposit us near the polar bears. We’d only taken a few steps when I sidled closer to him and said, “Psst! A White She Devil is right behind us; don’t turn around, you might spook her.” I knew I didn’t have to explain — we’ve both seen Undercover Brother countless times, and the White She Devil, a.k.a. Penelope Snow, played by Denise Richards, is one of our favorite characters in the super-campy flick. And there she was, Denise Richards herself, ten feet behind us.

“What’s she doing?” David asked.

“Walking. With her kids and an older dude who I think is her manny,” I said. “Wow, she’s even prettier in person. I said don’t look!” She’s hopping on the tram to the polar bears. You’ll have a chance to see her when we get there.”

A green carpet had been laid at the entrance to the polar bear exhibit (most likely because the color green conveys environmental piety...but I couldn’t help but wonder if it also might have something to do with the potential that “red on white” has for evoking images of arctic horror shows). On the carpet were signs marking the spot each media outlet — Us Magazine, Access Hollywood, etc. — had staked for its camera operators.

“The tour will begin in the storybook area,” intoned a disembodied male voice, piped through speakers set up around the exhibit. I followed David’s Panama hat through the crowd, to a play area containing two silver sculptures of polar bears and giant children’s books. As we awaited further instructions, I stood and watched a handful of kids climb onto one of the statues while a man, who I presumed was their father, shot pictures of them. I’d been watching them for minutes before I realized I recognized those kids.

I nudged David in the side with my elbow. “Those are the kids from Modern Family,” I said, naming one of the two sitcoms we watch (the other is 30 Rock). David’s eyes scrunched up and then widened with recognition, as if he’d been hunting for and finally found the image of a sailboat in a Magic Eye poster. My fellow zoo-goers and I gave them a wide berth, allowing them space to play and pose. Once the beeps and clicks of the camera shutters died down, a woman emerged from the crowd and herded the child actors away from the center of the play area.

The tour guide’s voice returned and invited us to follow its source up the hill and to one of the exhibit’s new features, “Measure Up,” where people can compare their height and weight to polar bears with life-sized statues of the beasts and a two-ton scale. Always eager to be at the front of the crowd, I scooted up the hill with David close behind. But the ranks did not follow, and when we reached the zoo-man’s side — whose face matched his handsome voice — he’d stopped speaking.

“What’s going on?” I asked a woman beside me.

“Tori Spelling just arrived, along with the whole Tori and Dean crew,” she said. In response to my puzzled expression, she elaborated for me. “Tori and Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood! It’s a reality show on Oxygen.”

“Oh.” I was tempted to play hipster and feign knowledge of all things Tori, but truthfully I honestly hadn’t heard of her recent escapades, I admitted, “I loved 90210.”

The rich and famous family had paused on the green carpet. Our guide had suspended his tour to give the mass of people time to take in the rare sight. It wasn’t until the family — Tori, Dean, and their two Hollywoodwoods — hoisted it around the corner that the multitude followed, and the guide resumed his talking points.

After gauging how small I seemed in comparison to the ten-foot-tall statue of the bipedal bear, I followed David to the glass-enclosed exhibit opposite the “Polar Bear Den” where kids could crawl through snowy white caves and play with plastic seals. Vito, a zoo photographer, tipped me off that the best place to position myself would be by the new “Experience Wall,” a mesh gate on which a keeper would entice a bear to stand and lean forward for a tasty reward.

The bears weren’t out yet, but zoogoers didn’t seem to mind — they had their eyes full watching one of the celebritids climb into and around a real helicopter, situated just beyond the enclosure. I parked myself in front of the gate and...
watched the people watch the celebrities, every so often stealing glances myself of Tori’s shiny hair, of Denise’s translucent skin. After all, we’d gone to the zoo to see something exotic, and the bears had yet to be revealed.

I remembered a study I’d read in which a scientist demonstrated that when given the option between food and gazing at an image of a dominant chimp (chimps who might have something they want), many chimps chose the latter. Jake Halpern (author of Fame Junkies) spent some time with that scientist. In an interview about his book, Halpern elaborated on the phenomenon: “It is quite possible that our modern-day desire to keep tabs on the powerful and the sexy, à la US Weekly, stems from our ancient past. In prehistoric times, the average male gathered as much data as he could about the group’s strongman or leader…. A socially astute prehistoric male with a keen eye for sizing up the powerful was probably far more likely to survive and reproduce. Over time, this sort of natural selection may have favored a behavior that resembles celebrity-watching.”

Moments before the bears were released from their private quarters, a celebrity handler asked me to take one step back as she lured Tori, Dean, and Denise to the spot in which I had been standing. I stared at the back of their heads while the keeper coaxed a female bear, Chinook, over to the wall. The majestic creature rose to a towering upright position; she planted her huge paws against the mesh wall to brace herself while she licked peanut butter from a plastic lollypop. She was putting on an impressive show for the audience. I wondered if the bear realized that, despite her commanding performance, she was not the center of attention.

For more stories and videos by this author, go to sdreader.com.
At 3:39 a.m. on January 7, 2007, Columbia Street was almost deserted. Little Italy had been plagued with car burglaries — “It got where you couldn’t drive too many of the streets down there without seeing broken glass in the morning,” said San Diego police officer Joel Schmid, so Schmid parked his patrol car and approached on foot when he noticed a pearl white Escalade stopped in the driveway of a condominium.

One door was slightly ajar, triggering the interior lights. Schmid could see shadows moving inside.

Schmid requested assistance from other officers and stepped quietly to the driver’s-side door, where he confronted a Hispanic man in his 30s and two women, one of whom was sitting on the man’s lap.

The man benignly handed Schmid a Mexican passport with what Schmid called a “real blurry photo.” The name on the passport and on the U.S. visa tucked inside was “Rubén Flores.” A search of the Escalade produced a loaded Colt Mustang, seven cell phones, a blue Viagra pill, the business card of a Chula Vista gun store, a permit for the American Shooting Center, and a folded sheet of white paper that resembled a faded receipt.

“On one side of the paper,” Schmid testified, “was a kiss in lipstick, as if somebody with lipstick had kissed the paper itself and folded it up, and inside of that receipt, underneath the kiss, I found a crystalline controlled substance I believed to be methamphetamine.”

The paper sealed with a kiss contained, in fact, .07 grams of crystal meth, but that and the gun weren’t enough to keep the man in the white Escalade for long. Five months later, he was busy in Chula Vista and Paradise Hills, executing plans that involved three assault rifles, six handguns, two Tasers, two duffel bags of Mexican and American police uniforms, five cars, a length of heavy chain, four padlocks, a blindfold, muriatic acid in quantities sufficient to dissolve grown men, and the belief that a rich Mexican family with businesses on both sides of the border would not call the FBI if a

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA-CH.COM

Kidnap victim Eddy Tostado, taken a few years ago.

Rental home in a Chula Vista cul-de-sac where Eddy Tostado was held hostage by the Los Palillos gang.

Popeyes restaurant at 3489 Santo Road, where FBI prepared family member for ransom drop to kidnappers.
Eddy sat with his legs shackled. 

His blindfold cut into the sore on his bashed nose.

family member disappeared. 
He was mistaken.

*   *   *

One Friday in May of 2007, a security camera mounted on a house in the gated neighborhood of Belmonte recorded a man in a polo shirt and jeans approaching the front door from a white Volkswagen Beetle. The man was thin and unremarkable except for the sharp point his receding hair made on his forehead and the equally sharp features of his face. He looked more Anglo than Hispanic.

He peered through the glass of the front door and walked away several times, waiting or looking for someone. After 12 minutes, he left a note on the front step.

The $1.5 million house he visited on Mansiones Lane belonged to 32-year-old Eduardo González Tostado, called Eddy by his cousin Sergio and sometimes “Mandilón,” which comes from the Spanish word for apron — *el mandil* — and means “whipped.”

Eddy found the note when he returned with his wife Ivette and their six-year-old daughter from their regular weekend trip to Mexico, Swap meet in National City where family member left a briefcase with $193,900 in ransom.

continued on page 34
Laurel was diagnosed in October of 2009 with Stage IV Glioblastoma, the most aggressive type of brain cancer.

A benefit concert for a very special girl
Sunday, April 18th, 2010 at 3 pm
Tango del Rey
3567 Del Rey St., San Diego, CA 92109
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VERONICA MAY & THE TO DO LIST
CATFISH AND THE SWAMP CREATURES
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“I always feel sad and hopeless.”
“I have no energy and have problems sleeping.”
“I’m not interested in anything.”

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

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

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

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* Research Studies

La Jolla. The man in the video was the Tijuana boyfriend of someone Sergio knew, and his real name was Juan, not Robert.

So Eddy decided to look for the man in Tijuana. He took the photographs he’d made from the surveillance video across the border to his restaurant, Mariscos del Pacifico, and asked his staff if they’d ever seen this guy Juan. Eddy told the manager to call him if the man in the video showed up.

Eddy also took the step of calling his lawyer to ask that he get a private investigator to find out who, exactly, Juan was and where he lived.

After that, Eddy and Juan spoke by telephone one more time. This time, Eddy told Juan that he knew his real name and did not intend to pay him anything.

Juan promptly lowered his informant fee to $6000.

Eddy still wanted to know if the kidnapping threat was serious, so he suggested that Juan meet him at Mariscos del Pacifico, but Juan refused, saying he didn’t

The person calling himself Robert then told Eddy that he’d been sitting in a bar when he overheard some people planning to kidnap Eduardo González Tostado. These men in the bar had talked about where Eddy’s businesses were and where his house was and what number you had to punch into the keypad at the gate to get to Eddy’s house. For $30,000 (which was what, Robert said, those guys owed him), he would tell Eddy who these men were. For free, he told Eddy that the person who’d passed along the gate code was “El Arquitecto.”

With this knowledge of a former friend plotting against him, Eddy drove back home, punched in the gate code that was now circulating among people who meant him harm, and went back to his wife and child. When his cousin Sergio arrived from Ensenada, Eddy showed him the note. Sergio would remember the note differently. “Mandil, call me,” Sergio recalled it saying, not “Urgent to call Robert.” In Sergio’s memory, the note referred to Eddy by his nickname.

In any case, Sergio looked at the security video, studied the pale-skinned man with the pointed hairline, and asked him he’d once given that man a ride in La Jolla. The man in the video was the Tijuana boyfriend of someone Sergio knew, and his real name was Juan, not Robert.

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Struggling with Psoriasis?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a medical research study of an investigational drug for people with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis.

We need participants:
- 18 years of age or older and in general good health
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Qualified participants will receive:
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Participants may receive at no cost all study-related:
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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:
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- 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
have papers and therefore couldn’t go to Mexico, but he could meet Eddy at a shopping mall in the U.S.

Eddy didn’t agree. They decided to talk again by telephone, but Eddy never spoke to Juan again. The exchange did, however, initiate a crucial conversation between Eddy and his wife Ivette.

“I told her if I ever were kidnapped, go to FBI,” Eddy said.

* * *

At about this time, two things happened. A For Rent sign went up in front of a plain brown house in a tight cul-de-sac at 1539 Point Dume Court in Chula Vista. Fifteen-year-old Derek and his friend Freddy watched from their garages as the house that had been occupied by a family with a teenaged daughter was visited first by prospective renters and then by the new tenants, who were not a family but a pair of guys. They were Hispanic, in their 20s or early 30s, Derek guessed, and they spent an awful lot of time driving to and from the house. One guy in particular would drive to the house, carry in some grocery or duffel bags, then get back in his red MR2 and drive away. A couple of hours later, he’d be back and do the same thing. A lot of cars, in fact, rolled in and out of Point Dume now: a black 2008 Escalade with newly purchased rims (not stock, Derek noticed), a silver Ranger, a gray Corolla, the red MR2, and a black Lincoln truck.

Meanwhile, an old friend of Eddy’s got in touch to apologize. Three years earlier, Eddy Tostado and his friend David Valencia had sometimes gone out to clubs with Monroy, the architect, and their respective wives and girlfriends, but then one night the women were

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

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**Have you ever had a positive TB skin test?**

**Have you ever been told you have TB?**

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 that you may be eligible for this study, please call our study coordinator at (858) 752-6979 or email study@liai.org

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**PAIN?**

Do you have pain from chronic pancreatitis?

Synergy Clinical Research is leading a research study using an investigational drug to see if it reduces pain from chronic pancreatitis.

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

Call: 1-888-365-3203

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**Have you ever had a positive TB skin test?**

**Have you ever been told you have TB?**

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 that you may be eligible for this study, please call our study coordinator at (858) 752-6979 or email study@liai.org

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**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.

For more information contact

SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE & FAMILY HEALTH
619-229-3909
email: lburchard@sandiegosportsmed.com
Are you in an excessively good mood?
Easily distracted? Irritable?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 with bipolar disorder and are experiencing these symptoms, you may qualify to participate in a clinical trial for the treatment of bipolar disorder.

For qualified participants compensation will be provided for time and travel.

Board-certified psychiatrists providing excellent patient care and quality research.
3998 Vista Way, Suite 100, Oceanside, CA 92056
dancing for Eddy, David, and the architect, and David started punching and kicking his girlfriend. Eddy tried to stop David, so David grabbed a bottle of whiskey and hit Eddy on the head with it.

Eddy nearly passed out, blood gushing from an inch-long cut. The architect tried to calm David down, as Eddy remembered it, but security took David out, and Eddy went to his father-in-law’s clinic to have the gash on his head swabbed and sealed with butterfly bandages.

That was the last time Eddy saw David Valencia until May of 2007, when Juan showed up on Eddy’s front step with his kidnapping story and David Valencia started telling Eddy’s car detailer (who came to Eddy’s house every Friday) how sorry he was about hitting Eddy with that whiskey bottle and how much he wanted to talk to Eddy and make it right. The car detailer even tried to use his own phone to call David so that apologies could be made and friendship restored. They didn’t reconcile, though, until Eddy heard that his former friend David had been in the hospital.

Okay, Eddy decided, and he called.

David and Eddy met at a coffee shop, where David said he was sober now, living in the U.S. with his wife and family. David’s son was playing soccer, his daughter was riding horses — he was doing family things now — and maybe Eddy’s daughter would like to come ride horses sometime. By the time Eddy and David parted that day, Eddy had promised to buy some cars for David at an upcoming auction, just like he used to do.

* * *

On Thursday, June 7, Eddy Tostado and David Valencia went to a car auction. David picked out a car and a pickup truck and left. Eddy, because he was the one with the dealer’s license, bid on the cars David wanted, among others, and at around 7:00 that evening met David in a Starbucks in Chula Vista. David was waiting on the patio outside, which was really just two green umbrellas on the sidewalk, hemmed in by the bug-spattered bumpers of trucks. Southwestern College sits across the street, so students flow in and out all day, buying lattes and frappés.

Eddy and David chatted about when and where the cars would be ready, and Eddy had pushed his chair back to go when David said, “Wait, let me buy you a coffee.”

Eddy said he didn’t want any coffee. It was too late at night, he said, and coffee would keep

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**Research Studies**

**Clinical Research**

**Schizophrenia • Depression • Bipolar Disorder**

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

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

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

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

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**Are you diagnosed with Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy**

and currently receiving one of the following medications:

- Tramadol (Ultram)
- Gabapentin (Neurontin)
- Venlafaxine (Effexor)
- Duloxetine (Cymbalta)
- Tricyclic anti-depressants

Symptoms of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy include pain, numbness, tingling and burning in your feet or hands; difficulties in walking; feeling weak or frequently dropping objects.

If you are currently taking any of the medications listed above for your painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy and you are still experiencing pain, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

**Qualified participants may receive:**

- Study-related medical care at no cost
- Reimbursement for time and travel up to $725
- Study-related evaluations by Board-Certified Internists

Please contact CNRI-San Diego at 619-481-5252
**Does Your Child Suffer From ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) & Insomnia**

If they are:
- 6-17 years of age
- Having sleep problems
- Having daytime functional impairment
- Able to swallow tablets

Your child may be eligible to participate in a new clinical research trial.

Participants will receive at no cost:
- Study-related exams
- Investigational drug
- Compensation for time and travel

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

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**Ladies...not in the mood? Depressed?**

A clinical research study is underway to evaluate pre-menopausal women who have been dealing with decreased sexual desire.

To qualify you must be:
- Female, 18-50 years of age
- Feeling mild depression for at least 4 weeks
- Stable on a depression medication
- In a heterosexual relationship for at least 1 year

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

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

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**Do you have type 2 diabetes?**

Are you currently taking Lantus®, Leveimir®, Humulin®N or Novolin®N?

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

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

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

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

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

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**COPD**

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Are You?

- Suffering from COPD • Male or female 40+ years of age • A current or former smoker
- Coughing • Wheezing • Willing to do a breathing test (Spirometry) to see how your lungs work

If YES you may qualify to participate in a 12-month/10-visit study of an investigational medication. A new research study for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Ask the nurse or doctor today to see if you qualify:
**1-888-365-3203**

www.facecopd.com

*Compensation may be provided for your time and travel.

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**MAJOR DEPRESSION**

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

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

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

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

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1908 Sweetwater Rd., National City, CA 91950
www.synergysandiego.com
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.

RESEARCH STUDIES

ADDICTED TO METHAMPHETAMINE
Want to Quit?

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

South Bay Treatment Center
4419 47th Street, San Diego, CA 92115
For information and confidential screening, call: (800) 495-0001

Do you have Diabetes?

Are you experiencing pain, tingling, burning, or numbness in your legs or feet?

You may be suffering from painful diabetic neuropathy, or nerve damage caused by diabetes.

Coordinated Clinical Research is conducting a clinical research study to determine the effect of an investigational drug and its ability to treat pain associated with diabetic neuropathy.

For more information call 858-455-5463 or email us at ccr@sandiegotrials.com.

Qualified participants will receive clinical evaluations, lab tests and investigational drug for up to 2 years. You may also be eligible to be reimbursed for $50 per visit to cover meals and travel-related expenses.
But with him.

She wanted to have dinner at the Butcher Shop. She suggested they take a little trip across the border to the Cantina de los Remedios, where there would be mariachis and margaritas.

Nancy told Eddy she had to pick up her passport before they could go to the cantina.

Heartburn? Acid Regurgitation?

If you frequently suffer from heartburn or acid regurgitation, you may have GERD. Call us to find out about our study with an investigational reflux medication.

Participants receive up to $600.

For information, please call California Research Foundation at 291-2321.

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

Forgetting simple tasks? Memory fading?

Can’t seem to complete projects?

If you or someone you know is:

- Male or female
- Between the ages of 45 and 90
- Experiencing memory loss? Unable to organize or plan? Forgetting simple tasks?
- In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our research study! If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive an investigational study medication. You will also receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits 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

Participants receive up to $600.

For information, please call California Research Foundation at 291-2321.
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 other antidepressants.

Eligible participants must be willing to stay in the hospital for up to 16 days.

All participants will receive a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation by a UCSD faculty psychiatrist.

Medical evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation for time and travel.

For more information, please call: 1-866-UC PRICE (1-866-827-7423)

Struggling with Knee Pain?

Do you struggle with knee pain due to osteoarthritis? If you have osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee, you may qualify for a 12-week clinical trial for an investigational medication for osteoarthritis. This trial follows subjects carefully for any stomach side effects.

You may qualify if you are:
- 45-80 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with arthritis of the knee
- Take a medication for knee pain most days
- Do not have a history of gastrointestinal bleed or ulcer(s) diagnosed within the past 5 years

For more information, please call:
Medical Associates Research Group
858-277-5678 • www.MARGinc.com

Smoking too much pot?

WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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

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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.

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

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

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

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**Trying to Manage your TYPE 2 DIABETES?**

Do you struggle to control your blood sugar levels? Controlling blood sugar is difficult. New medicines are needed, and study volunteers help make this happen.

A new clinical research study is underway. Join us if you struggle with blood sugar control.

WHEN YOU TAKE PART IN THIS CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY:
- Health professionals closely monitor your diabetes and blood sugar levels
- Qualified participants will receive:
  - Study medicines
  - Blood sugar meter and supplies
  - Diet counseling
  - Study-related medical care and testing
- Qualified participants may be compensated for time and travel

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU ARE:
- Age 18 to 85
- Diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least 3 months
- Not taking insulin or other injectable diabetic medicines
- Struggling to control blood sugar (HbA1c greater than or equal to 7% and less than or equal to 10%)

SPACE IS LIMITED to the number of people who can participate based on meeting study criteria and on a first-come, first-served basis.

CALL NOW eStudySite 1-877-500-3788 OR VISIT www.DiabetesStudies.net TO SEE IF YOU MAY QUALIFY.
driver of the car was a man wearing a hat. Uncertain, Eddy called Nancy to ask if she was expecting someone, such as a boyfriend. “No,” she said. She wasn’t. “Come on in.”

He walked to the front door of the house where Nancy waited for him, and when she opened the door, he noticed she had not yet changed her clothes. Before Nancy had even closed the door they tackled him.

At first there were two men. He felt one grabbing his feet and another grabbing his back. Two men dressed in police vests and hats, their faces covered with ski masks, ran toward him. They were carrying rifles. Eddy tried to shake off the two men who were tackling him, and they began to hit him. One of the masked policemen hit Eddy on the bridge of his nose with the back of a rifle. Then they hit him with the rifle in the back and on the legs. He heard and felt the stun gun after that. With each shock delivered to his spine and the soft tissue of his lower back he heard dak, dak, dak, dak. Ten times in less than a minute.

Eddy started to shake, and he fell face-down on the floor. Everything that had been in his bowels and bladder came out. He was nearly unconscious, and he couldn’t move to get away. They went on hitting and kicking him. On the back of his head, he felt a single hard blow. They handcuffed him behind his back. They taped his ankles together. They put a towel over his head. All he could see were the shoes of the men walking around him and the guns lying on the floor — two handguns and one rifle.

In Spanish, they said, “You’re not so tough anymore.” “Look at you now,” they said. “You stink.” They left him like that for a few minutes, mocking him for the stink he made, and then they wrapped him with a towel and dragged him to the back of the house, where they blindfolded him and stopped to take roll. Eddy heard them count to seven in Spanish. Seven against one. They didn’t say anything else to him, but they took Eddy’s Rolex and went off to another room. He could hear their voices but not the words.

For a few minutes more, they left him in his soiled clothes on the carpet. Then two of them dragged Eddy to the bathroom and warned him that if he tried to escape or to look at their faces they would kill him. Eddy was allowed to use one hand to strip off his underwear, rub at the filth with a wad of toilet paper, and put the same

**Eddy said he didn’t have a million. “Maybe $100,000.”**

**Boss One said, “You can do better than that.”**

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

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**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

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**Always worrying? Anxious? Panic attacks?**

You may qualify for free psychological treatment.

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

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San Diego Reader April 8, 2010

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Owned & Operated by
Vishal Verma, MD and Vinita Parekh, DDS
jeans back on. Then they snapped his handcuffs shut and took him to a closet, where they wrapped a chain around his legs. They threaded the chain through the handrail of the stairs nearby, weaving the links noisily in and out of the iron pickets, a memorable sound to a person wearing a blindfold.

This was his place now: a three-by-five-foot closet in which he could not stand up, a wad of blankets and sheets, an uncased pillow, his dirty pants.

“Call me Jefe Uno,” a voice told him. Boss Number One.

“Call me Jefe Dos,” another said. Boss Two. The third man was Jefe Tres, and the others didn’t get to be jefes at all.

This is when they began to describe their credentials. Boss One told Eddy they’d done this before. They were professionals. Before Eddy, they’d gotten the brother of El Pareja, someone named Junior or Junior Gordo, Balitas, and Quilino. Eddy knew who El Pareja was — a guy from Tijuana who’d been arrested a year or two back. The brother of El Pareja, they told Eddy, had not behaved. They killed him. Balitas, on the other hand, got the money real fast and in only a day was free again. A million dollars, Balitas had paid.

Boss Three told Eddy — and this made him laugh — that Nancy had done the same thing to Quilino that she did to Eddy. She lured Quilino right to the jefes. Quilino had not been as fast as Balitas, though, and he had to stay for a whole month before his family paid enough to get him free.

Boss One wanted Eddy to know, if it wasn’t clear enough already, that they were up here from Mexico doing whatever they wanted. He told Eddy he had the balls to do it right here in the United States, where he’d moved after those guys in Tijuana killed his brother. “I saw you at the races in Laughlin,” Boss One told Eddy.

Boss One even told Eddy who his dead brother was. His brother was Palillo — Little Stick, or Toothpick. Eddy knew the name. Six or eight years before, Eddy had seen Palillo racing motorcycles in Baja. They had a mutual friend from high school.

What did it matter if he was blindfolded? He’d seen Nancy. He’d seen David Valencia. And now he knew quite a bit about Boss One. Surely this meant they would have to kill him.

“Give us a million,” Boss Two told Eddy as he sat in his soiled jeans, unable to touch or examine the open sores on his back made by the Taser shocks. “Give us a million and you can go the next day like Balitas.”

Eddy said he didn’t have a million. “Maybe $100,000,” Eddy told them, “$200,000.”

“No, no,” Boss One said. “You can do better than that.”

They left him inside the closet and went to have some drinks in another room. Later, they put a sleeping pill in his mouth.

* * *

On the first morning of his imprisonment, Eddy awoke to the sound of a sliding-glass door, then water splashing in the backyard. A voice asked if he needed something.

“You want me to send him in pieces by mail?”

He said he needed to go to the bathroom, so they brought him a bucket.

The guy in charge of the bucket had a Cuban accent, and the Cuban told Eddy his name was Asere. The other two who weren’t jefes also told Eddy their names. Morro was just a kid, and Tio had middle-aged hands. Tio told Eddy, “If you want something, let us know and I will cook whatever you need.”

So there was the bucket and the chain and the closet with the wad of sheets, the bruise on his nose where the rifle butt had struck him, and there was the weird kindness of food cooked to order. In the background, day and night, the TV was on, tuned to the Copa Oro, soccer’s gold cup. The night before, when they were shocking and beating him and tying him up, Mexico was beating Cuba 2–1.

Tio told Eddy, “Don’t do anything stupid, and you won’t be killed.”

It was three or four hours before the jefes showed up. Boss One told Eddy it was time to call his wife and ask for money.

Eddy and his family used phones that function more like walkie-
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BOARD-CERTIFIED OTOLARYNGOLOGIST

Sarina Brumley, PA-C

Talkies than regular phones — push-to-talk phones, as they're known, offer a cheaper way to talk across the border. Boss One searched Eddy's phone for the list of contacts, found Eddy's wife, and pushed the button.

Somewhere far from the closet, in a place where the closet could not even be imagined, Ivette's phone started beeping. She was in the car with her daughter and her sister, and she was in no mood to take a call from a husband who hadn't come home the night before.

Boss One held Eddy's phone near his blindfolded face, and Eddy heard his daughter, not his wife, say, “Hey, Papi, where are you?”

Eddy didn't answer that. “How are you, darling?” Eddy said. “What are you doing?”

She said they were driving in the car.

“Hey, I want to speak with Mami,” Eddy said. “Can you put her on the phone?”

“No, she doesn't want to talk to you because you got drunk and you went — you didn't come to sleep in the house.” When his daughter held the button down, Eddy could hear his wife refusing to talk.

Eddy's daughter handed the phone to her mother anyway, and Ivette took it — or at least it sounded as if she did — but she didn't say anything to Eddy.

Boss One pushed the button and Eddy tried to talk. "I have problems," he said. "I need you to hear me good because I'm trying to—"

"No," Ivette said.

“You have no problems. You just went and had some beers and you didn’t come home,”

Then his wife hung up.

Boss One and Two were incredulous.

“What?” they told Eddy.

Don't you have the balls to tell her to shut up and listen?” They laughed.

Eddy sat with his bashed nose while his legs shackled. His blindfold cut into the sore on his forehead, his headless body was left outside, a city where the closet’s headless bodies are left outside, a city where angry people who can talk show host who, her mother, her father, her grandmother. See if they would help. He told her to sell all the cars at the dealership, the motorcycle, and the race car. “Sell the restaurant.” Everything.

“Yes,” she said. “I’ll do whatever you want.”

On the same day, Eddy told Boss One it would be better for him to negotiate in the future with his cousin, not Ivette, who was pregnant. That was when Eddy gave his cousin an alias that was also a clue. “Talk to my cousin ‘Brenan,'” Eddy told Boss One.

There was only one person who called Eddy's cousin Sergio that: Eduardo Monroy, the architect, the former friend who'd given out Eddy's gate code to kidnappers. Monroy liked that kind of joke. Monroy called Eddy “Mandilón” because he thought that was funny, and he called Sergio “Brenan” after a Mexican talk show host who, like Sergio, dressed up all the time. Eddy was hoping that Sergio would somehow make the connection.
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Boss One agreed to negotiate with “Brenan.” When Boss One added Eddy’s cousin to his own cell phone directory, that’s how he listed him: BRENAN. He didn’t know that his conversations with Eddy’s cousin would all, from this point on, be listened to and recorded either by the FBI or by Ivette and Sergio, who used little pocket tape recorders they were told to carry everywhere they went. Boss One had, after all, kidnapped Balitas and Junior Gordo and El Pareja’s brother and Quilino, and he didn’t expect them to disobey him and he didn’t expect anyone to discover the police. But Ivette remembered what Eddy said when they got the first hint that someone was after him. “Call the FBI,” he told her, and that’s exactly what she did.

* * *

According to the FBI, many kidnappings investigated in San Diego involve Hispanic residents who have ties to Tijuana or Ensenada. Some of the family members who report abductions say, “We were hesitant to come, but there’ve been three kidnappings in our neighborhood alone, and they never got their family members back, so we’re coming to you for this one.” By “neighborhood,” the FBI agent said, the callers really meant their circle of friends.

Sometimes the abduction is discovered because the police find a body, track down the family, and are told, “Yes, there were ransom calls, but we didn’t call the police.” In Paradise Hills, above a flat, barren park, a green slope rises steeply to the 6500 block of Garber Street. The houses on Garber Street have been there a long time, and they’re showing their age, but they mostly have the pitched roofs and boxy shape of houses in a child’s picture book. In the backyard of one of those houses, the remains of two bodies dissolved in acid waited for someone to discover them.

* * *

Days and nights passed inside the house at Point Dume to the televised shouts of the Copa Point Dans, and Boss One’s Cartier Prada shoes. He could see Boss One’s Timberland boots, Morro’s Air Jordans, and Boss One’s Prada shoes. He could see Boss One’s Cartier Oro. The house held almost nothing but the TV, a mattress, the duffel bags of police uniforms, and three containers of muriatic acid such as you might have watch and guess ages by the skin on their hands. Boss One was young and thin. Boss Two was young and thin. In time, he saw Tio had a goatee and was in his 40s.

When Eddy broke down, they said what was he, a girl?

“I’m a— I’m a human being,” he said. He said he missed his daughter and he missed his family, and he wasn’t going to go with other women anymore. He wasn’t going to be like that again.

They said, nah, men needed girls on the side, but Eddy said, “No, no, no. No more,” in Spanish. Nunca jamás.

Asere was the one who stayed all night at Point Dume, so he

“"I’m fine, sweetie," she said in Spanish.

“"I’m hanging in because these people are going to let you out alive.”

If you were keeping down bacteria levels in your pool, though the house on Point Dume had no swimming pool.

By adjusting his blindfold, Eddy made enough of a gap that he could see Tio’s Timberland boots, Morro’s Air Jordans, and Boss One’s Prada shoes. He could see Boss One’s Cartier
told Eddy about coming to the U.S. on a boat from Cuba, about how his wife and daughters were still there.

On Sunday, June 10, the FBI recorded and translated a conversation among Eddy, his wife, and Sergio. As Eddy spoke, Boss One was listening. As Ivette spoke from a room in her sister’s house, a device she couldn’t see was transmitting her voice to agents she’d been warned by Boss One not to contact. She had moved out of the Manzanos house and her daughter was staying with relatives, but she was afraid that somehow the kidnappers were watching or listening to her too.

Eddy asked Ivette how she was doing, and she tried to answer. “I’m fine, sweetie,” she said in Spanish. “I’m hanging in because these people are going to let you out alive. I want you back alive, and I’m going to do everything possible — everything — to come up with everything they want because I know that, that, that they’re going to respect you and, and, and, and, you know, I want you back alive, alive and in one piece, I want you alive. I love you.”

“Yes, honey,” Eddy told her while Boss One listened and watched. “I love you very much. Uh, do it, do…make sure…be smart about what you’re going to do and, uh, try and figure out what you can do about the house.”

It wasn’t a good time to be selling a house. A six-month lot at Premiere I and Motorland. Talk to “our buddies,” he told her. “Maybe they can do us a favor there. Talk to, to your girlfriend and everything, tell her, uh, her dad, and we’ll see what happens. Let’s see if he can help us out.”

She said she would. In the living room on Point Dume Court, the TV was tuned to Univision, and Honduras beat Mexico 2–1.

* * *

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The money was in a Georgia-Pacific paper box, not a briefcase: $193,900 in used, wrinkled $20 bills.

The deal was that Sergio would give Boss One the nearly $200,000 he had so far, and Sergio would keep trying to sell Eddy’s race car for another $100,000, and Boss One, because he was such a nice guy, would drop the total ransom from $2 million to $700,000.

“I’m asking if you want to make a deal, man. Tomorrow,” Boss One repeated. “Because I don’t have problems with him, man.”

“I don’t have problems with him” is something Boss One said several times to Sergio, as if this were a very critical distinction: the impersonal kidnapping versus the personal one, the thing you do for money versus the thing you do out of hatred or revenge.

“If it were up to me,” Boss One went on, “I’m—I’m very comfortable over here, man. The guy is there. If it were up to me, he can stay there for months, okay? But I’m not an asshole, and I don’t have problems with him, man. It’s—it’s just that they brought him to me. And the people that he

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was with — you know who he hangs around with, man, with those fuckers from out there — he’s working with them, and I have problems with them. We’re at war, man. I think you must have heard, right?”

In his rambling, Boss One changed arguments ever so slightly, from “I don’t have problems with him” to “I have problems with the people he’s with.” It’s personal but it’s indirect. The associates of Eddy Tostado are on the other side of what Boss One calls a “war,” the logic goes, and they must be punished, so Eddy’s going to pay.

Sergio didn’t seem to know what Boss One was talking about. Sergio and Eddy grew up together in Ensenada, and then Sergio went into the army for seven years. Eddy had a lot more money than he used to have, but he had married Ivette, the daughter of a neurologist.

“No,” Sergio told Boss One, “I really don’t know what the problem is, but — uh — but that’s fine. That’s fine. Yes, we just want him to be okay, you know. We’re his family, you know, and…we want the guy to be okay.”

Boss One didn’t explain what he meant by a war or which guys Eddy Tostado was supposedly hanging around with. Instead, he became more conciliatory — conspiratorial, even. The deal Boss One was offering to Sergio had to be a secret from those other ones, the shadows that were making all this unpleasantness happen, the ones that had brought Eddy to Boss One in the first place.

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“Okay,” Boss One said. “Well, try hard so you won’t worry so much about it, man. I’ll leave it at seven for you, man. What do you think? At seven. Go ahead and tell his wife right now, man. Look, tomorrow I’m going to call you during the day, man. I’m going to call you during the day tomorrow…no — uh — and I’m going to ask you, ‘So what’s up? Do you have those? How much do you have?’ And you tell me, ‘The two hundred.’ Okay? I’m going to do you the favor, and you’re going to listen to what I’m telling you, man. Okay? Don’t talk too much. I mean, listen to what I’m telling you. Because if you talk too much, man, he’s going to stay there for months, man. People are leeches, you know. I’m the good guy over here, man, and I’m going to let him go, just like that fucking
young man left. But he’s not going to leave like that, in payments, man. You know what I mean? You give me those two hundred tomorrow, and if you have the other hundred — when you have them, man. You know what I mean? On Sunday, I mean, I’m not in a rush, man. You know what I mean? You call me, you tell me, and we’ll work it out. People come to an understanding when they talk things over. You know what I mean? And so that — so that we can see something and understand things. You know what I mean? And so that we can come to an understanding, man. You know what I mean? And so that we can get it all together soon, as much as we can.”

Boss One kept talking in that scary, circular way.

“Don’t think that it’s just me,” Boss One said. “There are a lot of us, you know, and people, well, they — they have delusions that your buddy has money. I know how things are. I know what is going on with those guys. They’re treating him well because I tell them to. Okay! I want — when I call you tomorrow I’m going to ask you, ‘Hey, man, how’s it going? How much?’”

The conspiracy thing again. The importance of keeping Boss One’s deal a secret while somehow appeasing the shadow men, the ones with delusions about how much money Sergio should be coughing up.

“Later on at night around this time,” Boss One continued, “I’m going to call you to see if you got the hundred, man, or if not, then on Sunday when they give it to you. Right after that, you’re going to keep scraping around, man, so you can gather the seven. And if you say he is going to give to a friend of mine — to me, and you’re going to talk to him, man.”

Talk to whom? To Eddy? To Boss One’s friend? At least Sergio knew what jewelry Boss One was talking about. While Eddy was passing the hours in his closet, thinking and thinking and thinking about who had done this to him and how he could possibly get himself free, he’d hit upon the fondness his kidnappers had for expensive watches. That was, after all, one of the
And that’s it,” Boss One said. “I’m going to call you at night to see if you got the hundred, and you’re going to put them separately with the jewelry. I’m going to do you the favor, man. You know what I mean? I’m going to do this favor, you…and your…this guy…Eduardo.” “Okay,” Sergio said. “Got it. Thank you.” The signing off seemed to take forever, to be as uncertain as the life of the man Boss One called “this guy Eduardo.” “All right, then,” Boss One repeated. “I’ll give you a call early tomorrow, man.” “All right. Got it.” “All right then. You understood me, didn’t you, man?” “Yes, I understood you. Okay. Got it.” “All right, man. I’ll call you tomorrow.” “All right,” Sergio said again. “Thank you.” No sooner was Ser-
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An agent fitted Sergio with a body wire, a device like a pager that attached to his belt. Wires circled him beneath his clothes. There was a small microphone.

Ivette was frantic and distraught. Sergio was scared but trying not to look it. The agents transferred “bricks” — bundles of wrinkled $20 bills — from the Georgia-Pacific box to a briefcase provided by the FBI. The surveillance units would be listening, an agent told Sergio. She told him to keep his conversations to a minimum — talk only to the kidnappers — and then she gave him a phrase to use in the event that he felt something bad was happening. He was supposed to say, “Don’t shoot.”

As soon as all the money was in the briefcase, Sergio’s phone beeped. It was 2:20 p.m. “Go,” the agent told Sergio, and he went.

The recording made using Sergio’s body wire is 53 minutes long. It’s mostly silence and the exterior whish of cars as he drove, and although the FBI was supposed to be able to hear the whole thing live, something failed. A recording was made, but no transmission went out. Sergio was completely and totally alone, though he didn’t know it at the time.

“I’m on my way, man,” Sergio told Boss One. “The thing is, I had to drop off the lady here” — meaning Ivette — “because she was with me, you know. I’m on my way over there, all right? I have everything with me.”

“All right,” Boss One said. “Just make sure no one follows you, all right, man? Do things right. Listen to what I tell you, man, okay? Don’t let anyone follow you or anything.”

“No, don’t worry,” Sergio said. “We want this guy to be fine. Don’t think that.”

“All right, then. Uh, where are you? Which—what street? Are you still at Lowe’s or what?”

Sergio said where he was, and Boss One began to give him directions. Take 805 south. Exit Plaza Boulevard. Wait at the Thrifty gas station.

From the gas sta-
tion, someone appeared to begin following him.

Take 54 west. Exit National City Boulevard.

The FBI had already photographed the Rolex watches from every possible angle because Ivette had been afraid to find a jeweler to open them up and write down the serial numbers. These and the $100,000 Sergio had yet to get were the assurance that the kidnappers would want Sergio to go on living. He was not bringing the watches today, just the money.

Sergio drove down the ramp from Highway 54 into National City, then turned right into the drive-in movie theater that became, twice a week, a popular swap meet. Guaranteed Vehicles – Yes, the sign said. Discount Prices – Yes.

Boss One asked Sergio if he saw the broken tree and the fence with the gap in it. Sergio did. Boss One told Sergio to drive up to that broken tree and park his truck and leave the door open and walk into the swap meet through the gap in the fence and go inside the bathroom and not look back until they called him.

Sergio did all this without knowing that the wire had failed. The recorder on his body was collecting every sound he made, but no one was listening as he stepped out of his truck. No sniper in an unmarked car could actually hear him right then if he shouted, “Don’t shoot.”

The asphalt at the swap meet is bumpy. The old humps where cars would park on a slight rise for a better view of the drive-in movie screen still curve in half moons like crop circles. Rusty poles that held speakers stand pointlessly askew. Huge potholes crater the ground, and the ancient trailers of the Keystone Trailer Park stick up over the ragged chain-link fence just high enough to make you feel observed. Sergio walked over the asphalt humps to the white cinder-block bathrooms. He did not look back.

Before he even entered the bathrooms, Boss One called Sergio and told him he could go back to his truck, and when Sergio stood once more before the open door, the briefcase and all the money were gone. The first ransom had been paid.

“Does my cousin need any clothes?” Sergio asked Boss One.

“No,” Boss One told him.

There was nothing else for Sergio to do but call the FBI, say it was done. It was only then, at 2:50 p.m., that the agent in charge realized that the reason she had not heard anything for the last 30 minutes was the wire had gone down and they had not surveilled the ransom drop.

She got on the radio and told everyone the last known location — the swap meet. She told the 10 agents in the surveillance unit (8 of them in separate cars, 2 in a plane), the 16 members of the SWAT unit, and her own squad of 3 others to go to the swap meet, turn their radios to the frequency of the “beacon” transmitter that was inside the ransom briefcase, fan out, and listen.

Thirty people now began to search.

* * *

A half hour later, at
3:20 p.m., one of those agents waited in his car near 28 Las Flores Drive, a Chula Vista house rented to Jorge Rojas López and identified as “pertaining to the subjects of the case.” There in the driveway was a gold Mitsubishi Lancer with Baja plates. He made a note of that. He parked a short distance away and adjusted his rearview mirror to show him anyone coming or going from that house. He thought, mistakenly, that the briefcase held a tracking device, not a beacon. He thought, mistakenly, that the house rented to Jorge Rojas López and identified as “pertaining to the subjects of the case.”

As it became clear that he should be listening for a beacon, the agent turned his radio to the right channel. He heard a beep. Thirty seconds passed before he heard it again. Then, as the signal became more regular and stronger, a gold Mitsubishi Lancer driven by a lone Hispanic male approached and passed his car. He let it turn the corner, and then he began to follow it, simultaneously calling for the plane to come to his location. Soon the Lancer had an entourage, which followed it first to a Comfort Inn in National City, where it stopped for ten minutes, and then to the Tropical Oasis All Natural Juice Bar on Telegraph Canyon Road. Somewhere in this time period, $180,000 disappeared.

Click. A photograph was made at 4:38 p.m. Two young Hispanic men in white shirts — not just the one who drove the car from Las Flores Drive — left the juice bar and got back in the Lancer.

It could not have seemed good that the Lancer headed south. And still farther south. Straight down I-5 toward Mexico.

But then the Lancer took the very last exit. The men who had picked up the ransom were going shopping at the Las Americas mall, from which you can see, but not touch, Mexico. More precisely, they were going to Neiman Marcus Last Call, which has a very extensive video security system. Every dull, ordinary thing the men did — every shirt held up to the light, every sole examined in the shoe department, every smile exchanged with the young female clerk — was recorded.

For a few very odd minutes, a woman left her toddler asleep in a stroller near a man who was buying clothes for a hostage.

They spent nearly $400 in cash.

Outside in the parking lot, agents who had followed waited in their cars. A single-engine Cessna droned over.

And still farther south.

Lancer headed south.

Seemed good that the Lancer.

Californians had $284,000 in cash and a gold Mitsubishi Lancer. They were still trying to sell it and gather more money.

Agents began to park near the house at Mansiones Lane. They were allowed, for the first time in eight days, to shower. Boss One and Boss Two gave him the designer clothes they’d

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picked out at Neiman Marcus Last Call: shoes, socks, boxers, Chip and Pepper jeans (too long), and a $90 dress shirt (too tight across the chest). This gave him hope. Of course, it was a mediated hope. Boss One told Eddy he was going to get a break. He was going to let Eddy go free while Eddy tried to sell his house. “But,” Boss One also told him, “we know where your mother lives and we’ll kill them all” if Eddy didn’t pay up.

Eddy Tostado was then allowed to make what’s called a “proof-of-life” call. Sergio and Ivette were relieved and happy. Eddy was buoyant. “My love,” Eddy called his wife. “Te quiero,” he said. “I love you.” He said there was no price he could put on being with her and his daughter again.

At 6:17 p.m., the gold Mitsubishi Lancer left Point Dume Court. At 6:29 p.m., the red MR2 that Derek and Freddy had seen so many times also left Point Dume Court. At the intersection of Brandywine and Olympic Parkway, two separate groups of three SWAT team cars were waiting with rifles and noise grenades that are called “flash bangs” because they make an explosive noise when detonated but don’t throw off shrapnel. As people in cars on their way to movies and restaurants and gas stations and their own houses waited for the light to change, a flash bang was thrown onto the hood of a gold Mitsubishi Lancer. A flash bang was thrown onto the hood of the MR2. Traffic stopped. The man who stepped out of the MR2 was five feet six and weighed approximately 140 pounds. He had a goatee and hands that Eddy had seen from beneath his blindfold.
His name was Raúl Rojas Gámez, otherwise known as Tío. Among the $6963.52 in cash that he carried were four $20 bait bills. All four serial numbers matched those written down by the FBI.

When the driver of the Lancer was ordered to step out of the car with his hands up, turn around, and face away from the officers, he instead lay facedown on Olympic Parkway.

“Get up,” the agents shouted at him.

But Jorge Rojas López stayed, as the agent put it, “proned out on the ground.”

He stayed there like that for two to five minutes, as agents ordered the passenger of the Lancer to exit the vehicle and walk slowly toward them. The passenger was Juan Francisco Estrada González, whose voice Eddy would soon identify as Boss Two’s.

Inside the Lancer, agents found the receipt for Eddy’s new clothes, the brown leather briefcase Sergio took to the swap meet, a shoebox from Neiman Marcus, and cell phones containing, among other contact numbers, one for someone identified as BRENAN who had the same phone number as SERGIO. That phone also pointed a rifle at him.

From Rojas himself, police seized $3206 in cash and found another explosive on the hood of his car.

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- S.H.

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*   *   *
of escaping?” asked the detective.

“Y es.”

“Did you try?”

“No.”

“Why do you think they came after you?” the detective wanted to know.

“Because I’m from Ensenada,” Eddy said.

“That I have money from Mexico. I know, I know, from Mexico, “ he stammered, and the transcriber of the tape wrote that the rest of what he said was unintelligible, or “(UI).”

Many things in the conversation were “(UI).”

“(UI) We know, “ the detective said.

“We’ve done a lot of checking and stuff, and why do you think specifically [that] afternoon?”

“Because the uh, the other guy told me and uh, uh, (UI) we never found out (UI) my— my (UI) people are friends…”

“Um-hmm.”

“They’re a nice and they do their own thing. But I know people from— from one of them (UI).”

“We know that too,” said the detective.

“I’m a (UI).”

“You’re, like, independent?”

“(UI) know them.”

Mumbling can be a sign, obviously, of evasion. It can also be a sign of someone talking too softly in his second language well after midnight directly following a harrowing SWAT team rescue and eight days of imprisonment in a closet.

“So let me just — let me just be honest,” the detective said. “You have friends and possibly some family in Arellanos?”

A member of the Arellano Félix cartel of Tijuana killed Jorge Rojas López’s brother, Palillo.

“No, no family.”

“No family? Just friends?”

“Yeah. No family.”

“No family whatsoever.”

“None whatsoever.”

“None whatsoever.”

“How do you know those people?”

“(UI) from the, uh, places.” From Ensenada, Eddy said. A shop associated with off-road race cars.

“I don’t have problems with him, man, Boss One told Sergio the night before the
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Eduardo Gonzalez Tostado is a prominent member of the Arel- lano Felix Organization (AFO).

“3. The AFO is a criminal organization involved in drug trad- ficking, money laundering, kidnapping, and murders.”

But an order signed by Judge Rogers on September 3, 2008, cre- ates a different impres- sion about the wit- nesses and the evidence against Tostado. “With respect to the material itself [information the prosecution team had regarding possible criminal activities of Eduardo and Sergio Tostado], the court dis- covered no material that was based on per- sonal knowledge and not based on hearsay [italics mine] regarding Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez Tostado and Mr. Sergio Tostado. None of the material consisted of eyewitness or first-hand information of the participation by either of them in the AFO or any of its activ- ities or in criminal activities in general.”

None of the mate- rial consisted of eyewitness or first-hand infor- mation. It was all hearsay. In Mexico, that hearsay resulted in an arrest warrant. Eduardo González Tostado was wanted there in September of 2008 for organized crime. During the trial, as a consequence, jurors heard FBI testi- mony about the Arellano Félix cartel, and they also heard what Jorge Rojas López said to Sergio when he didn’t know he was being recorded: “I don’t have any problems with him.” Although Rojas repeatedly vowed to take revenge on the Arellano Félix cartel, he said he didn’t have any problems with Eddy.

Eddy testified that Rojas checked Eddy’s reputation in Mexico after Eddy became a hostage. “They like done some investiga- tion during the week,” Eddy said, “and let me know that I won’t have any problems.”

“Who told you that they had done investiga- tions on you?”

“Boss No. 1.”

“Did he tell you what type of investiga- tions had been done?”

“Yes. Ask some

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people from Ensenada also that they knew and that I knew, and they asked the word around Mexico and find out.”

“Find out what?”

“That I just work and have my business, that’s how I make a living, and that I didn’t have nothing to do with his brother.”

When the trial ended on November 21, 2008, Jorge Rojas López and Juan Francisco Estrada González were convicted of kidnapping for ransom with bodily harm and sentenced to life without parole. Rojas is considered the leader of a gang named Los Palillos, in honor of his murdered brother. The gang has 17 members, including the 5 who were arrested that night at Point Dume. Rojas awaits trial for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Teódulo Espinoza Andrade, Jaime Gómez Coronado, Guadalupe Becerra Herrera, Francisco Olguín Verdugo, Ricardo Escobar Luna, Mario Baylón García Jr., Ivan Lozano Vázquez (aka Junior), César Uribe, and Marc Anthony Leon Jr. — nine killings in all — making him eligible for the death penalty. Rojas is further charged with robbery, attempted robbery, attempted kidnapping, shooting at an inhabited house, and attempting to murder a peace officer.

Raúl Rojas Gámez, or Tio, pled guilty to kidnapping and awaits sentencing. The men Eddy knew as Morro (Carlos Peña García) and Asere (José Beritan Olivera) were indicted in the kidnapping of Tostado and are in custody. They await trial for the murder of Ivan Lozano Vázquez (aka Junior), César Uribe, and Marc Anthony Leon Jr.

Juan Laureano Arvizu, the man who left a note on the Tostados’ doorstep, is still wanted by the FBI, which describes him as an avid gambler who likes to bet on professional sporting events and go to nightclubs. A Mexican national with no legal American papers, Laureano, or “Chaquetín,” is charged with robbery, attempted kidnapping, shooting at an inhabited house, attempting murder of a peace officer, the kidnapping and murder of Ricardo Escobar Luna, Mario Baylón García Jr., Ivan Lozano Vázquez (aka Junior), César Uribe, and Marc Anthony Leon Jr.

David Valencia, the man who introduced Eddy to Nancy, pled guilty to the kidnapping of Eduardo Tostado, admitted a gang allegation, and is serving 15 years in state prison. He is charged with three of the above murders and faces multiple life sentences with the potential of the death penalty.

Eduardo Monroy, the architect who gave out Eddy’s gate code, is still at large.

The woman known as Nancy has not been found.

Ernesto Ayón, a Los Palillos member charged with kidnapping, killing, and dissolving in muriatic acid César Uribe and Marc Anthony Leon Jr. at a rented house on Garber Street in Paradise Hills, is also at large.

Mark Amador, lead prosecutor in the murder and kidnapping cases associated with all 17 members of Los Palillos, writes that Mr. Tostado continues to be appreciative of his rescue and “continues to cooperate with the prosecution(s) even though there have been attempts on his life and the lives of family members over the past two and a half years. Mr. Tostado has not been charged with any crimes in the U.S. relating to alleged cartel activities or drug trafficking. At the time of the first trial, there was an arrest warrant in Mexico but no arrest warrant in the United States. Since that time, the Mexican arrest warrant has been rescinded by the Mexican government. Our understanding from Mr. Tostado and his attorney is that the arrest warrant was quashed by legitimate legal means, using what’s known in Mexico as the amparo process. Therefore, to our knowledge, there are no charges pending against Mr. Tostado in the United States or Mexico.”

In October of 2008, Eddy Tostado closed

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his Tijuana restaurant, Mariscos del Pacifico. When asked during the trial why he closed it, he said a waiter and a bartender had been shot and killed there and that two barrels of acid found to contain human remains had been left outside. On January 12 of this year, federal police in Mexico arrested an alleged drug trafficker, kidnapper, and extortionist known as “El Teo.” Teodoro García Simental was known for disposing of his enemies in gruesome ways, especially for beheading them and dissolving bodies in acid. Last year, authorities arrested an employee of his known as “El Pozolero,” or the stew-maker, who admitted to dissolving at least 300 bodies. Families of people who have disappeared in Tijuana are hoping that El Teo’s arrest will lead to information about where their loved ones have gone. When asked if other cartel associates like Jorge Rojas López continue to cross the border and dare, as Rojas bragged, to bring cartel methods to the U.S., Mark Amador said that these types of kidnappings have increased in San Diego County over the past few years and there are similar kidnapping crews that remain active since the take-down of Los Palillos in 2007. “These groups band together in criminal conspiracies to rob, kidnap, extort, and kill.”

In light of these continuing threats, Mark Amador’s statement to the jury during his closing arguments still rings true. Amador asked the jury to consider the massive pile of evidence against Boss One and Boss Two — the photographs, the video surveillance, the cell phones, the bait bills, the receipts, the recorded phone conversations — and say, “We know you did this. Doesn’t matter who you picked out.”

From a public safety standpoint, it truly doesn’t matter whether you believe Eddy was an innocent victim or a guilty one. If he had not been saved and had not testified, it’s easy to imagine a different ending to this story, in which a man with ID that says he’s Rubén Flores is driving through your neighborhood right now with a friend. They have a nice car and nice watches. They know where to buy pool-cleaning supplies, and they own a large collection of guns. They’re pulling into the driveway of a rented house with an attached garage, and when they knock, they are welcomed into its empty rooms. They open the back door and walk casually into a well-fenced backyard where, as it happens, there is no pool. They say they’ll take it. They pay cash. — Laura McNeal
I adored Sabira's performance at the La Jolla Shores Hotel; she's worth a trip to San Diego anytime.

Charles Berdiansky via email

Hot-Blooded Filly
I've known and followed Sabira's musical talent for years (Music, March 25). She has a beautiful, clear, strong voice that doesn't even need any music, but her music is awesome also! She writes and performs her own songs with beauty, harmony, and humor, plays so many instruments (including banjo), can take on any persona for any kind of party — whether country western ("She's a hot-blooded filly and she's been in the stall too long," a song written by Sabira), reggae, jazz, renaissance, classical rock, pop, you name it, she and her band perform it with all the costumes and act that go with it! They love what they are doing and it shows. Please write more about Sabira so we can follow her career and promote her!

E. Clare Wallace-Clamme via email

It's Normal
Your City Heights article ("Changes in City Heights," Cover Story, March 18) was a good story, but it mentioned Adams Elementary, which is not in City Heights. It's in Normal Heights.

Name Withheld via voicemail

Damage On A Plate
It's disappointing that Naomi Wise knows well enough to mention the endangered bluefin tuna population and yet eats it anyway ("Tapas on Tokyo Time," Restaurant Review, March 18). Same with ankimo, as the bottom tows used to catch monkfish often tear up the ocean floor and are known to snare sea turtles and marine mammals as well.

Eating even a little bit of bluefin requires the butchering of a whole fish, which creates the demand that fuels the market and pushes the species closer to the brink. This is the situation humans find ourselves in, wanting to put stuff in our mouths so badly that we ignore the consequences. We don't even know what it takes to bring us most of the things we consume, and in the odd circumstance when we have that knowledge we don't feel compelled to act.

The question I think we all need to ask ourselves is whether the desire to eat certain foods justifies things like environmental damage and the extinction of species when there's an enormous variety of wonderful, ethically acceptable alternatives. I think if you are a conscious and considerate human, your answer will be no. All that's left is to behave accordingly.

Please visit seafoodwatch.org for more info.

Josh Johnson via email

The Real Deal
I enjoyed Dave Good's music article "The Last Real DJ," in your March 18 issue. Being a big fan of 88.3, I was never a fan of the "light" jazz that seems to real jazz. I was never a fan of the "light" jazz that seems to be so popular here. That reminds me of drinking light beer — no body or substance, so why bother? I'd rather drink lemonade. But variety is healthy, and this would be a pretty boring world if we all had the same taste.

Tim via email

A Big Bowl Of Words
Re "From Disneyland to Ducasse" (Restaurant Review, March 11).

While it is great to see more positive reviews from Naomi Wise, someone needs to explain to her that experience writing restaurant reviews does not give her license to write novels every last detail of her dining experience. She could be equated to the Charles Dickens of restaurant reviewers. Her review was so lengthy that I would imagine her doing a dissertation to Blanca, leaving potential diners unaware of the stunning menu because they didn't care to finish reading about the restaurant.

The dishes at Blanca are creative, inspired, but, most importantly, reserved. Ms. Wise could take a hint from chef Neroni and try to be a little more understated. I was also disappointed to scroll through the entirety of the review that took an entire lunch hour to complete, to find no mention of the impressive desserts. While chef Neroni has done excellent work for Blanca, it should also be mentioned that he has made an excellent choice in his pastry chef. One could make a visit to Blanca based on cocktails and desserts alone.

I do agree that Blanca is a choice food lovers should make if they are in Solana Beach. However, something a little less wordy would make me more inclined to dine there again.

Name Withheld by Request via email

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I've Got Issues
Re "Home Owner Association Horror Stories" (Cover Story, February 18).

Issue 1. Sewers not built to code. The homeowners’ association sued the City of Escondido and the builder; then the HOA pocketed and spent the money. Now they say the HOA is not responsible for the sewers that run through everyone’s property, every which way. Many homes over the years flooded with sewage. The homeowners find their insurance won’t cover it, and the HOA says “not ours”; the City says “not ours.”

Issue 2. Gates always broken. Many, many years reported many, many times that someone ran into the gates, when the true story is the gates break and close on vehicles. Much reporting through the property management company twisted.

Issue 3. Birds in cages in yards. Now, this is a single-family-residence neighborhood. One owner was run out of the community because of birds in a yard caging bird noises. Now, this is on the edge of an open wild canyon space with trees. Now we have another home that has a renter in it with a birdcage. Fines, fines, fines. People just hate to see anyone else have or enjoy anything. Talk of bird flu. What? They are in a cage — can it really be spread in/by caged animals?

Issue 4. Let neighbors tear out their drainage, which is required by the CC&R’s and building codes. Does not inspect work afterwards. Does not monitor that work is done by anyone who knows anything. I have an idiot neighbor who hired an idiot, built a fence twice without support or common building codes. Idiots don’t know that just because you don’t need a city permit does not mean you can build dangerous. Another problem with this neighbor is termites. And they use untreated wood and put in the ground. They used the wood fence on our hill as a retaining wall to hold the dirt up. And then they have a smear/slander/libel campaign against me. It is

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so ridiculous it is laughable. Unfortunately, what it causes the other neighbors to do is close their drapes, hide out, and move.

Name Withheld
via Request

Return Of The Droll
I was annoyed that Barbarella was getting a bit trite (been reading her stuff since Feb-ruary 2003, when I moved to San Diego), but the last few columns have been great! Thanks, Barbarella! I’m glad to see her getting back to her droll self!

Bev Lockhart
via email

Death Lives!
This is in regard to the “Blurt” article “Know Your Metal,” in the February 4 issue.

It is known that there are death-metal bands that exist in San Diego. Ritual Torture and band members should have already realized there are only a handful of venues that showcase metal bands. If you are unsigned and have no product, you should expect rejection from promoters and club owners. It’s business; don’t take it personally.

If there is a brotherhood among a select few death-metal bands, it’s concerning to me that only three other death-metal bands were mentioned, and if that is the case, what are they doing about the current metal situation here in San Diego? Complaining about other forms of music such as punk, glam, alternative, metalcore, hip-hop, etc. — I really can care less about that so-called music or noise and what they are trying to define, destroy, or create. Like in the past, other forms of music and their cultures do not affect death-metal music or the true loyal fans. It never has and never will. This music has existed for 25 years, and most of the world has no idea or concept about death metal. It is not designed for mainstream listening, and I am fine with that.

However, I do suspect the not-so-truth and -loyal death-metal fan or musician may not know what this music represents. What it represents is freedom of artistic expression at its most extreme. There are countries in this world where metal music of any kind is forbidden and condemned by their government. It is simply against the law. It may seem unbelievable, but it is true. The metal history lesson to be learned is we should be grateful here in the United States of America for what we have. It is our constitutional right that should never be taken for granted. Can anyone imagine the prohibition act against metal music in the United States? My advice to Ritual Torture or any other band that complains is, if you’re discontented about the trials and tribulations that happen within metal, remember that at least you’re given the opportunity. You have the liberty to do so, don’t waste it.

Tony D. Metal
Spring Valley

Ardent Roamer
I have always enjoyed relating to “Roam-O-Rama,” with its detailed diagrams (maps) indicating thoroughfares and hikes throughout. So useful to anyone visiting areas. Also enjoy the additional areas included but often thought how convenient it would be to include a small map with each location, thus eliminating reference to an atlas, which is a nuisance. Do hope you can accommodate.

Name Withheld

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

Cover Story
Published March 31
By jka816 2:46 p.m., Mar. 31, 2010
I wish Afra and her fiancée, Fayyaz, all the best in their new life together. So what that their courtship is arranged. People have married and known a whole lot less than these two about each other! Good Luck to them again!

By Questangie 3:43 p.m., Mar. 31, 2010
I also wish Afra the best of luck! What a wonderful and insightful story. We could all benefit from these types of arranged marriages not to be confused with “forced” marriages. This is one of the things I love about being an American... Is being able to open our minds and hearts to the understanding of other cultures... Angie...

Straight From the Hip
Published March 31
By refrialdgringo 9:59 a.m., Apr. 1, 2010
Actually, what with being a gringo myself, I schleuth the etymology out years ago. The word “gringo” appears in Spanish literature dating back to the sixteenth century, and you are correct, it comes from the word “Griego,” meaning Greek, and this goes back to Roman times. When the Romans conquered the Greeks, they didn’t exactly enslave the entire population; much of Roman history is bound to Greek thought and philosophy because the intelligent Greeks became a part of Roman society. It wasn’t so much that the Greek was incomprehensible, more that the Greek accent speaking Latin was difficult to understand.

Likewise, in Spain back in the late 1500’s, there were many Northern Europeans who migrated into Spain (that was where the gold was, after all), and while they learned to speak Spanish, it wasn’t easy to understand them. Gringo was a wonderful bastardization of Griego in order to affect a similar meaning.

By Matthew Alice 1:04 p.m., Apr. 1, 2010
I should have known that you’d add some polish to my answer, Refried, gringo that you are. (And that’s pa-lish, not poh-lish, though Polish is Greek to me.) Thanks for helping to make Straight from the Hip the wise guy’s answer to Wikipedia.

Under the Radar
Published March 31
By Otaytak 6:05 p.m., Apr. 1, 2010
Well—I am mentioned in this article—I am a native Chula Vista—an graduate of Castle Park High—it’s senior class president... a graduate of University of San Diego School of Law... I lived in Chula Vista for over thirty years. Yes, I was a lobbyist for Southern Cal Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric... but I worked for Democratic in the California Legislature for 20 years. My last public service job was with Governor Gray Davis as the Deputy Director for the Department of Finance.

In fact one of the reasons that I am helping Juan Vargas is that he did work on my dad’s farm in Otay Valley....

David K. Takashima from Otay Valley
By a2resource 4:01 p.m., Apr. 2, 2010

Coincidentally, Carol Lam’s departure from the local US Attorney’s Office came shortly after Sempra Energy’s San Diego Gas and Electric Company was indicted in a federal environmental crimes matter in 2006.

Her successor was able to get guilty verdicts by jury in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. SDG&E in 2007, but the verdicts were tossed out and the re-trial was dismissed when clever lawyering got key APCD, DEH, US EPA and FBI evidence first used in 2007 to be ruled as inadmissible late last year...

It turns out that California NVLAP-compliant results of “50-60%” friable asbestos don’t mean what they say when 42 USC 7412(d)(7) gets ignored.

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Thursday | 8

**TAX TIME**
It’s time to pay your dues to country and state! If you’re stumped by the legalese, head to the San Diego County Public Law Library where volunteers from the AARP Tax Assistance Program will “prepare and e-file” tax returns, as long as they don’t require a “depreciation or a complex Schedule C.” See **SPECIAL**, page 74.

**DISCOVER LOCAL FOSSIL FINDINGS**
A paleontologist tour led by Kesler Randall (San Diego Natural History Museum’s collections manager of fossil vertebrates) will cover paleobiology (also known as geobiology) and evolutionary history of the fossils on display in their “Fossil Mysteries” exhibit. See **LECTURES**, page 79.

Friday | 9

**MORE HORSES!**
The Morgan Horse Club of San Diego County hosts this Diamond Jubilee Morgan Horse Show featuring Morgan horses, American Saddlebred horses, and hackney ponies; carriage, equitation, and medal classes; and “open pleasure” (ribbons awarded for various categories). Spectators are welcome to watch the event in the new covered arena at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. See **SPORTS**, page 80.

Saturday | 10

**WOOFSTOCK: A FESTIVAL FOR DOGS AND PEOPLE**
Canine Companions for Independence starts the fun with a “Walk ‘n’ Roll Fun Dog Walk” through Balboa Park ($35 registration fee for walk includes T-shirt and festival admission). The festival includes a K-9 playground, flyball, a “fun zone” for kids, and demonstrations by assistance and disc dogs. See **SPECIAL**, page 74.

**BUSKER FESTIVAL**
Busking (playing for tips) street performers converge at Seaport Village for this celebration of their profession. Jugglers, sword-swallowers, contortionists, and comedic stuntmen are among the entertainers. “Busker after Dark” begins at 7 p.m. for those 18 and older. See **SPECIAL**, page 73.

**LAUNCHING THE POETRY BOMB**
Poet and actor S.A. Griffin hosts this National Poetry Month celebration featuring “a former U.S. military practice bomb, now converted into a beautiful object filled with poetry from around the world.” Read a poem of your own (under two minutes) and contribute your creation to the bomb. See **IN PERSON**, page 78.

Sunday | 11

**GRAND SPRING FESTIVAL**
San Marcos celebrates the season at the intersection of Via Vera Cruz and San Marcos Boulevard. Enjoy the offerings of over 300 vendors, an “American-muscle classic-car show” with 200 classic cars and hot rods, live entertainment, a children’s area, and more. See **SPECIAL**, page 74.

**SOAK UP THE SUN**
Know your facts before you jump into a discussion about the environment! For starters, learn how chemical clues locked in the Antarctic ice have helped scientists reconstruct 1000 years of solar activity when Scripps geochemist Devendra Lal discusses “Solar Activity During the Last Millennium” as part of the Perspectives on Ocean Science Lecture series. See **LECTURES**, page 80.

Monday | 12

**CIRQUE DREAMS “ILLUMINATION”**
The Balboa Theatre presents a show in which everyday occurrences are transformed into astounding feats performed by a cast of “acrobatic urbanites, flexible fanatics, world-class athletes, musicians,” and more. See **IN PERSON**, page 78.

Tuesday | 13

**WINES, VINES, AND CLIMATE SCIENCE**
Learn about local wine production, changes in California’s climate, and the impact that climate change has on the wine industry as the Climate Conversations series continues. Test your taste buds and whet your wine palate during the wine-tasting reception. See **LECTURES**, page 79.
Macedonia

By A. Gracia

Macedonia, a small southeastern European country of roughly two million inhabitants and formerly part of Yugoslavia, is an exotic destination sure to impress lovers of art, nature, and history.

Located on the beautiful Sar Mountain in northwest Macedonia, Popova Sapka is one of the country’s most popular winter ski resorts, but it also offers scenic hiking and nature adventures during the summer. It’s just 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the capital, Skopje. There’s an excellent ski environment and hotel accommodations in Popova Sapka, but I preferred the more traditional huts maintained by local hiking and sports clubs.

In Skopje, the country’s capital, I enjoyed a local soccer match filled with dancing and singing spectators, took part in the city’s “water games,” organized by a local TV station, and even joined a local swim team for their morning practices.

The trip to Ohrid was one of the highlights of my stay in Macedonia. The city is gorgeous — architecture is characterized by upper floors that jut out over lower ones, creating interesting shades at sunset.

Besides an idyllic boat ride across the lake and an evening spent exploring the town, I had the chance to participate in the annual Ohrid swimming marathon on the lake. All the swimmers enjoyed star treatment from the organizers.

Famous for its dazzling floor mosaics, ancient theater, and Roman baths, Heraclea is the best-preserved city from the ancient Macedonian empire. Founded in the 4th Century B.C. and conquered by the Romans two centuries later, Heraclea was built on the Via Egnatia and became one of the key stations on the trading route. Its mosaics portray vines and peacocks, fountains with gushing water, and stags, hinds, and birds drinking from the spring of life.
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Star Jasmine’s sweet perfume, exuded from clusters of small, white flowers, will continue to scent San Diego’s spring breezes until sometime in June. Not a true jasmine, or Jasminum, star jasmine belongs to the genus Trachelospermum. In both public and private spaces, it has been widely planted as an ornamental ground cover and as a trellised vine.

The Annual Green-to-Golden Transition of San Diego’s wild grasslands typically starts during early April — though this year the green phase will likely stick around for two more weeks because of the past winter’s abundant rainfall. North-facing hillsides and canyon slopes retain the green color longer, as they are less exposed to drying sunshine. Locally, most of the wild grasses are naturalized (non-native) annuals, the seeds of which were introduced along with hay and other grains brought in by the Spaniards during the 18th and 19th Centuries. Some of the mountain meadows have remnants of native grasses, which remain more or less green almost the year round. These rare native grasslands can be found in certain parts of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and more widely distributed at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in the Santa Ana Mountains west of Temecula.

The Black Oak, San Diego County’s most handsome native deciduous tree, is sending out new leaves this week, painting the mountain slopes with shades of red, brown, and bright green. The newly emergent leaves are reddish-brown in color, creating a pseudo-autumn color in the forest. After a week or two the unfolding leaves acquire a light green tint; after a month they’re dark green. Black oaks are common throughout the upper elevations of the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains.

Enjoy the show by exploring either the Fry Creek or Ecotourity trails on Palomar Mountain. Both start at the national forest campground area two miles below Palomar Observatory.

Snakes, encouraged by recent warm temperatures, have already emerged from burrows and rock crevices to hunt for prey throughout the county’s lower-elevation hillsides and canyons. Gopher snakes, garter snakes, king snakes, rosy boas (all harmless), and three varieties of rattlesnakes — red diamond, speckled, and Southern Pacific rattlesnakes (all poisonous) — are typically sighted this time of year. Close encounters with rattlesnakes are uncommon wherever residential properties abut undeveloped land — a common situation in much of San Diego County.

“Common Plants, Snakes, and Geology” Naturalist Jack Pomeroy leads moderately paced 4.5-mile hike and discusses reptiles, geology, plants along trails. Bring water, wear hiking boots, 760-839-4680. Saturday, April 10, 8am; free. Daley Ranch - La Honda Road.


Bunnies and Butterflies Critters “are out and about on these warm spring mornings.” Guided walk “teaches how to use all your senses in search of beauty and beast.” Learn Native American folklore, history of preservation. 619-668-3281. Saturday, April 10, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Campground, Two Father Juniperio Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Help restore cactus wren wildlife habitat; participants will prepare site, plant native plants in Santa Luz grasslands. Bring water, good footwear, gloves if you have them. Please RSVP for refreshments. Contact: 838-342-8856. Saturday, April 10, 9am; free. South Village Neighborhood Park, 14756 Via Azul. (CARmel VALLEY)

DO SOMETHING World Rock Church sponsors community cleanups with volunteers working in Encanto, Chollas Creek, areas of Balboa Park including Morley Field, Starlight Bowl, Inspiration Point, Florida Canyon, Gold Gulch, Laurel Street Bridge. Participants will be landscaping, painting, collecting trash, more. 619-226-7625. Saturday, April 10, 7am; free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at President’s Way, (BALBOA PARK)

Discover Magnificent Beauty! Nature walks led by trained naturalist. “Marvel at the reawakening vegetation throughout the reserve.

San Blas continued from page 70
fought Panama and won their autonomy; the entire province is now exempt from national taxes.

Due to the limited gene pool on the islands, the Kuna are among the highest in the world in rates of albinism. But rather than being seen as outcasts, albino children are considered “moon children,” touched by divinity, and often end up becoming chiefs or other upper-rung officials.

We docked on a larger island covered in palm-thatched huts and ate a breakfast of bread and instant coffee. Hammocks were strewn everywhere. I later learned that, while most of us enjoy the leisurely function of a good hammock, the Kuna take it to the next level — they are born, sleep, and are buried in hammocks.

The Kuna’s cultural arte-de-force is the mola, a bright and colorful style of patterned worn as clothing or on small rectangles of fabric depicting items of food and nature. The women wear brightly colored headscarves, intense blouses, and vibrant beads that snake about their dark calves.

After an hourlong ride, we were deposited on a deserted island about half the size of a football field (American) and left for the day. I laid in the sand and tried to sleep. Ricky napped in his hammock. Froste read a book. Kaj met everybody on the island, alternately joking loudly in French, Spanish, German, and a few languages I couldn’t recognize. Later, Ricky and Kaj initiated a coconut-tossing contest while I con¬structed a make-shift Tiki god from debris. Just before sunset, a couple motorized capyacas buzzed over the horizon and took us back to the main island.

Back on the big island, we met a few Kunas about our age and had some drinks with them on an overturned capyaco. The island had electricity from 6 pm to 11 pm, so when it finally sput¬tered out, Ricky produced two small Mag-Lites and spun them around in a wild raving dance. The natives thought he was a god. They fed us shots of a local moonshine and pleaded with us to teach them how to do the light thing.

Around three in the morning, one of our new friends insisted that I meet his family. So off we went, around the corner, into an open thatched door¬way. Several people slept around the small room in hammocks and he woke them all, introducing his mother, his sister, his aunt. Aunt had a small child suckling from her breast. We exchanged an awkward “hola” and I left, wondering why the young Kuna had taken me there.

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.
and be enchanted by fabulous flowers along the trails." 760-436-3944. Saturdays, 10am; free. San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

Palm Walk Offshoot Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees. 619-235-1122. Saturday, April 10, 10am; free. Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Pungent Sage, Bursting Blooms Trail guide-led walk in search of animal nests, flora and fauna, habitats. 619-668-3281. Saturday, April 10, 9:30am; Sunday, April 11, 9:30am; Wednesday, April 14, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Rolando’s Hidden Stairways Walkabout adventurers uncover secret stairways of this neighborhood near SDSU during 1.5-hour outing, 619-231-7463. Tuesday, April 13, 3pm; free. Rolando walk, Rolando Boulevard at Malcolm Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

San Diego Field Ornithologists Expert birders lead bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek. Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. Saturday, April 10, 9am; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMONT)

Seek Shooting Stars Search for Saturn and Jupiter, stars, and more during stargazing parties planned (weather permitting) in Miramar College’s baseball field. Call to confirm: 760-757-2121 x6201. Friday, April 9, 8pm; Saturday, April 10, 8:45am; free. Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Society volunteers to restore site for terns. Wear work clothes; gloves, snacks, water provided. Bring hoe or trowel if you like. Participants will be shuttled by boat from Campland’s boat-launch area; arrive promptly at 8:45 to sign in, catch shuttle. RSVP: 858-273-7800 x101. Saturday, April 10, 8:45am; free. Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

“Spring Bizarre Bazaar” Enjoy spiritual readings, chair massage, food, entertainment, arts, crafts during bazaar. 858-505-1100. Sunday, April 11, 10am; free. International Professional School of Business, 9025 Balboa Avenue. (CLAIREMONT)

“Vibrant Visions 2” Reception for Coastal Artists participating in “Art Windows” exhibition. See the multimedia exhibit in space G-5 (next to Greek Cafe, across from theater). 858-259-5600 or 858-755-1486. Sunday, April 11, 3pm; free. Del Mar Highlands Shopping Center, 12905 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

Antiques on Offer Dealers host sale of variety of antique and collectibles during North San Diego County Antique and Collectible Show. Professional appraisal $5 per item. 858-232-9474. Sunday, April 11, 9am; free. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Blooming Art in Bonita Local floral designers use current “Juried Art Exhibit” for inspiration combining “color and fragrance to create an indoor garden of artistic delights” for fifth annual “Blooming Art” event. Opening reception: April 9, 5-7pm; 858-267-5141. Friday, April 9, 10am; Saturday, April 10, 10am; free. Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, 4355 Bonita Road. (BONITA)

Busker Festival Celebration of busking street performers (those who play for tips,) with numerous professional performers including jugglers, sword swallowers, contortionists, comedic stuntmen. “Busker After Dark” for those 18 and older after 7pm. Donations accepted. 619-235-4014. Saturday, April 10, noon and 7pm; Sunday, April 11, noon and 7pm; free. Sea-...
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I found out from a friend who knows everything
That you had just gotten married.

I told him that I really
Had nothing to do with it.
I never loved you
— You know that better than I do —
Yet each time the acacias bloom
— Can you believe it? —

I get the very same feeling I had
When they hit me point-blank
With the heartbreaking news
That you had married someone else.
— translated by David Unger

I Take Back Everything I’ve Said

Before I go
I’m supposed to get a last wish:
Generous reader
burn this book
It’s not at all what I wanted to say
Though it was written in blood
It’s not what I wanted to say.

No lot could be sadder than mine
I was defeated by my own shadow:
My words took vengeance on me.

— translated by Miller Williams

LISTING:

For details, call 1 (888) 317-4136. You may also write to Reader Events, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

City Lights: Are You Ready to Be Seen? SDSS’s African Student Union hosts fourth annual fashion show in Montezuma Hall. Show features designers from S.D. and Los Angeles, as well as SDSS students Jamilah Shabazz and Jerid Banks. 619-587-4039. Tuesday, April 13, 6:30pm; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, (COLLEGE AREA)

Mission Hills Heritage Historic Home Tour Two diverse, historic Mission Hills subdivisions featured during docent-led tour, including several privately owned homes and Mission Hills United Church of Christ. 619-497-1193. Saturday, April 10, 11am; $25-$30. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Drive. (MISSION HILLS)

Open Studios 2010 UCSD Visual Arts Department graduate students host viewing of (approximately) 50 open studios, group exhibit, film and video screenings, live performances in Visual Arts Facility. 858-822-7755, Saturday, April 10, 3pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Open in Ramona Chat up some artists, see their private studios, view their work during self-guided Ramona Open Studios Tour with 18 participating artists. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Ramona Chamber of Commerce or at artists’ studios on event day. 760-789-1311. Saturday, April 10, 10am; Sunday, April 11, 10am to 6pm; $10. Ramona Chamber of Commerce, 960 Main Street. (RAMONA)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Flower Fields with nearly 50 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 dag of flowers, Bluegrass Day is Saturday, April 10 (noon-4pm), with variety of bands performing, bluegrass, old-time, traditional music. Season passes available, 760-431-0352. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 9am; Wednesdays, 9am; Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am. Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Rev It Up and Go! Goodguys Del Mar Nationals presented by Mecum’s showcases street rods, customs, classics, muscle cars, street machines (through 1972). Also planned: indoor and outdoor car show, Street Challenge Autocross (Friday and Saturday), vendors, swap meet with vendors selling used auto parts, collector cars of all shapes and sizes. Street Rod D’Elegance crowned Sunday, 925-838-9876. Friday, April 9, 8am; Saturday, April 10, 8am; Sunday, April 11, 8am; free-$18. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, April 11, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, (KEARNY MESA)

Tailgate Gem Show San Diego County Gem and Mineral Show promises more than 50 dealers offering gems, jewelry, fossils, equipment, tools, books. 760-726-5750. Friday, April 9, 9am; Saturday, April 10, 9am; Sunday, April 11, 9am; free. Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

Tax Time Volunteers from AARP Tax Assistance Program on hand to "prepare and e-file federal and state tax returns" for all income levels, except for "returns requiring depreciation or a complex Schedule C." Contact: 619-531-3900. Thursday, April 8, 9:30am; free. San Diego County Public Law Library, 1105 Front Street. (DOWNTOWN)

The Easter Lilies Are in Bloom Again Three hundred fragrant Easter lilies on display among permanent collection. 619-239-0512 or 619-235-1100. Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Mondays, 10am; Tuesdays, 10am; Wednesdays, 10am; Thursdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Wednesday, April 21; free. Botanical Building, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Twisted Minds Beckon! Auto-mobile and bike show with custom and lowrider cars and custom show bikes from a variety of car clubs and organizations throughout Southern California and Baja, sponsored by Twisted Minds club. Donations benefit American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. 619-297-3102 x22. Sunday, April 11, 10am. Fiesta de Reyes, Juan Street at Calhoun Street. (OLD TOWN)

Understand ZPG? Get the skinny on zero population growth and the "demographic transition" when P&R Discussion Group meets. 619-370-0372. Thursday, April 8, 7pm; free, Filter, 4060 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Victorian Talk and Tea Enjoy tea and “delicate refreshments” while USD history professor Molly McClain presents talk on Victorian culture that “contextualizes the momento mori featured in ‘Rite and Ritual.’” Required reservations. 619-239-0003 x135. Saturday, April 10, 3pm; $15-$20. Mingei International Museum North County, 135 West Grant Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Watch Gears, Found Objects, Resin Debra Hocking leads “steampunk-style necklace class,” inspired by Victorian/industrial era. 619-280-8408. Monday, April 12, 6pm; $35. 13 and up. Vintage Religion, 3821 32nd Street. (NORTH PARK)

Woofstock: A Festival for Dogs and People Canine Companions for Independence start fun with “Walk ’n Roll Fun Dog Walk” through Balboa Park. (9am $35 registration fee includes T-shirt, admission to festival). Festival promises K-9 playground, flyball, demonstrations by assistance dogs and dog show zone for kids (10am-3pm). 760-901-4307. Saturday, April 10, 9am; free-$5. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

“An Afternoon of Beautiful Music” Sheldon Rosenbaum (pno), Adrienne Nims (flute), Laura

Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 pm Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

April 8, 2010
**“Choral Fusion: The Modern Folk Revival”** Palomar Chamber Singers and Palomar Chorale explore influence of indigenous folk music on composers Ralph Vaughan Williams (Great Britain), Alice Parker (United States), Osvaldo Golijov (Argentina). Examples of Tudor polyphonic music, shape note hymns, Argentinean folk songs precede a featured work from each composer, illustrating progress of compositional style. 760-744-1350 x2453. Wednesday, April 8, 8pm; Thursday, April 9, 8pm; $10-$15. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**“Microtonality in the Violin Band Tradition”** Hutchins Concert plays JS Bach’s “Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor,” featuring Chris Woods and Healy Henderson playing mezzo (a.k.a. human) violins. Program includes microtonal premieres of works by local composers: Alan Lechusza’s “pomsum chuyya (Pitoo No-su-un’anya)” and “Polychrome” by Barry Wood. 760-632-0554. Saturday, April 10, 7:30pm; $15-$25. Spreckels Organ Pavilion. 619-702-8138. Sunday, April 11, 3pm; $27. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**“Rite of Spring” Redux** Redux William Fried performs his new solo piano arrangement of Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring,” as well as “Territoire de l’Oubli” by contemporary composer Tristan Murail. 858-534-TIXS. Monday, April 12, 8pm; $25. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**“Spring Classics”** Hillcrest Wind Ensemble presents annual spring concert, including overture to Candide, along with “a tribute to the Highlands, music from Scotland.” 619-692-2077 x814. Saturday, April 10, 6:30pm; $15. Saint Paul’s Cathedral, 2728 Sixth Avenue. (BANKER’S HILL)

**Camera Lucida** Selections by Beethoven and Strauss played during chamber music series featuring UCSD faculty musicians with principal players from San Diego Symphony. 858-534-TIXS. Monday, April 12, 8pm; $25. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Classical String Quartet Concert** The Annaroccelle Quartet entertains. 858-581-9934. Wednesday, April 14, 7pm; free. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Early Music for Lunch** Classical String Quartet Concert The Annaroccelle Quartet entertains during lunch concert. 858-581-9934. Wednesday, April 14, 12pm; free. Athenaeanum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

**Soprano and Organ** Soprano Magdalena Lakovic joins civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, April 11, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion. (LA JOLLA)

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Expires 4/18/10.
DANCE

“Entre Familia y Flamenco” Juanita Franco’s Academia de Baile Español presents “A Celebration of Flamenco Dance,” with seolas, alegrías, bulerías, tangos, more. Cante is sung by Marisol Fuentes; guitar by Juan Moro and Agustin El Toro’s 2007 film Toro’s 2007 film “El laberinto del fauno” is transformed into a field. Please attend our free informational meeting on Thursday, April 15, at 6:30 pm. RSVP: 877-542-7772. www.adoption-options.org

Set Your Feet to Dancing! San Francisco-based Tangomero provides music for tango dancing (7:30pm). Each evening includes class for beginners (6:30pm), performance by Luis Bianchi and Daniela Pucci (10pm), 858-581-1114. Sunday, April 11, 8:30pm; $12. Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey Street, (GOLDEN HILL).

Swing Time DJ Andi Hazelwood and friends provide tunes for dancing. Introduction to swing lesson for all ages. All ages. 858-395-6860 Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; $8. Firehouse Swing Dance, at San Diego Woman’s Club, 2557 Third Avenue. (BARBER’S HILL)

The More the Merrier Bring your instrument to sit in with the community band while JoAnn Koppany calls for San Diego Folk Heritage contra dance (8pm). Beginners: workshop (7:30pm). Wear soft-soled shoes, 619-283-8510. Saturday, April 10, 7pm; free. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Zydeco Dancing Tuesdays; 21 and up. Riley’s Music Lounge, 2901 Morena Boulevard. (BARBER’S HILL)

FILM

Broken Embraces Enjoy Pedro Almodóvar’s “sensuous bonbon” screen for Sunday Matinee. In Spanish with English subtitles. 619-236-5800. Sunday, April 11, 7pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

El Laberinto del Fauno Guillermo del Toro’s 2007 film “El laberinto del fauno” screens for International Film Series in room 3061. In Spanish with English subtitles. 760-944-4449. Friday, April 9, 7pm; free. Miracosta College, One Barnard Drive. (ODONISDE)

Harvard Beats Yale 29-29 Kevin Belfratt’s 2008 film “intercuts original footage with… recollections of the 50 men who played in what has become one college football’s most famous games.” 858-534-TX5. Thursday, April 8, 8pm; $5-$8. Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

La Caborde Julio Bracho’s 1953 film —centered around a “sensuous matriarch who enters the life of three men, forever changing their lives”— screens for “Mexican Film Classics” series. 619-238-7559. Thursday, April 8, 7pm; free-$8. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Monsoon Wedding Enjoy the story and the music in Mira Nair’s 2001 film, along with free popcorn. 858-581-9637. Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; free. 17 and up. North County University Community Library, 8820 Judicial Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Pan’s Labyrinth Guillermo del Toro’s 2007 film “El laberinto del fauno” screens for International Film Series. Screening takes place in room 204; film repeats at 7pm on Oceanside campus. In Spanish with English subtitles. 760-944-4449. x7758. Friday, April 9, 1pm; free. Miracosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDFORD)

FOOD & DRINK

“Master Pairings: Beer and Chocolate” Pastry chef Andrew Higgins is concocting a crazy five-course chocolate meal, including a chocolate-themed soup and a salad,” paired with beers, of course. 760-471-4999. Sunday, April 11, 5pm; $30. 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1991 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

“Wine and Food…For the Health of It!” Course showcases “healthy, easy-to-prepare foods as well as several healthy wines to pair with the foods.” Culinary expert plans cooking demonstrations on preparation of delicious, healthy foods; wine-making experts discuss healthy qualities of the wines served with the foods. Fee includes all wine samples, small portions of each food prepared, recipes to take home. RSVP: 760-796-7557. Saturday, April 10, 2pm; $20-$25. 21 and up. Belle Marie Winery & Chateau Dragoo, 26312 Mesa Rock Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Blissful Sushi and Yum-Yum Cupcake! “Cooking Made Easy for Everyone” class promises cooking demonstration, hands-on cooking practice, samples. Featured dishes include aforementioned sushi and cupcakes, as well as “savory beerless stew.” 858-705-3987. Saturday, April 10, 1pm; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Calling All Hopheads “Beer geek extraordinaire” Bill Sysak divulges “history and tasty variations of this decidedly big and bold So Cal classic” during Beer U: Double IPA programs. 760-471-4999. Monday, April 12, 7pm; $20. 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1991 Citracado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Taste of Julian Self-guided culinary tour of restaurants throughout Julian and surrounding area. 760-765-4758. Saturday, April 10, 1pm; $20. Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street. (JULIAN)

Thresh, Wirrow, Mill! Help support David Kimmel’s wheat harvest project, where the “community artist and wishful farmer” is transforming a vacant lot in North Park into a field of wheat. Kimmel on hand for fundraiser, with locally grown grain and hand milling available. (Harvest date: September 11.) All ages. 619-200-8130. Sunday, April 11, 11:30am.
FOR KIDS

"Theatre Tots" Children (4-6 years old) introduced to "art of acting through the exploration of children’s literature," led by an Old Globe teaching artist. Students introduced to elements of story, voice, movement, imagination. Children perform short play presentation of featured story. Enroll: 619-238-0043 x2145. Saturday, April 10, 10am; $25. 4 and up, Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

SLEEPING BEAUTY Millie Patterson's Werewolves puppets entertain. 619-544-9283. Wednesday, April 14, 10am and 11:30am: $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

All Aboard! Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. Donation: 50 cents. 619-421-5227. Saturday, April 10, noon; Sunday, April 11, 10am and 3pm; $30. Downtown Carlsbad, State Street at Grand Avenue. (BONITA)

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. Friday, April 9, 10am and 3pm; Monday, April 12, 10am and 3pm; free-$5. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Junior Carlsbad Eleven separate races, distances for different age divisions. Medals for all finishers, 858-450-6510. Saturday, April 10, 10am and 3pm; free-$30. Downtown Carlsbad, State Street at Grand Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

Keen Sense of Fun Concert by singer-songwriter Charlotte Diamond — creator of songs including "Four Hugs a Day," "Dicky Dinosaur," "I Am a Pizza," many others — for preschool, early elementary children. Offering. 619-464-4331. Sunday, April 11, 4pm. San Carlos United Methodist Church, 6554 Cowles Mountain Boulevard. (SAN CARLOS)

Kidchella Music festival with performances inside museum and outdoors in park by Hullabaloo, Rhythm Child, BITS Band, Paul Green School of Rock. 619-233-8792. Saturday, April 10, 10am; free-$10. New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Make and Fly Paper Kites During family science day. Sessions last 45 minutes, included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x19. Saturday, April 10, 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm; free-$5. San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Tots and Tales Interactive story time for preschoolers with crafts and animals. Reservations: 619-243-3432. Tuesday, April 13, 10:30am; $3. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Train Film Festival Family Day See Railway Children and The General by Buster Keaton. Children of all ages may construct a mini-animation craft, take behind-the-scenes tour of museum with chief docent. 619-696-0199. Sunday, April 11, 11am; $7. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

* * *

IN PERSON

"Brew Ha-Ha Coffee and Comedy Night" Stand-up comedy show featuring headliner Kurt Swann, Albert Linton, and "three surprise comics." No cover or drink minimum. Required reservations: 619-922-9857. Saturday, April 10, 7pm; free, 15 and up. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

"Experimental Sacred Music in Christian Practice" Guest composer Sidney Marquez Boquien, assistant professor at Adelphi University, plans lecture, performance in Camino Hall room 153. His "highly innovative approach" to contemporary sacred music features extended instrumental, vocal techniques and cross-cultural interaction. 619-260-7502. Thursday, April 8, 12:15pm; free, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (LINDA VISTA)

"Literary Death Match" Dime Stories fiction series continues

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“Annos: Peace and Tranquility” Reverend Kodo Umeno, director of BCA Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley, discusses “peace and tranquility from the Pure Land perspective.” 619-239-0896. Saturday, April 10, 5pm; free. Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

“Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget” landscape designer Jan Tubiolo presents seven principles of xeriscape, plant selection, planting techniques. Reservations: 619-660-6014 x10. Saturday, April 10, 10am; $20-$30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

“The Big-Band Broadcast” Hollywood Laroque and the Mark Ferguson Orchestra stal in “return to the golden age of radio broadcasts from starlit ballrooms.” 619-570-7975. Tuesday, April 13, 7pm; free, $5. Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

“The Humiliation Contest” So Say We All presents the “Show and Tell Show,” described as a “half-booked, half-open-mike event.” Take the stage with five-minute fiction, poetry, songs, more based on the humiliation theme. 619-260-2117. Saturday, April 10, 8pm; $5. Cream, 4496 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

“The Harvard Psychedelic Club” Journalist/religion writer Don Latour May (DEL MAR)

“Aida Rodriguez. 888-316-0722. Sunday, April 11, 7:30pm; Tuesday, April 13, 7:30pm; Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; Tuesday, April 13, 7:30pm; Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; $12-$14. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries” Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 302. (KEARNY MESA)

“Material Matters” Jennifer Anderson, Matthew Hebert, Paul Henry lead informal discussion on process and inspiration behind their current bodies of work. Question andanswer session follows. Donations accepted. 619-570-7975. Sunday, April 11, 11:15am; free. Saville Theatre at San Diego City College, 14th and C Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

“Material Matters” Jennifer Anderson, Matthew Hebert, Paul Henry lead informal discussion on process and inspiration behind their current bodies of work. Question andanswer session follows. Donations accepted. 619-570-7975. Sunday, April 11, 11:15am; free. Saville Theatre at San Diego City College, 14th and C Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

“Multiatlet Poet” Author/editor/translator/human rights advocate Carolyn Forché reads from her work in room 108 of Love Library. She is author of four books, with a memoir, book of essays, and fifth collection of poems forthcoming. 619-594-5318. Tuesday, April 13, 5:30pm; free. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AIRE)

“Nordic Tales” Lene Kaara, drummer with “Cirkus” and lead vocalist with “Rviks Kommando.” Saturday, April 9, 9pm; $10-$30. More than a small room in the basement of the Bar. 619-296-1560. Saturday, April 11, 6pm; $15-$20. Sushi Performance Hall. (KEARNY MESA)

“Now Open!” SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM www.sandiegomir.com

“Still More Mystery” Authors mystery writer Julia Spencer-Fleming and Marilyn Leach. “Mystery” writers discuss their work. 858-268-4747. Friday, April 9, 8pm; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 302. (KEARNY MESA)

“Survival Evidence Medium” American medium James Van Praagh provides “evidenceproof of life after death via detailed mes- sages.” 760-510-5100. Saturday, April 10, 7:30pm; $30-$100. 21 and up. Pala Casino, 35008 Pala Temecula Road. (PALA)

“Unlocked: The 12th installation of ‘Dance your way to a better body’ with Arlene Ahern.” Friday, April 9, 8am; free. Laguna Pacifica, 35008 Pacifica Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

“Aida Rodriguez. 888-316-0722. Sunday, April 11, 7:30pm; Tuesday, April 13, 7:30pm; Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; Tuesday, April 13, 7:30pm; Wednesday, April 14, 7:30pm; $12-$14. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Dysfunctional Furniture” "Material Matters’ authors Jennifer Anderson, Matthew Hebert, Paul Henry lead informal discussion on process and inspiration behind their current bodies of work. Question andanswer session follows. Donations accepted. 619-570-7975. Sunday, April 10, 5pm; free. Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

"In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness" National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI San Diego) meets for “program designed to fight stigma and promote integration” featuring two presenters and DVD’s of others who live with mental illnesses. Speakers include Christina Rufener (local recovery coordinator at VA San Diego Health System) and psychiatrist, senior UCSD resident Dr. Steve Koh. 800-523-5933. Thursday, April 9, 6:30pm; free. University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

“Jane Austen and the Zombies” What link does Jane Austen have with vampires, sea monsters, zombies? Find out during lecture by Linda Troost, professor and chair of English at Washington and Jef- son College, when she explores “whether these reworkings of Austen’s books are complimentary, disrespectful, or gimmicky” in USD's Manchester Executive Con- ference Center Auditorium. 619-260-4545. Thursday, April 9, 7pm; free. University of San Diego, 9998 Alcalá Park. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

“North American Competitivenss, Innovation, and Clean Energy” Conference hosted by Trans-Border Institute features keynote speakers including United States Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, Mexican Secretary of Economy Gerardo Ruiz Maizos, Canadian Minister of Industry Tony Clement. Panel dis-
Discussions to focus on promoting links advancing innovation and competitiveness, much more. Registration: 619-260-4090. Wednesday, April 14, 8am-550-1100, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)


“PowerPoint 2007” Mary Von Orsdol, genealogy librarian at Cole Library, addresses North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Expect PowerPoint demonstration, overview of possibilities for lecture presentations and for personal slide shows, 760-476-9289. Tuesday, April 13, 10am; free. Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

“Sky Stories” “Discover Your Soul’s Plan through the Astrological Chart” when “spiritually focused astrologer” Terry Lamb speaks for San Diego Astrological Society. “You have a vital role to play” as we “enter a time of planetary change!” 619-307-1636. Friday, April 9, 7:30pm; $6-812. Joyce Beers Community Center, 4065 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

“Speaking from Your Heart” Stacey Goldblatt discusses “Tapping into Your Character’s Voice” when Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators gathers in USD’s Hahn School of Nursing Building (Linda Vista Road and Marion Way). Goldblatt is author of young adult novels Stray and Girl to the Core. 619-713-5462. Saturday, April 10, 2pm; $7-$9. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

“Strategies for Successful Aging” Learn to navigate life transitions during workshop. Topics include managing care, preventing fall-related injuries, aging-in-place home modifications, more. Required reservations: 619-297-4366. Saturday, April 10, 9:15am; free. 20th and First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South, MISSION VALLEY.

“The Fall and Rise of Carrier Aviation: 1945-1956” What brought about “near-extinction of carrier aviation, and what brought it back in the jet age?” USS Midway Museum staff historian Karl Zeingheim discusses his research, illustrated with historical photos from collections of USS Midway and Coronado Museum of History and Art. 619-435-7242. Saturday, April 10, 2pm; $10. 15 and up. Coronado Museum of History and Art, 1100 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)


“Tracking Golden Eagles with VHF and Satellites” Dave Bittner of Wildlife Research Institute speaks for Life at MiraCosta senior learning group in room 1088 (1pm). “The Importance of the Louisiana Purchase to the Destiny of the U.S.A.” divulged by history professor Christopher Stepher (12:30pm). 760-721-8124. Friday, April 9, 1pm; free. Miramar College, 1 Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)


“First Aid for Dogs and Cats” American Red Cross class covers treatments for pet emergencies including choking, shock, poisoning, broken bones. Required reservations: 619-243-3424. Sunday, April 11, 1pm; $60. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

“Go Green at Home” Registered architect Sema Yavuz plans seminar on “Green Home Remodeling.” Learn how to start a green project; building permits, design, project budgeting and green incentives; hiring an architect or contractor; avoiding common mistakes. 858-205-4570. Tuesday, April 13, 6:30pm; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Dog” Workshop covers topics such as house train-
The Shahnameh

Join Babak Rahimi of

April 8, 2010

Kings

San Diego Public Library, 820 E

Monday, April 12, 6:30pm; free. 619-236-5817.

Kebabs or Bust! Join Knicker- bickers for 35-mile bicycle ride starting at south Mission Bay boat ramp. Ride round Fiesta Island, climb into Clairemont for coffee, tackle “another hilly” into Kearny Mesa, drop down Mission Center Road into Mission Valley, roll downtown to dine at Kebab Shop, return to start via Balboa Park, Mission Valley, Ocean Beach. Bring money for food. 858-272-4710. Sunday, April 11, 9am. Mission Bay Park, Vacation Isle, off Ingram Street. (MISSION BEACH)

More Horses! Diamond Jubilee Morgan Horse Show featuring Morgan horses, American saddle- bred horses, hackney ponies; car- riage, equitation, and medal classes; and open pleasure. Hosted by Morgan Horse Club of San Diego County. 951-737-1294. Friday, April 9, 9am. Saturday, April 10, 9am; Sunday, April 11, 9am; free. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Tuesday Night Racing Returns Velodrome bicycle racing season opens with racing in many cate- gories. Racing is open to riders with an appropriate track bike and sufficient track-racing experience. Free for spectators. 931-233-5749. Tuesdays, 6:30pm; through Tues- day, September 28, free. San Diego Velodrome, 2221 Morley Field Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Winter Wonderland? Cricket Wireless Campus Rail Jam Tour returns to Sun God Lawn at UCSD. Course is built using 25 tons of snow trucked in from local moun- tains; dozens of skiers and snowboarders will compete. Event fea- tures DJed music, demonstration booths from action sports compa- nies. 503-781-5179. Thursday, April 8, 5pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Caltrans and the men that adore you!

Noon to 1:30pm, Wednesday, April 7 and 14, doors and adobe blocks of Chula Vista’s past; exhibits featuring objects used for special familial, tribal, community events in tradi- tional cultures such as birth, child- hood, initiation, marriage, death, and festivals and in various reli- gious expressions among the world’s peoples.

Admission is free until mu- seum closes permanently on Sat- urday, June 26. 153 West Grand Ave., 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown View four new exhibitions — “Ruben Ochoa,” “Larke Lauta,” “Cerca Series: Lael Corbin,” and “Cerca Series: Mara DeLuca.” Each artist contributes new commissioned works made specifically for this show. Ochoa creates “sculptural in- stallations that radically intervene into the existing built environ- ment and invite interactions with the construction materials to sculptural ends,” as well as photography, pub- lic interventions, sculptures. Lauta has developed “an immersive in- stallation” featuring two works presented as a diptych: Floating Female and The Accident.

Corbin’s piece turns Strauss Gallery “into a makeshift airplane hanger”; visitors find workbenches topped with partially constructed objects and the skeleton and shell of an experimental aircraft. De Luca’s long-term project Stations (2006-2007) will be on view for the first time, together with a site-spe- cific altarpiece triptych. Free all day on Sunday, June 20. 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd., 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

New Americans Museum in NTC Promenade 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 102, 619-255-9908. (POINT LOMA)

LOCAL EVENTS

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MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART

Chula Vista Heritage Museum “The Way We Learned: Education in the South Bay” illustrates his- tory of buildings, campuses, and people attending school through photographs, artifacts, school an- nuals, student memorabilia.

The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista’s past; exhibits fea- ture lemon packing-crates labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original Star newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Ranch Company, 363 Third Ave., 619-427-8492. (CHULA VISTA)

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

Mingei International Mu- seum North County “Rite and Ritual: Art Across Cultures” focuses on beauty of ob- jects used for special familial, tribal, community events in tradi- tional cultures such as birth, child- hood, initiation, marriage, death, and festivals and in various reli- gious expressions among the world’s peoples.

Admission is free until mu- seum closes permanently on Sat- urday, June 26. 153 West Grand Ave., 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)
By the 1880s, Renoir was well established and well to do. He’d already fought what he called les combats de l’impressionisme and triumphed as the impressionist with the most glamorous palette, the sunniest disposition, and the most festive eye for the passages of ordinary life that he, Degas, Manet, and Caillebotte all savored. Unlike them, he was a constant connoisseur of happiness. His 1881 Luncheon of the Boating Party — riverside table tipsy with wine, food, and flowers; revelers bridging social classes, from swells in top hats and frock coats to rivermen in straw stingy-brims and T-shirts; lively flirtsions (including one between a redhead and her pooch) slouching throughout the scene — has become a poster image for la belle époque that would crash during Renoir’s lifetime with the outbreak of the Great War.

During the 1880s he got impatient with Impressionism’s fleet “touch” and its tousled, snatched-from-life effects. Like most great artists, Renoir comes out of predecessors, and to refresh himself after “Impressionism’s wars” he looked back to the staginess of 18th-century French painting and to Boucher in particular. One would think Renoir had already gotten as rosy as it gets without adding Boucher’s flouncy pastoral and boudoir beatitudes, but in Boucher’s azure zephyrs and peaches-and-cream complexions Renoir saw a stolid contentment he aspired to. By the 1890s, his passion for Rubens and for the classical modeling and sumptuous interiors of the 16th-century Venetians (Veronese and Titian in particular) was helping Renoir achieve a riper representation of the female form and a more compact theatricality of interior spaces.

Toward the end of the century, he made two major moves. Advised by doctors in 1897 to seek a warmer climate for his increasingly debilitating rheumatoid arthritis, he moved to Cagnes in the south of France. He also pretty much gave up painting en plein air and moved indoors. (He now created what he called the “outdoors in the studio.”) Most of the pictures from this period are interiors that showcase females: children, adolescents, and adults, nude and clothed, performing domestic tasks such as sewing or tending children or sharing parlor pasttimes such as reading and music-making. Renoir’s friend and intellectual companion, the Symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé, so admired the 1892 Young Girls at the Piano — the girls’ languid concentration blends into their buttery physiques — that he persuaded the French government to acquire it. Renoir, in turn, was interested in Mallarmé’s poetics, which preferred evocation to denotation, obliquity to directness, rhapsodic illusion to hard reality, and he translated Symbolist poetry’s mercurial syntax, its mystery-flow, into swooning pictorial reverie. The later paintings beam and beckon, and they’re light-headed with Renoir’s enthusiasm for his motifs. This isn’t the same as being light-headed about his models. (“It’s the painter who makes the model,” he said.) Another poet, Rilke, wrote in 1906 that certain artists, Cézanne most

REVIEW
WS. DI PIERO

Poet of Joy

“It’s the painter who makes the model.”

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San Diego's Original Fine Art Festival

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1-day online sale! Wednesday, April 7
of all, drain personal affection from their work. A Cézanne picture doesn’t say, “I love this”; it says, “Here it is.” Cézanne leaves the love out. Renoir leaves it all in, leaves in a love for his self-induced vision of the feminine. If you’re slain with pleasure by the corpulent big-hipped torsos, petite heads, and brightly flushed cheeks of women in Renoir’s late work, read no further and go directly to *Renoir in the Twentieth Century*, currently at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, a ravishing exhibition that tracks Renoir’s practice from 1890 till his death in 1919. But if you have misgivings about the look of the feminine in Renoir’s later work, stay with me a while, and allow me a digression.

Personal taste is irrational, visceral, appetitive, and so always a little mysterious. Mostly, though, taste is judgment. As a young man taking in the suave, shimmering color of Renoir’s later work — some of his choicest things are in my hometown, in the Philadelphia Museum of Art — to me his women pictures, the nudes in particular, were astonishments (with a hubba-hubba element). Over the years, as I’ve revisited his work and soaked into background fog and bathed in the stilled movements of line and color, Bonnard isn’t enshrining the feminine for pious male ardor; he’s prying into and dismantling Renoir’s nouveau classical ideals. Renoir’s bathers say, “Look at us.” Bonnard’s picture says, “Watch me.” *Woman at the Window* teaches us to see carnality afresh, moving our eye from one unpredictable passage to another as if to remind us that the feminine is not a totem, it’s a delicately tentative work in progress. Bonnard’s hand teases out a provisional vision. Renoir’s is taking dictation from a mail-order Aphrodite. Stretched, faintly marbled rotundities of flesh monumentalize virtually every female image Renoir made after 1890. That’s exactly what he intended. I don’t question the gorgeous execution and beauty-on-demand effect. I question his vision of the feminine.

Some of the last pictures are Renoir’s finest. Whatever one’s misgivings, a few of the nudes achieve a pastel ethereality and veiled-ness that make those bulky bodies look aloft in bower or bed. And he made other sorts of pictures. The 1905 landscape, *Terrace at Cagnes*, bristles with an exploratory feverishness; bushy clusters and twiggy trees surround a small red figure sitting on a terrace; behind her, hillside houses shove each other high in the picture toward a sliding blue sky. And in the more naturalistic work — a society couple, a young man hunting, a youth in Pierrot costume — the compositional weave of setting and garments and skin shakes looser than ever. *Terrace at Cagnes*’s bright palette recalls Impressionism’s salal days, but in Renoir’s best late pictures old age brought a restorative darkening, the way a great singing voice darkens with age, especially in his rendering of women playing instruments, which 20 years earlier had been his coziet subject. With the more shadowed tonality, the pictures gain an animated reflectiveness, a small nervousness of mind that give them a mildly quaking intensity we don’t associate with Renoir. He liked to say that painting was “made to beautify,” and in the soberly gorgeous painting *The Concert*, one of his last pictures, whirlpooling textures sweep and tumble together roses, wallpaper, mandolin, hair scarves, liquid gowns, and necklines that look like gulf shores defining the women’s dreamy topographies. It invites us to lose ourselves. Life and aging brought Renoir a hard march of physical suffering — there are films of him painting with a brush tied to his crippled arthritic hand — but he was a poet of joy to the end, and even if we don’t share the joy or admire its style of representation, we have to recognize that that’s what it is.

**GALLERIES**

*Allan Morrow: Painting Fences* Opening reception for exhibition of mixed-media constructions and related watercolors by Morrow. *Using fence iconography as a starting point, Morrow’s new pieces are highly structured, impeccably executed, framed and wall-mounted constructions incorporating flat as well as three-dimensional elements.* Closes Saturday, May 1. The Alley features paintings centered on the theme of solidarity, which are executed through incredible detail,” through Saturday, May 1. The Alley features works from over 75 artists in 14 artist studios. 760-581-7779. Saturday, April 10, 6pm; free. Distinction Gallery, 317 East Grand Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

*From Memory* Opening reception for exhibition of new paintings by San Francisco artist Alan Durapart. Through Saturday, May 15. 858-459-3917. Saturday, April 10, 5pm; free. R.B. Stevenson Gallery, 7661 Girard Ave., Suite 201. (LA JOLLA)

*Reconstructions* Charles Grogg photographs botanicals, other natural imagery isolated from their natural environments. Opening reception for exhibition of work by Grogg, whose “finished prints of these images are beautiful artifacts themselves.” Through Saturday, May 1. RSVP: 619-876-4160. Friday, April 9, 6pm. free. Noel-Bazan Fine Art, 2165 India Street, (LITTLE ITALY)


*Self Preservation* Opening reception for Andy Haynes and Jacob Gagnon. View this “show of paintings centered on the theme of solidarity, which are executed through incredible detail,” through Saturday, May 1. The Alley features works from over 75 artists in 14 artist studios. 760-581-7779. Saturday, April 10, 6pm; free. Distinction Gallery, 317 East Grand Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)


**Gregorian Chant Mass**

*Pa-ter noster, qui es in cae-lis: sancti-fi-cé-tur nomen tuum; ad-véni-at regnum*  
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thine name, Thy kingdom

4 pm on the second Sunday of every month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Sunday, April 11</th>
<th>May 9</th>
<th>June 13</th>
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<td>August 8</td>
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Choir and congregational singing of Gregorian Chant, sacred polyphony, and hymns.

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church**  
State and Date Streets (Little Italy), Downtown San Diego
Action Man

“There ain’t no State Street,” Barry says. “I just like the sound of it.”

Look at my boys!” says David Dadon. His son Barry is busy at the cash register. Jacob’s in the kitchen. “Barry’s the business genius,” David says. “Jacob’s the chef. He graduated at the top of his class from the Cordon Bleu in Pasadena. He has worked at Spago, cooked for Wolfgang Puck. But now he has set up this menu. This is our place. Not expensive. It’s not about the money. For the price of a coffee at Starbucks, you can eat well here… Hello, ladies!”

And he’s off to welcome a couple of students coming in front door.

Tin Fork

ED BEDFORD

This bright kid, Kimberly, leaves the menu with me. One half is pineapple burgers and Philly cheese-steak sandwiches, and the other half is sushi. The pineapple teriyaki burger with Swiss cheese and teriyaki sauce is $6.95. The basic State Street burger is $5.95. Good prices, same as SDSU’s fast-food campus cafes. But, oh man… I see a burger go by. Kimberly says it’s a Surfer Jo’s BBQ Pork Burger — pulled pork in spicy guava BBQ sauce with coleslaw. The thing is piled high. The top bun sits precariously, like a cocked hat on a boozers head. It’s $6.95.

Oh, and they do breakfast. All day. The State Street Classic Plus, with three eggs, two slices of bacon, sausage, or ham is $6.95, as is the build-your-own omelet (three eggs, plus three of any filling you want). Steak and eggs runs $7.95. Fruit bowl’s $5.95.

Then again, I like the look of dinner appetizers I see passing by, such as sweet-potato fries ($3.95) and a grilled-cheese sandwich and tomato soup ($6.95). The salads, ‘specially the Asian chicken salad ($8.95), look like volcano-shaped art. Gal at the next table has ordered a chicken pesto sandwich, with grilled chicken and provolone and onion ($7.95). I almost go for the fish and chips ($8.95) or Mom’s Meaty Bottomless Pasta (fettuccine pasta with a meaty marinara sauce, $9.95), but Kimberly recommends the Lollipop Roll, with salmon, tuna, avocado, yellowtail, and crab, rolled and fried and served on skewers ($11.25). Then I see the State Street Dragon Roll, a snaky freight train of shrimp tempura and spicy tuna and eel and avocado ($11.25). I’ve got the hots to try it, so that’s my order. I even get some edamame (soybeans in their pods, $2.95) for an appetizer.

It’s all a joy to eat. ‘Course, as I nosh, can’t help thinking it’d be an even greater joy if only I had the means for some hot sake and a cool Sapporo beer. Sigh. Still, the dragon roll’s good. The eel sauce, with tempura flakes and ginger and wasabi, puts backbone in its flavor.

Barry says he was a finance major at State last year when he saw this place come up for sale. “I talked to my dad. All of us decided to pitch in.”

“I’ve been working since I was eight years old,” his dad says. “I want to make sure my children have a better life. I think we could set up restaurants like this outside every campus across the country. Because people get sick of campus food.”

“How come you’re called State Street Grill?” I ask.

“Where’s State Street?”

“There ain’t no State Street,” Barry says. “I just like the sound of it. Also we’re right beside San Diego State.”

I get it. It’s not just State Street Grill. It’s also State Street-Grill.

While I’m chewing and talking, I’m also thinking: His dad’s a movie producer! Pitch him a movie! I wrack my brains.

The Place: State Street Grill, 5131 College Avenue, suite F, College Area, 619-286-4700

Type of Food: American, Japanese

Prices: State Street Classic Plus three-egg breakfast omelet, $6.95; build-your-own omelet (with any three ingredients), $6.95; steak and eggs, $7.95; fruit bowl, $5.95; sweet-potato fries, $3.95; grilled cheese and tomato soup, $6.95; Asian chicken salad, $8.95; pineapple teriyaki burger, $6.95; Surfer Jo’s BBQ Pork Burger, $6.95; chicken pesto sandwich, $7.95; fish and chips, $8.95; Mom’s Meaty Bottomless Pasta, $9.95; Lollipop Sushi Roll (salmon, tuna, avocado, yellowtail, crab, rolled and fried), $11.25; State Street Dragon Roll (shrimp tempura, spicy tuna), $11.25

Hours: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 midnight, Sunday–Wednesday; till 2:00 a.m., Thursday–Saturday

Buses: 1, 15, 115, 856, 936, 955

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Trolley: Green Line

Nearest Trolley Stop: San Diego State, at Hardy and Campanile

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Alpine

Ramón’s Smokehouse BBQ
1730 Alpine Bl., Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite burning under fresh-cut beef rib is too much to resist — the secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, when chefs in metal aprons dance around the fat-splitting fire. Inexpensive.

Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico. From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico. Mexican haute cuisine with innovative combinations. Emphasis on fresh ingredients — clean, creative, and greaseless, with a wide range of flavors. Ingredients include seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut so young and sweet it ought to be in a fishbowl, a balsamic caramelized-fig tart, and a tower of truffles from Paris to Bali. The white cakes are fluffy, Mediterranean-style cuisine. Dine-in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

Banker’s Hill

Chez Loma French Bistro
1107 Loma Ave., Coronado, 619-435-0661. In a charming historic cottage, this bistro offers classic French bourgeois cuisine, plus some lighter, modern dishes. Dine-in moderate to expensive. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

Carlsbad

Knockout Pizza
2959 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-434-4643. Inexpensive. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.


Mikko

Japanese Cuisine

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50% off sushi

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

Sushi – Tempura – Teriyaki – Noodles

Mikko’s Irish Pub and Grill
1107 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-5280. Try bullied stew served in a hollowed-out bread loaf or corned beef and cabbage with tender, thick slices surrounding the cobbler so young and sweet it ought to be in a fishbowl. Breaded inside but escape on big heated plate. Inexpensive to low moderate.

Mistro

All charges will be presented on one guest check. Maximum 3 payments per group.

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“Fascinating... delicious... authentic!” — S.D. Reader

“Latin Chef has quickly become dear to the hearts of locals.”

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Mistros

All charges will be presented on one guest check. Maximum 3 payments per group.

San Diego Reader.com.
well-priced wine list accompanies them. Expensive.

Kitchen 1540 1540 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-793-6460. Gourgeous seaside resort (renovated in 2008) offers a modern dining room and heated patio to enjoy fine, creative cooking, combining “slow food” craftsmanship and the latest technical tricks to display the bright seasonal flavors of local veggies, sustainable seafood, and natural meats. Expensive.

Market Restaurant and Bar 3702 Via de la Vela, Del Mar, 858-523-0007. Chef-owner Carl Schroeder is all about seasonal, local, organic — and inspired culinary imagination. Menu changes but is always exciting. The vibe is “nice neighborhood restaurant” — diners have a good time here. Expensive.

Pacifico del Mar 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-792-1803. Fresh fish and organic produce enliven fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard cauli, and house-cured rib eye. Extremely noisy bar area. Expensive to very expensive.

Downtown

Alambres Mexican Grill 756 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-4838. Specialty is the namesake Alambres Mexico City-style tacos, usually meat or fish plus bell peppers, onions, and bacon. Inexpensive.

Athens Market 109 F St., Downtown, 619-234-1955. Owner Mary Papas serves huge portions of honest Greek home cooking (lentil soup, spanakopita, meaty gyros), in a classy white-tablecloth atmosphere. Inexpensive to moderate.

Bice 425 Island St., Downtown, 619-239-2423. It may be a chic offshoot of a worldwide Milanese chain, but the kitchen follows Italy’s traditions of artisanal ingredients — “slow food” from the country that invented it, with regional cheeses, handcrafted salumi, house-made breads and pastas. Moderate.

Coffee and Art Photographic Art Gallery 777 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-501-8458. Come for theurry pies. This South African-run East Village neighborhood coffee place has healthy breakfasts and light lunches inside a cool art photography gallery. But it’s the ultra-flaky Brit-made “savory pot pies” that stand out, especially the beef or veggie curry pies. Inexpensive.

Darband Fifth Avenue Grill 1556 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-230-1001. Good, fresh Persian cooking, popular with local Persians. Tasty dishes include Khorshad Bademjan (baba eggplant and beef stew), Barg (marinated beef tenderloin with rice), and the vegetarian plate. Kababs star, as do yogurt-, cumin-, minty flavors. Inexpensive.

De’Medici Cucina Italiana 815 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-7228. Sinatra atmosphere, cool street patio. Fish dishes are exquisite, and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering. Moderate (simple pastas) to very expensive.

Edgewater Grill 861 W. Harbour Dr., Downtown, 619-232-7581. Faux-foxion fare. The lighter dishes are best — not a bad place to graze on appetizers or a mini-pizza when you’re starved for a water view. Entrees high-moderate to very expensive.

Gaslamp Pizza 505 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-7412. This joint comes alive around 2am, serving good thin-crusted pizzas (vegetarian, BBQ chicken, and chicken pesto are best) plus wings, “habanero peppers” and big salads to revelers seeking post-revel bailout. Inexpensive.


Harbor House 831 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-3111. This two-story Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters to tourist families and conventioners, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to watch the sailboats over a margarita and a plentiful of ood binaries. Moderate to expensive.

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


JJ’s Sunset Deli by the Bay 200 Marina Park Way (behind the Convention Center), Downtown, 619-237-2000. Groups of 30 adults or more. Free Drink

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### Italian Restaurants

**Barbary Pizza**
1008 Broadway, East Village, 619-232-6244. From a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage-slug sub, portions are generous and filling. Inexpensive.

**East Village**
Broadway Pizza
1008 Broadway, East Village, 619-232-6244. From a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage-slug sub, portions are generous and filling. Inexpensive.

**Paola’s Oyster Bar**

**Pauly’s Pizza Lounge**
Lounge/Mediterranean Café and of BBQ baby back ribs. Inexpensive.

**Red Pearl Kitchen**
844 4th St., Downtown, 619-375-3454. Spacious wine-bar/restaurant features exciting wine choices and wine-bar snacks. The most popular lunch item is the Cobb salad, and at dinner there’s a bourbon-and-dusted-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts and weekend brunches are strong suits. Moderate to expensive.

**Firenze**
162 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Solana Beach, 760-720-1316. Delicious pastas and generous rooms and outdoor patio, offering heaping plates of authentic Italian food (including two dozen meatless selections) and affordable Italian and California wines. High-moderate.

**Hob Nob Hill**
800 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-5224. A miniature cottage dining area with true Hawaiian roots. Go for the buttery soft bread and fall apart pork. Inexpensive.

### Mexican Restaurants

**El Q’ero**
3739 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-249-6200. Authentic Mexican fare done low-salt and healthy with simple vegetarian garnishes or unadorned as wraps for tropical curries (veg or non-veg), many with tangy tamari and garlic. Moderate.

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

**Busalacchi’s Ristorante**
3636 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-1119. Nooks and crannies for liaisons dangereuses, or there’s the street-side casual affair. Mainly Sicilian dominated dishes (like zita di melanzana, eggplant layered with mozzarella, etc.), but satisfying. Moderate to expensive.

**Celadon**
3671 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-3244. The entries offer sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go to the chef’s specialty – 32-ounce hibachi steak. Among the entrees, don’t miss cheesecake or the Queen of Thailand’s favorite – pomegranate. Moderate to expensive.

**Chipotle**
734 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-290-3688. Several San Diego locations. This chain that McDonald’s acquired cleaves to the original vision – naturally raised tender meats in authentic marinades, including fresh-grilled carne asada and carnitas. Rock-bottom prices.

### Chinese Restaurants

**Nom Nom’s**
3454 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-297-3929. Exotic food from Guam includes chicken lefougno, a citric salad resembling ceviche and brilliant coconut shrimp. Stews are flavorful. The saucy pot roast is definitely not your mother’s bestless Mom’s from Guam. Inexpensive.

**Khyber Pass**
523 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-249-7275. Fascinating Afghan cuisine. Don’t miss the outstaring aushak (spring onion ravioli) and见面 (flat bread) or lamb. Must try the korma. Inexpensive.

**Sushi Ito**
41 Washington St., Hillcrest, 619-291-5060. Also 419 S.F., Downtown, 619-237-1077. This is Mexican sushi. Nearly all party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado; most include hot sauce and some fake crab (surimi), too. Inexpensive.

**Yakitori Yakusugi**
3739 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-492-4189. Yakitori is Japan’s lefipad of grilled or fried goodies, each marinated and/or garnished to flatter its nature — great for gracing. Chicken skin-salted, fried tofu, skewered pork with chutney, chicken heart, and octopus fritters are among the standouts. Inexpensive to moderate.

### Seafood Restaurants

**Hillcrest**
**The Asian Bistro**
304 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-296-4119. The adventurous Thai-accented pan-Asian menu is served until 3 am. Don’t miss the Louisiana fried butter crab dish named Jumping Jarvis. Inexpensive, dinners moderate.

**Baja Leaf South Indian Restaurant**
875 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-238-0440. Rarely found South Indian cuisine including crêpes (also), and flatbreads (up to eight). Medium-expensive. Inexpensive.

**Red Pearl Kitchen**
844 4th St., Downtown, 619-375-3454. Delicious pastas and generous rooms and outdoor patio, offering heaping plates of authentic Italian food (including two dozen meatless selections) and affordable Italian and California wines. High-moderate.

**San Diego Catfish Company**
2496 Broadway, Golden Hill, 619-239-0716. Also 47th and Market, Chollas Way, 619-262-5052. Regular Mex dishes served, but the soaring specialty is Seven Seas Soup, a big bowl of soy sauce, coconut milk, with giant crab legs, clams, fish, chum, shrimp, octopus, and vegetables. Inexpensive.

**Turf Super Club**
1116 25th St., Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. Every night’s an indoor cookout as patrons huddle at the communal fire to tend their steaks, burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms. Inexpensive to moderate.

### Burger Restaurants

**The Strip Club**
340 5th Ave., Downtown, 619-233-3140. It’s DIY grilling here; no minors admitted. You should try to eat your chucks alone, too. Moderate.

### California-Mexican Restaurants

**East Village**
Broadway Pizza
1008 Broadway, East Village, 619-232-6244. From a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage-slug sub, portions are generous and filling. Inexpensive.

**El Cajon**
Paola’s Oyster Bar

**El Q’ero**
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### Imperial Beach

**Big Kahunas**
608 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-5224. A miniature cottage dining area with true Hawaiian roots. Go for the buttery soft bread and fall apart pork. Inexpensive.

### Kearny Mesa

**Khyber Pass**
523 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-249-7275. Fascinating Afghan cuisine. Don’t miss the outstaring aushak (spring onion ravioli) and见面 (flat bread) or lamb. Must try the korma. Inexpensive.

### Authentic Mexican Cuisine

**Authentic Mexican Cuisine since 1987**
3015 Oak Mesa Blvd., Carlsbad, 760-728-9200. This is the best Mexican restaurant in Carlsbad. Inexpensive.

### Crab Hut

**Crab Hut**
4646 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-563-1678. A local Vietnamese family runs this friendly, bare bones eatery, specializing in Vietnamese fried seafood and boiled seasoned shrimp, crab, and crab legs. Inexpensive.

### Pampas Argentine Grill

**Pampas Argentine Grill**
1609 E. A St., Kearny Mesa, 858-257-5971. Argentinean cuisine including crepes (also) and flatbreads (up to eight). Medium-expensive. Inexpensive.

### Sunrise Super Buffet

**Sunrise Super Buffet**
2660 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. Apart from all the meats, fish, shellfish, lobsters, crabs, and oysters, there are like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, and dragon rolls, raw oysters in their shells are a big draw. Beverages included in price. Inexpensive.

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San Diego Reader April 8, 2010

Lunch
Mon.-Fri. 11:30 am-2:30 pm
Sat. 11:30 am-2:30 pm
Sun. 11:30 am-3 pm

Dinner
Mon.-Fri. 5:30-9 pm
Sat. 5-9 pm
Sun. 5:30-9 pm

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Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurants
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– Union-Tribune Readers’ Poll

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Topai Sushi
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SAN DIEGO • RIVERSIDE • LONG BEACH

San Diego Reader April 8, 2010 87
**RAW TEXT**

**BOUILLABAISE BY FABRICE HARDEL**

Executive Chef, Westgate Hotel

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**What the Chef Eats** by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

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I've been cooking since I was a teenager and have worked all over the world. I started cooking in France and then England and then worked in Luxembourg and Germany. I came to the U.S. in 1998 and have been at the Westgate Hotel for eight years.

I would say even though I am classically French trained, I take a lot of things from everywhere I have been traveling. I cook more California cuisine than French cuisine at the Westgate. The one thing I really like to cook is seafood because I am from the northwest of France right on the ocean, on the Channel. When I'm not working, I usually cook pasta. I like to cook at home because it's family time and I prefer to have dinner at home more than going out because I work a lot. When it's my day off I like to relax and not do so much.

I don't think you can compare France and San Diego or say what is better or worse. They are just so different. In Europe I worked in smaller restaurants and since I have come to the U.S. I have worked in bigger hotels. That really changed my career. What I like most in California is what everyone likes — the weather. I really like the hotel industry, overall. It's a fun job despite the long hours and working holidays and weekends. You just see so many different people.

I don't believe that there is something I do best as a chef. I think every chef is different and has a different style of cooking. I do not believe one person could be the best. Different chefs have different influences. With cooking, I think it's an evolution. You look at what a chef is doing ten years ago to what they are doing now. You always change your way of cooking. One thing I do is that I don't try too much. I think a lot of people try to put so much on the plate. I believe that if you have a strong foundation and if you worked at the right place when you were young, you should be able to work the produce, the fish, and the meat. Then you should be able to combine everything pretty well.

But if you don't have your foundation, you can't move forward.

The recipe below is a classic dish from France that I love to make at home and serve family style in a large pot. This is one of my wife's favorites as well.

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**INGREDIENTS**

Serves 4–6

**STOCK**

2 red snapper or any kind of rockfish (clean and gutted)

**What to do with fish stock:**

- Lightly sauté chopped onions and garlic in a large pot.
- Add fish stock and simmer for 30 minutes.
- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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**What to do with shellfish stock:**

- Pour the reserved liquid from the shellfish into a large pot.
- Add water to make up the required volume.
- Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 1 hour.
- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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**What to do with shrimp stock:**

- Remove the shrimp from the stock and reserve for another use.
- Strain the stock and use it in the recipe.

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**What to do with lobster stock:**

- Remove the lobster from the stock and reserve for another use.
- Strain the stock and use it in the recipe.

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**What to do with crab stock:**

- Remove the crab from the stock and reserve for another use.
- Strain the stock and use it in the recipe.

---

**What to do with vegetable stock:**

- Strain the stock and use it in the recipe.

---

**Simmering the stock:**

- Place all the ingredients in a large pot and bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour.
- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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**What to do with shellfish stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

---

**What to do with shrimp stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

---

**What to do with lobster stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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**What to do with crab stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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**What to do with vegetable stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

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- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

---

**What to do with crab stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.

---

**What to do with vegetable stock:**

- Strain the mixture and use the stock in the recipe.
**What the Chef Eats**

(more if needed)

**CROUTONS**
1 baguette
garlic clove
¼ – ½ cup olive oil

**BOUILLABAISSE**
1 pound baby Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced
¼ cup olive oil
3 tomatoes, chopped
1 fennel bulb, thinly sliced
3 leeks, thinly sliced
1 onion, thinly sliced
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
4 scallops
1 jumbo shrimp or lobster
2 red snapper (reserved)

**HOW TO DO IT**

**FISH STOCK**
Bone the snapper. (Most of the skeleton will come out in one piece with one slow, persistent tug with your fingers. Use a needle-nose pliers to remove remaining bones.) Reserve the fish filets in the fridge to go into the fish stew. Wash the fish bones. In a large stockpot over low-medium heat, heat ½ cup of the oil. Sauté the fish bones slowly for about 7–8 minutes. Add the onion, leek, fennel, and tomato paste and sauté with the fish bones until they are translucent. Deglaze with the white wine and cook for about 5 minutes to allow the alcohol to evaporate. Add the cold water. Season with saffron, salt, pepper, and parsley. Add the bay leaves, star anise, fennel seeds, and thyme.

Bring to a simmer, and simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring to mingle the flavors. Using a slotted spoon or strainer, discard the foam that rises to the surface. Do not boil or the impurities will be incorporated into the liquid. Remove the fish bones, crush them (e.g., in a blender, small food processor or clean coffee grinder), and return them to the pot and continue to cook down for about an hour or two until the stock is the desired flavor. Turn off the heat and let sit for 15 minutes. Drain the stock by pouring through a strainer lined with cheesecloth into a large bowl, then return the strained stock to the pot. (May be refrigerated a night or two until ready to continue.)

**SAFFRON AIOLI**
Peel the potatoes and cook them in 2 cups of the fish stock, saffron, and a pinch of salt. When the potatoes are fork-tender, put them into the food processor with the 2 garlic cloves. Emulsify the potato with the oil by slowly pouring the oil in while the processor is running. Use more if needed to obtain a smooth consistency. Set aside in a serving dish until bouillabaisse is served.

**CROUTONS**
Heat oven to 275 degrees. Thinly slice the baguette and rub with 1 garlic clove and brush liberally with extra virgin olive oil. Place croutons on a baking sheet and allow them to cook for about 12 minutes. Set aside in a serving dish until bouillabaisse is done.

**BOUILLABAISSE**
Heat the oven to 325 degrees and peel and dice the potatoes. Place the potatoes in a medium pot and cover with fish stock. Cook slowly until the potatoes are fork-tender. In a medium sauté pan, heat the olive oil. Cut the tomato, fennel, leek, onion, and garlic into thin slices. In a medium sauté pan, heat oil, add vegetable mixture, and sauté in olive oil until softened. Pour about 3 cups of fish stock into an oven-safe dish and add the vegetables. Bake in the oven for about 25 minutes. Cut all of the seafood into small pieces and season with salt and pepper. Add to the vegetable dish in the oven and bake for about 10–15 minutes, until the fish is cooked through.

Serve the dish as it is on the table, with the aioli and the croutons in separate dishes.

To get other recipes from local chefs, go to sdreader.com.

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**Mission Beach**


**Mission Hills**

Lucha Libre Gourmet Taco Shop 1810 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-296-8226. Wonderful shrimp to Mexican wrounting, plus really excellent tacos. It’s a taco joint, but definitely gourmet. Quesadillas are a must. Book 24 hours ahead and you can be seated in the Champions’ Booth, treated like El Rey.

**Sausage King** 811 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-297-4801. The German couple who run this place make 34 sausages and lunchmeats, plus 10 smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. Inexpensive.

**Starfire** 5175 India St., Mission Hills, 619-358-9766. The California Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats, house-made pasta and sausages, local produce. The Lidori chicken and Prime flat iron steak are knockouts; so is a toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Nice back-patio seating. Moderate.

**National City**

Asian Noodle 1430 E. Plaza Bl., National City, 619-477-5390. The main dish is a Filipino-style chicken soup with egg noodles — a little bland, but filling. Sopao (stuffed steamed bun) make a good accompaniment — or try “sweet spaghetti.” Inexpensive.

Birrias, Chivos & Cheves 2401 Highland Ave., National City, 619-477-7660. Goat is what you get here, and it’s good. Guadalajara style. The taste is rich but not too gamey. Inexpensive.

Filipino Desserts Plus 2220-Q E. Plaza Bl., National City, 619-479-6748. The pride of the place is the desserts, from the ube halaya (purple yam custard) and maja blanca (coconut-corn mix) to the sapin sapin (multicolored layer cake) and fried sweet saba banana on a skewer. Inexpensive.

**Normal Heights**

Blind Lady Ale House 3416 Adams Ave., Normal Hills, 619-235-2491. The amazing, ever-changing draft ales will bring you here, but the unusual pizazz will help you keep coming back. Original salads, too. Basic decor. The civilized craziness of the place.

Cantina Mayahuel 2934 Adams Ave., Normal Hills, 619-281-6292. Small room, short menu of fine, authentic Mexican mainstays including special like house-made mole poblano and Oaxacaan black mole, Chilic Colorado (slow-cooked) $28, or Yucatan seafood stew. Inexpensive.


**North Park**

Alexander’s 3391 30th St., North Park, 619-281-2399. A spin-off of Old Venice, serving neighborhood-style Italian with Greek touches, including interesting specials and imaginative thin-crust pizzas. Loud, bright interior; sweet, dim back patio. Moderate (prices) to expensive.

**Ocean Beach**

Livingston’s Chicken and Mexican Food Co-Op Deli 6730 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach, 619-224-8088. “Braised” chicken — pressure cooked in oil — is tastier and less greasy than standard fried chicken. Or try garlicky “potato Jo-Jo’s,” a California burrito, or pork salsa verde plate. Until midnight weekdays; 2am weekends. Inexpensive.

Ocean Beach People’s Organic Foods Co-Op Deli 6730 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach, 619-224-1387. Virtually mainly vegan-prepared dishes include garlic eggplant with beans and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, veggie shepherd’s pie, “mango madness.” Inexpensive.

---

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Buy 1 entrée and 2 drinks, get 2nd entrée of equal or lesser value free. Maximum value $11.95. Dine-in only. Not valid with any other discounts, lobster promotion or on Thursdays.

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El Agave Tequilera 2304 San Diego Ave., Old Town (619) 220-0692. El Agave is a classic Mexican restaurant in the Old Town area, known for its traditional Mexican fare and lively atmosphere. It features a lively bar area and a menu of authentic Mexican dishes. Enjoy their margaritas, tacos, and other Mexican specialties in a warm and welcoming setting. Inexpensive.

El Agave 2804 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-220-0692. Serious Mexican food highlighting mainland regional cuisines, including five different Oaxacan mole (plus one from Chiapas). Moderate.

Jack and Giulio’s Italian Restaurant 2391 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-294-2074. The traditional Italian entries like veal parmigiana and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans in a robust Alfredo sauce. Some restrictions. Served all day. Ask for menu options.

La Posta 55237 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Old West atmosphere, vintage American food including hefty anytime breakfasts (bulging omelets, chicken-fried steak with eggs). Their burgers are big, their chili is legendary, and the dinner rib-eye steak can make city folk swoon. Inexpensive.

Point Loma

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-226-1135. Japanese and Korean entrees like eel and unagi (cooked in the kitchen) chicken/seafood/bbq, Korean ribs, and excellent beef and vegetarian rolls. Asian highlights include lemongrass and chili, garlic rich tuna, and spicy Crispy boy “kra” roll. Inexpensive to moderate.

San Marcos

Fish House Vera Cruz 860 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 619-744-7436. Also 417 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-434-6777. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu. The Manhattan oyster is tasty, as is their “krahl” salad. Moderate.

Rancho Santa Fe

Rancho Valencia 9921 Valley Circle Blvd., Rancho Santa Fe, 858-758-6216. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is created and presented to delight California’s finest diners. The French…actually, anyone who loves fine dining can delight in the food. Inexpensive to moderate.

Rancho Bernardo

The French Market Grille 15717 Rancho Bernardo Parkway, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-8035. This romantic restaurant with elegant indoor or a charming garden setting, the menu offers classics like Gallic dishes, but ingredients and execution can be inconsistent night to night. Moderate. "amazing ebi, ama ebi, and shredded potatoes with sweet, spicy and crunchy flavor". Moderate to expensive.

Solana Beach

Beach Grass Café 135 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Solana Beach, 858-309-0632. Also 1476 Encinitas Bl., Encinitas, 760-942-7274. Imaginative breakfasts are the specialty (reservations vital on weekends). Lunches and dinners feature unique multiregional "couscous" with good veggies. Moderate to slightly expensive.

Bangin’ Burgers 27413 Highway 76, San Luis Rey, 760-433-7829. The traditional Italian en-
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THE 2010 SEASON IS HERE!
THE STARS LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

MARGARET CHO
CROSBY, STILLS & NASH
DIANA ROSS
COLBIE CALLAT
JAMIE CULLUM
BARENAKED LADIES
RODRIGO Y GABRIELA
JEFFREY ROSS
JACKSON BROWNE
RINGO STARR & HIS ALL STARR BAND
SHERYL CROW
BILL MAHER
CHICAGO
CROWDED HOUSE
BROKEN BELLS
RUSSELL PETERS
THE BLACK CROWES
### ON SALE SAT. APRIL 10 at 10 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 18</td>
<td>Broken Bells with special guests The Morning Benders</td>
<td>7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 21</td>
<td>The Black Crowes</td>
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<td>Tues/Wed, May 25-26</td>
<td>Crosby, Stills &amp; Nash</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 2</td>
<td>Boz Scaggs</td>
<td>7:30</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 3</td>
<td>Jonny Lang / The Robert Cray Band</td>
<td>7:00</td>
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<td>Tuesday, June 8</td>
<td>The Rescue Me Comedy Tour featuring Denis Leary</td>
<td>8:00</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 10</td>
<td>Basia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 11</td>
<td>Diana Ross</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 13</td>
<td>Los Van Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 18</td>
<td>Comedians of Chelsea Lately</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 26</td>
<td>Jesse Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 6</td>
<td>Colbie Caillat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 9</td>
<td>Chris Botti</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 11</td>
<td>Ottmar Liebert &amp; Luna Negra</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 14</td>
<td>Gipsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes &amp; Tonnino Baliardo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 16</td>
<td>Jim Gaffigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 18</td>
<td>Jamie Cullum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 21</td>
<td>Jackson Browne with David Lindley</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 22</td>
<td>Jeffrey Ross</td>
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<td>Friday, July 23</td>
<td>Joel McHale</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 24</td>
<td>Barenaked Ladies with special guest Angel Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 25</td>
<td>Lyle Lovett and his Large Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 27</td>
<td>Pat Benatar &amp; Neil Giraldo</td>
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<td>Friday, July 30</td>
<td>Russell Peters</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 31</td>
<td>Boney James</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 5</td>
<td>Michael McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 6</td>
<td>Ringo Starr and his All Starr Band</td>
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<td>featuring Edgar Winter, Gary Wright, Rick Derringer, Richard Page</td>
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<td>(Mr. Mister), Wally Palmar (Romantics) and Gregg Bissonette</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 11</td>
<td>Joan Baez</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 12</td>
<td>Creedence Clearwater Revisited</td>
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<td>Friday, August 13</td>
<td>Dave Koz and Jonathan Butler: Together Again</td>
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<td>with special guests Sheila E. and Peabo Bryson</td>
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<td>Monday, August 16</td>
<td>Rodrigo y Gabriela</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 19</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>Friday, August 20</td>
<td>Bill Maher</td>
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<td>Sunday, August 22</td>
<td>Crowded House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 23</td>
<td>A Prairie Home Companion featuring Garrison Keillor</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 25</td>
<td>Chris Isaak</td>
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<td>Sunday, August 29</td>
<td>Three Dog Night</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 8</td>
<td>Doobie Brothers</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 9</td>
<td>Sheryl Crow</td>
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<td>Friday, September 10</td>
<td>The Beach Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 11</td>
<td>Air Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 16</td>
<td>Tower of Power</td>
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<td>Friday, September 17</td>
<td>The Fab Four – The Ultimate Tribute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 19</td>
<td>Last Comic Standing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 24</td>
<td>Margaret Cho</td>
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<td>Friday, October 1</td>
<td>Keali‘i Reichel</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 3</td>
<td>America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 22</td>
<td>Gabriel Iglesias</td>
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First-day sales limited to 12 tickets per show/10-show maximum. (Exceptions may apply.)

### LEXUS PREMIUM PACKAGES

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**
- 2 premium-seat concert tickets (center section, rows 1-4), 2 dinners in Humphreys restaurant & one suite, junior suite or guest room at Humphreys Half Moon Inn and Suites. Packages are limited. Premium packages not available at Ticketmaster outlet stores.

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**PACKAGE INCLUDES DINNER AND UP-FRONT SEATING:**
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- Please check our website for updates.

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**APRIL 11–APRIL 24**
- Daily 11:30 am-6:30 pm
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- 11:30 am-6:30 pm (Tuesday–Saturday)

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The Pack Represents

Dude, your band’s from where? Ah, yes, the local music coverage angle that never quits: debate over claimed/perceived/insufficient geographic affiliation. San Diego CityBeat scribe Todd Krovak weighed in last week with a column entitled “Homegrown: Stop whining about bands leaving San Diego and catching a buzz — just be happy for them,” suggesting that locals not “be pissed if they fail to mention their humble beginnings in sunny San Diego.” Krovak cites Wavves, the Soft Pack, Crocodiles, and Dum Dum Girls as having recently risen “to varying levels of notoriety and, if not cutting ties with the city, at least recognizing that venturing outside of the local scene is good for their careers. And if people don’t think these bands are giving proper recognition to their roots, it’s because they’re too busy recording, touring, and, in the case of the Soft Pack, playing The Late Show with David Letterman.”

Yet, front man Matt Lamkin of the Los Angeles-based Soft Pack wasn’t too preoccupied to think fast on stage and tell Dave a little SD-boosting white lie before the band kicked into “Answer to Yourself” on The Late Show’s February 12 broadcast. “Look at how good that looks,” began Letterman at his desk, noting their debut album’s cover, the band photographed on a sun-dappled beach. “Where is that, California someplace? Zuma? Point Dume? Trancas?” “San Diego,” Lamkin is heard saying off camera. “San Diego” says the host, impressed. “Yeah, doesn’t that look sweet,” he continues before returning to his stock musical guest intro: “Our next guests are a talented rock-and-roll band from California…”

After the performance, the host strolls over, thanks each member, announces the group name again, and looks over to Lamkin, asking him for a where-from confirmation: “San Diego, is that right?” Lamkin gives him the “OK” gesture; Letterman points back in acknowledgment.

“That’s Venice Beach,” confessed Lamkin about the album cover photo’s setting last Tuesday after a Soft Pack show in Philadelphia (SD’s Beaters opening). “Yeah, I said ‘San Diego’ [on Letterman] just to give the hometown some props, that’s all.”

Lamkin noted that although the band is indeed based in L.A. (he moved for a film-editing job), they are careful how they phrase it “because, moving there and saying you’re an L.A. band — those bands that really are from L.A. might go, ‘whoa…’ ” He chuckled about Dee Dee (aka Kristin Gundred of SD’s defunct Grand Ole Party) from the allegedly L.A.-based Dum Dum Girls living with her husband Brandon Welchez (of the Crocodiles) in Hillcrest. “Opposite of us: we live in L.A., say we’re from San Diego; she actually lives in San Diego and says her band is from L.A.” — David Stampone

Gang Mentalities

“I say a lot of crazy shit that pisses people off,” says Tha Core front man Chrymes, “so regular radio isn’t gonna play my shit. DagoSD.com goes out totally uncensored to around 60,000 hip-hop peeps every month, and we can do and say anything we want.” Chrymes helps operate the website. “I ain’t never going back to jail, [and] I got tired of watching all my friends have kids and piss away their dreams.”

Founded in 2005, the 24-hour internet station hosts DJ programs and musician interviews, as well as broadcasting live from local events and posting DJ mixes. Other programming includes the Bang ‘em Radio Show, tha WrongKind Radio, and MP3s by locals Mitchy Slick, Mr. Shadow, Ecay Uno, South Psyco Cide, and SiccMade. One track by Tha Core, “Smoke and Get High,” is all but unplayable on terrestrial radio. “The title speaks for itself,” says Chrymes. “We were so blown that day, I can’t even remember laying my verse down.” Also untouchable, even by many internet outlets, are the frequently incendiary interviews with locals unafraid to say things that many wouldn’t want to hear.

Chrymes says that, until recently, San Diego lagged behind other hip-hop cities. “Too much of the gang mentality,” he says, “that’s why West Coast rap fell off. It’s hard to do shows if you have people always trying to fight or shoot up the place. Then you have to deal with the police not wanting shows because of the gang shit.” — Jay Allen Sanford

(continued on page 96)
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press the buttons, right? It was a blast after all those years to be given this attention and acknowledgment.”

According to Ryan, with a little luck, there is the possibility of at least one further vintage Cardiac Kidz release. “There are a few more covers that haven’t been released, as well as some live tapes. The problem is the tapes are so old, they need to be baked (in an oven) to get them to play even once. You never know what, if anything, you’ll get until that process is done,” he said. — Bart Mendoza

**For Deora** “I’ve been doing benefit concerts for the past few years for the Flight 93 Memorial project,” says Greg Keiling. “One of my good friends, a person I used to work with, was a passenger. Her name is Deora Bodley.”

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Bodley boarded United Airlines Flight 93 at Newark International Airport. Minutes into the flight, the jetliner was diverted toward the nation’s capital as part of the 9/11 terrorist hijackings. Of the four jetliners that were hijacked on that morning, Flight 93 was the one on which the passengers mounted a counterattack against the terrorists. It crashed in a field near Somerset, PA, killing everyone on board. Keiling says that Bodley, 20, was the youngest passenger on the flight.

“I found out eight days after the crash that she had died,” says Keiling.

A social worker by trade, Keiling, 39, says he met Bodley in 1998 at the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, where she was a volunteer. “At the time, I was working at a residential treatment facility called the San Diego Center for Children. Every Wednesday, we would take the kids up to Helen Woodward to go horseback riding. Deora was in charge of our group. That’s how we became friends.”

Keiling says that the events of 9/11 fueled what he calls his “anger issues.” “After years of struggling with what happened to her and everything, I went to the crash site. It was kind of like an intervention. My parents put it together.” He says they told him that he needed to deal with his anger. “It was extremely painful, but it was also inspiring,” he recalls. “I found the inspiration to channel my anger into celebrating Deora’s life. And I figured the best way I could celebrate her life was through music.”

To date, Keiling has produced six benefit concerts at either Dream Street or Brick by Brick that have raised close to $5000 toward the construction of a memorial. Plans have been in the works for years. In 2002, Congress charitable efforts. In 2006, a group of teens raised money for 9/11 memorials by walking from Ohio to Ground Zero with a stopover at the Flight 93 crash site, and jazzman Dave Brubeck recorded a song dedicated to Deora Bodley written by her father Derrill.

“Deora’s mom called me a couple of nights ago,” says Keiling. “She and Deora’s best friend are flying from North Carolina to attend the concert. This is gonna be a monumental show on the emotional level.”

Comfort in Rage, Authentic Sellout, Raise the Guns, Beneath Lanston, and Keiling’s own group, SD93, will perform at this year’s benefit for Deora at Brick by Brick.

—— Dave Good

**FLIGHT 93 VICTIM DEORA BODLEY** passed a bill to create a permanent national memorial near the site. If all goes according to plan, the dedication is scheduled for 2011.

Keiling is not alone in his _flatlining cardinals are back_ Ryan mentions some Kidz bootlegs he Hyped by Death imprinted. “It was a complete surprise to both me and Bill, [but] our interpretation of the bootlegs was as a compliment,” Ryan said. While the compilations that their songs appeared on were long out of print, the Hyped by Death label did well as some live tapes. The problem is the tapes are so old, they need to be baked (in an oven) to get them to play even once. You never know what, if anything, you’ll get until that process is done,” he said. — Bart Mendoza

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Keiling is not alone in his...
### Event Schedule

**April 8**
- **Nortec Collective Presents**
  - Bostitch
  - Fussible Illuminauts
  - Revulab

**April 9**
- **Early Show**
  - Adam Green
  - The Dead Trees
- **Late Night**
  - Live Night
  - Blowoff

**April 10**
- **Early Show**
  - DJ Bob Mould, Rich Morel

### Venue Information
- **Address**: 2501 Kettner Blvd.
- **Phone**: 232-4355
- **Website**: casbahtickets.com
- **Charge by phone**: 888-512-7469
- **Website**: thecasbah.com

### Event Locations

- **San Diego Reader**
  - **Date**: April 8, 2010
  - **Page**: 97
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YES & Peter Frampton – 7/10
Huey Lewis and the News – 8/28
Gladys Knight & Smokey Robinson – 7/17
Gary Allan – 9/10
Ziggy Marley – 7/24
Willie Nelson – 9/26

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Thursday 8
The China Invasion tour, featuring garage-pop trio Carsick Cars, hits town tonight. The Beijing band’s ’07 debut caught the eye, ear, or Thurstoon Moore, and the cats played some dates with SY in Europe. The Car’s pulling into Brick by Brick behind last year’s crit hit You Can Listen, You Can Talk. They’re on their way home from SKSW with countrymen AV Okuba and P.K., who’ll set the Bay Park stage. From all their Space takes, this sounds like a hella triple bill and three gigs to get to.

Owlatonna, Minnesota’s favorite son, Adam Young, brings his Owl City synthpop show to Soma tonight. Paper Route and Lights go on first.

Oval City synthpop road show

Mutaytor plug in at Belly Up with Oakland’s “old-meets-new” trio Beats Antique. Mutaytor, according to the press kit, is a “bombastic, visceral experience, combining an 11-piece modern analog and electronic dance orchestra with 15 performance artists.” Electrohippies.... Bar Pink book L.A. country-fried punks Stab City with local hardcore throwbacks Rats.

Eyes.... Soda Bar draws a draught of independent rock with Fever Sleeves, X-Ray Press, and Peknal, so everyone’s (you know, *everyone?) telling me I have to go see.

Friday 9
Casbah’s got a nice long night planned with early (doors at 6p) quick-pop sets by Moldy Peach guy Adam Green and Angelino psych folkies Dead Trees. Green’s got a new one out on Rough Trade called Minor Love that showcases “a tender side of the often arrogant and emotionally unavailable bullyringer.” Okay, then. And after that’s a traveling DJ dance jam called Bwoof. Big whup, right? Wrong. The DJs are Hüsker Düde Bob Mould and remix guru Richard Morel, so bust out your shiny skids, kids, this is gonna be a fun one.... Bar Pink’s got the other notable show Friday night, staging Weezer teases Gezzer (playing Pinkerton in totos), these four dudes who call themselves the Secret Seven, and an Alex Chilton tribute by one-off all-star act Little Big Star.... Else: Man at Work Colin Hay appears at Anthology... Agua Dulce does Latin dance jams at the Ken.... the ladies take South Park when Bitter Sober and Veronica May roll into Whistle Stop.... and Ruby Room wrangles Cattle Decap and Dead Ghosts for one of their hold-your-ears shows.

Saturday 10
Los Straitjackets, Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys, and acoustic duo El Monte Slim fill a greedy-dinner bill at Casbah. The masked act is out to tout last year’s Further Adventures of Los Straitjackets. And according to Casbah’s new website (did you see that? It’s pretty cool), Big Sandy’s played the Middletown mainstay more than any other human being. Bar Pink rings the bell on another Rumble:San Diego show, featuring Silver Lake indie kids Pepper Rabbit with locals Black Mamba and Writer. Pepper Rabbit’s buoyant piano pop is some tasty fare. Go here: myspace.com/popperabbit.... Beatles-y band Mashis will throw down a s/t CD-release thing at Ruby Room with Black Honda, Cozy Comers, and Joey Harris & the Mentals in support for one big barnroombill.... “Night of the Ex’s,” as Soda Bar succumbs to Jungle Fever (ex-Wild Weekend) Saturday night. The Watusis (ex-Atoms), Sharp Objects (ex-Briefs), and Mermaid (ex-somebody probably) set the stage.

Sunday 11
Coup’s three four big gits Sunday night out in the 6191 WTF7? Elvis Costello’s going to be downtown at the re-did Balboa Theatre. You’re asking yourself: Attractions Elvis or fat Elvis, am I right? (Stage whispering: he’s playing at the mall).... New-wave hippies Psychodelic Horseshit — the band that dimmed all over Nathan Williams when Waves broke — will drop a steamy pile of lo-fi revivalism at Soda Bar. The Columbus quartet plays the same primitive garage-pop WAVVES plays without the sugary additives. Woodchuck picked them up last year for a pre-career retrospective called Golden Oldies/Shitgaze Anthems. Bend a ready ear here: myspace.com/psychodelichorseshit. Twisted tweo-poo duo the Preteenz will set the stage with Jeans Wilder and Endless Bummer.... Casbah’s got rooobica sets by Indiana indie folkies Murder by Death and Ha Ha Tonka. MBD’s latest load of dusted American Gothic, Good Morning, Magpie, dropped last week via

Monday 12
Crawlin’ downhill now.... you got Canadian chanteuse Serena Ryder doing the honors at this week’s Anti-Monday meet-up at Casbah with Ryan Star and Cuff the Duke. Ryder won a Juno last year for Best Adult Alternative (brows up!) album It’s O.K.... One of the most Pitch-slapped indie-pop bands in the land, Long Island’s As Tall as Lions, ducks into the Loft.

Tuesday 13
It’s a not-so-tender Tuesday down at Casbah this week, as British singer-songer Holly Golightly and her Brokeoffs will deliver new-roofs do Medicine County to the Middletown crowd. Creepy Creeps and Green Stamps up First. ... Radio Room dials in some hard-rock and punk-pop sets by Got No Shame, BombPops!, the Getdown, and Being Jared.
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San Diego Reader April 8, 2010 101
‘D’rugs used to do for me what a phone booth did for Superman,” says Gary Lee Ernst, singer and guitarist for Christian rockers in the midst 777.

“I was in and out of jail about a dozen times for meth-ing around, until I was sentenced to a three-year prison sentence and sent off to Donovan prison.”

It was there the former Helix High stoner says he had his religious conversion. During a lengthy stint at a Vista rehab center where he took part in the Casa Bible study program, Ernst says, “I started sponsoring some of the men in the program. That’s where I met my drummer Anthony Valenzuela. The second person I sponsored also graduated and is now our lead guitarist, Greg Kappes.”

Three years later, along with guitarist Lyonel Padilla and bassist Bill Brubaker, the band has played over a hundred gigs.

Valenzuela says that his drug addiction started in high school. “After that, it was all downhill, without a clue. After countless times in and out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change. For me, the only thing good that came out of jail, and then prison, something needed to change.”

After meeting Ernst and deciding to form the band, Kappes says, “There were a lot of obstacles in the early going. As residents, we weren’t allowed to have instruments at the program.”

In the midst 777 appears Friday, April 9, at Boomers in Vista.

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?
Ernst: “A burned CD I made on my computer with P.O.D., Kutless, Third Day, Shinedown, and 3 Doors Down.”

Valenzuela: “I like classic rock, like Rush…my biggest influence is Neil Peart.”

Brubaker: “Every Time I Breathe,” by Big Daddy Weave. The first time I heard this song I was in the car, and I couldn’t wait to get home to call the radio station and find out the name of the song and the artist.”

Kappes: “The Death Magnetic album by Metallica. Their chord-pattern style really opens things up for the lead guitar.”

PUBLISHER: “Iron Maiden’s ‘No Prayer for the Dying’ CD has been in my car forever.”

WHO SHOULD YOU PLAY IN A MOVIE?
Ernst: “Maybe Jim Carrey, or Adam Sandler.”

Valenzuela: “Steven Segal, because we both have a chip on our shoulder.”

Brubaker: “I’ve been told I look like Nick Nolte, back in his good days, so I guess he’d get the job.”

Kappes: “Well, George Clooney, of course.”

PUBLISHER: “Owen Wilson.”

WORST JOB?
Ernst: “In prison, you were lucky to get paid sometimes only eight cents an hour. I worked in the poultry abattoir — I believe that’s French for ‘slaughterhouse’ — and it was so freaking nasty that it took me three or four years to ever eat chicken again.”

Kappes: “In high school I had the unfortunate pleasure of digging ditches for a mobile-home park one summer.”

FAVORITE BIBLICAL QUOTE?
Ernst: “Isaiah 38:20: ‘The Lord was ready to save me. Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments, all the days of our life, in the house of the Lord.’”

Kappes: “Matthew 7:7: ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.’”

PUBLISHER: “Matthew 7:1: ‘Do not judge, or you too will be judged.’”

ANY FEARS OR PHOBIAS?
Valenzuela: “I’m a self-taught drummer…so, fear of failure.”

Brubaker: “My greatest fear by far is suffocation. In the back of my mind, I just know I’ll die from suffocation. Okay, this is getting pretty dark.”

PUBLISHER: “You’ll never catch me hanging out under a ladder.”

IDEAL SUPERPOWER?
Valenzuela: “Tim part Native American, and my spirit helper is the hawk — so, to fly.”

Kappes: “I would like the power to know ‘What would Jesus do!’ in all daily circumstances.”

MOST-VISITED WEBSITE?
Ernst: “Convictedthroughchrist.com.”

Brubaker: “Craigslist.org. Because I’m always looking for that good deal.”

PUBLISHER: “Newegg.com. Because I like to build computers and hear about related stuff, along with reviews.”

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?
Valenzuela: “I like to minister to people I hardly know.”

PUBLISHER: “I go commando.”

Ex-Stoners Rockin’
“In prison I worked in the poultry abattoir — I think that’s French for ‘slaughterhouse.’”

“Perhaps the biggest influence is Neil Peart.”

“Maybe Jim Carrey. Or Adam Sandler.”

“Steven Segal, because we both have a chip on our shoulder.”

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ON THE WEEK'S SHOWS


By William Crain

On a recent episode of the radio show Sound Opinions, rock critics Greg Kot and Jim DeRogatis talked about the brilliance and occasional cheesiness of Cheap Trick. To illustrate the latter, they played a snippet of Cheap Trick’s 1988 power-ballad hit “The Flame.”

When I think of Cheap Trick, I think of hearing the wonderful “Dream Police” on AM radio when I was a kid. My wife is younger, and she thinks of “The Flame.” After hearing Sound Opinions, to hear her mind of that turgid song she looked up an early-'80s live rendition of “Surrender” on YouTube. This inspired a discussion among some of our friends who were puzzled by the band’s sense of fashion. Two of them got into an argument over whether guitarist Rick Nielsen’s ridiculous sweater was ironic. One said “yes,” the other said that Cheap Trick was pre-irony.

At this point I was getting upset — wasn’t anyone listening to the song? I tried to argue that Cheap Trick pretty much invented irony in rock ‘n’ roll. I went on at length about the originality of the lyrics to “Surrender,” in which a kid comes home to find his parents smoking pot, making out on the couch, and listening to his Kiss records.

I got a little overheated, to tell the truth, but I stand by my argument. As Kot said in that radio show, Cheap Trick takes a lot of flak for their cheesy side, but their first few albums rank among the best in power pop. And the good news is, their past couple of albums show that they can still write ‘em like they used to.

Cheap Trick: Belly Up, Wednesday, April 14, 8:30 p.m. 858-481-8140. $79.


Saturday, 8pm — 99 Degrees. Blues/soul. Free.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.

Thursday, 6pm — The Rhythm Method. Classic rock.

Friday, 6pm — Friends & Enablers. Folk/rock.

Saturday, 6pm — Mystic Element of Soul. Rock/reggae/R&B.

Sunday, 5pm — Clay Colton & the Bad Blokes. Acoustic rock.

Wednesday, 6pm — Vic Moraga. Covers/jazz/rock.

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Cricket Wireless
Sunday, 6pm — Los Tres, Alejandro Fernandez, Joan Sebastian, and Marco Antonio Solís. Latin/tejano/mariachi.

Saturday, 9pm — Serious Guise. Rock.

Dizzy’s: Harbor Club Towers, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
Friday, 7pm — Jaeryoung Lee. With Danny Weller on bass & James Romeo on woodwinds; performing the music of Argentinean tango master Astor Piazzolla. $10-$15.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
Saturday — Whiskey Dick Rebellion. With Southern Storm.

Encinitas Library: 540 Cornish Dr., Encinitas, 760-753-7376.
Sunday, 2pm — Singchronicity. A cappella covers/standards. Free.

The Harp: 4935 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-0168.
Tuesday, 8pm — 9th Annual Spring Reverb with the Dana Reason Trio, Mark Dresser & Alex Cline, and Vinny Golia with Bertram Turetzky. $10.

Friday, 9pm — Slight Return. Rock. Free.

Java Joe’s at Café Libertalia: 3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-9360.

Saturday — Lady Dragon. With Daemia, Prutz, Miss Bruik, Ubiquitous, and Arkon.

Last Call: 4977 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-287-9505.
Wednesday, 8pm — Taters Invaders. Blues/funk/jazz. Free.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center: 4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla.

The Loft: 9000 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
Sunday, 8:30pm — Sleep. Hip-hop. $8-$10.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-798-9050.
Friday, 9pm — The Cameltones. Rock.
Saturday, 9pm — American Rock Experience.

Neurosciences Institute: 10640 John Jay Hopkins Dr., La Jolla.
Wednesday — The Anthony Wilson Trio. With Larry Goldings on organ, Jeff Hamilton on drums, and special guest San Diego-based trumpeter Gilbert Castellanos. $25-$30.

Newbreak Church: 10791 Tierrasanta Blvd., Tierrasanta.
Friday, 7pm — Agape Road. Blues/soul. Free.

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August 29 — American Carnage. August 30 — The Soul Persuaders.
The Avett Brothers. The Dave Matthews Band. KC & the Sunshine Band.
Trip to Dover. Ramon Ayala. Azucar Azul.
Gladys Knight & Smokey Robinson. The Kottonmouth Kings.
Paul Seaforth with Lilith Fair.

San Diego
Gregory Page & Get Blackhearts.
San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-576-1100.
May 7 — Celtic Women. May 21 — Sara Geronimo.
Santee Street Fair: 100 RiverView Parkway, Santee. May 29 — The Santee Street Fair.

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STEEL BONE
Friday, April 9 • No Cover
BILL MAGEE
Saturday, April 10 • No Cover
HIGH PLANES DRIFTERS (day)
FOO-U (night)
Sunday, April 11 • No Cover
by the BLUES BROKERS
Mondays and Tuesdays
DOUG ALLEN and SUZY BONGO
Wednesday, April 14 • No Cover
JEFF MOORE & THE WITCH DOCTORS

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VNV NATION
House of Blues, Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. $27.

Euro futur este pop duo VNV Nation picks up
where New Wave left off, but the VNV approach adds weight and heft to the otherwise
limpetwisted dance that pop radio drowned in back
in the ’70s and early ’80s. There’s an intellec-
tual curiosity about such topics as faith and war
that underlies VNV songwriting, so much so that I
wonder where it comes from. Ronan Harris (the
other VNV Nation member is Mark Jackson) emails
from a tour stop in St. Louis that their songs
emerge from synth sequences or from noodling
around on a keyboard. Sometimes, he says, songs
seem to materialize from thin air.

“It isn’t so much a method as a weird phe-
nomenon that I can’t explain and has been re-
sponsible for a lot of songs on the past three albums.
I’ll be doing something completely unrelated to music
such as walking, sitting in a café, talking to someone
— there’s no specific circum-
sstance. A song will start play-
ing in my head in the same
way you get a song stuck in
your head after hearing it on
the radio. Only it’s not a song
I’ve heard.”

VNV Nation (it stands for the
Churchill-esque Victory Not VGengence) is an Irish-Eng-
lish alt-electronic rock duo. They formed in London dur-
ing the mid ’90s after a muddle
of dance-club singles and trans-Atlantic
 crossings. I ask if Harris can pinpoint when he
and Jackson knew they were a band.

“It was after the release of the first al-
bum,” he says. Harris began work on the fol-
low-up the next day. “Suddenly, everything
clicked, and the tracks seemed to write them-
selves. I couldn’t stop. I saw a sound de-
velop — concrete ideas and concepts — a style
that I was happy with, and this was the moment
where everything gelled. To be honest, I see
our second album, Praise the Fallen, as our first true album.”
Robert Pollard: We All Got Out of the Army
CD Review by Rollo Cabeza

For his tenth release since Guided by Voices disbanded, singer-songwriter Robert Pollard stays with the formula that made him an indie icon, penning obtuse, infectious lyrics to British invasion-influenced melodies in stripped-down guitar riffs, simple beats, and basic bass lines.

“Silk Rotor” starts the album off with a mutated guitar riff before Pollard, the guitar, and drums explode in a seven-note flourish. By the second verse, Pollard’s cryptic, comical lyrics seduce: “I was coming down, like cock blockers at a cracker dance at a wing-tip free-for-all.” Six songs in, Pollard sings “Red Pyramid” in a grumble before bursting out in a Bowie-influenced yell: “And you were crying from those same bloodshot eyes, and I was frozen like a specter in the cloud…”

While Pollard’s lyrics and Anglo inflection on songs such as “Rice Train” and “Your Rate Will Never Go Up” border on gimmicky or contrived, and as the bright guitar tones often fuse together and turn flat, Pollard’s intonation and prickled sarcasm on “Post Hydrate Update” and “Cameo of a Smile” are enough to balance the affair and convince longtime listeners that We All Got Out of the Army stands with Pollard’s best.

Rykard Parasaol: For Blood and Wine
CD Review by Mary Leary

I’ve thrown at least half a dozen verbal tomatoes at the trend of young girls screeching their lyrics — unless it’s through the mouthpiece of Joplinesque talent, I want to run for cover. Finally, there’s relief: A young woman who sounds like a w-o-m-a-n (as in Suzanne Pleshette or Lauren Bacall). Another “finally” is inspired by Parasol's mold- ing of noir/cabaret to her own image. Most male imitators of Tom Waits and Nick Cave have lost their freshness for me. But when a w-o-m-a-n comes on like a cross between Lotte Lenya, Nick Cave, and Patti Smith, I slump at the bar with a Shirley Temple and take notice.

Parasaol’s dynamics make her work more than predictably noir. Tracks such as “Covenant” and “A Drinking Song” are woven with fierce guitars and kinetic rhythms. Also integral is Parasaol’s ability to glide from spoken word to the cracked syllables of heartbreak to clear, hard anger. Unusually, my focus is held through most of For Blood and Wine’s 16 stories, which are colored by San Francisco circa the Barbary Coast, Parasaol’s history, and a slew of European and literary influences.

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Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm; 9-11pm: $2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, $3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria, 1/2-off seafood bar and appetizers.

Horton's Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $5 wells, $6 house wine (375ml); $2 martini; $7 potato skins/mozzarella sticks; $7.50 nachos grande/buffalo wings.

House of Blues: Every day, 2-7pm: $2 drafts, $3 wells & wines, $4 martinis, 1/2-off select appetizers.

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

Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $5 Haole mai, Mai Liloa 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 glass of wine. $7 sliders with fries.

Patrick’s II: Every day, 10am-8pm; $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 & appetizers; $1 hot sake, $2 domestics, $3 wines, imports, $4 specialty cocktails and wine, $5 Kirin with sake.

Rock Bottom Brewery: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm, 11pm-close: $3.50 pints, wells, house wine, $4.95 specialty drinks/martinis.

Rockin’ Baja Lobster: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 margaritas. $4 Long Islands. $5-$3 drafts.

Stage Saloon: Every day, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

Stout Public House: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 premium pints, $4 wells, $5 cosmos, appletini, margarita; 1/2-price appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, till 6pm: $3 domestic and Canadian bottled beer, $4 wells, Bloody Mary, $5 mimosa.

Suite & Tender: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $2.50 bottomless wine, 1/2-off specialty cocktails.

Tabule: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 2-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers.

Tequila 100: Monday-Thursday, 8-11pm: $2 draft, $4 margarita, mojito, glass of wine, $5 Patron shot. Thursday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $2.50 margarita, mojito, glass of wine, $5 Patron shot.

Tivoli Bar: Every day, 4-7pm: $1 off pitchers, $2.50 off liquor. Tom Ham’s Lighthouse: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 house wine, domestic pints.

Urban Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 9pm-close: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Xavier’s: Thursday, Monday-Saturday, 4-8pm: $3 drafts, $2 off wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 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.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 mason jar Russian standard vodka, $3 carafe, beer, $6 wine. Complimentary Basic pizza.

Stage Saloon: Every day, 5-8pm: $4 domestic & local bottles, wells, wines.

Jewel Box: Wednesday, 6pm-2am: $5 jager bombs; happy hour all night w/military ID. Thursday, 2pm-2am: Industry Night. $3.75 calls.

Hotel Indigo: Every day, 5-8pm: $2 domestic & local bottles, wells, wines.

El Goleo Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $5 Haole mai tai, $7.50 vodka cosmo, $7.50 margarita.

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The Caliph: Every day, noon-4pm: $4 wells, $5 domestic bottles.

Taste of Thai: Monday-Thursday, 4-8pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

Churashan: Monday, Sunday, football special: $4 hot dog, garlic fries, small beer. Tuesday-Friday, 5-8pm: $4 large Japanese beers.

Khan’s Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: $1 off draft, glass of wine. Saturday, 3pm-close: 1/2-off bottles of wine.

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ENCHANTEDBLUE Fin Sushi Bar: Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 off beer, $3 off sake and sushi rolls.

Bullpen Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday, 2-7pm, 10pm-2am: $1 off draft beer. $3 off pitchers. $2� off wine and sushi rolls.

El Callejon Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic, $2.75 imported, $3 house margarita. $2-$3 appetizers: pork tacos, fried calamari, grilled shrimp skewers.

Cap'n Kenos: Monday-Friday, 6-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $2 off wine. Free appetizers.

D Street Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic drafts. 1/2-off all appetizers.

When in Rome: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: 2/for-one all wine by the glass.

Rockin’ Baja Lobster: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 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.

Every day - Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $2 off wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 mason jar Russian standard vodka, $3 carafe, beer, $6 wine. Complimentary Basic pizza.

Hive Sushi Lounge: Every day, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $2.50 sake, $3.50 well, $4 house wine. Miso, edamame, $9.

Hotel Indigo: Every day, 5-8pm: $4 domestic & local bottles, wells, wines.

Jewel Box: Wednesday, 6pm-2am: $5 jager bombs; happy hour all night w/military ID. Thursday, 2pm-2am: Industry Night. $3.75 calls.

Phi Bistro: Monday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $4 domestic bottle beer, wells, select wines. Sunday, all day: $4 Bloody Marys, mimosas, tequila shots.

Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

Calypso: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.75 bottled beer (12oz), $3.75 beer (22oz). $7.50 pitcher.

Double D’s on Broadway: Every day, 10am-4pm, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic, $5.00 off mixed drinks, $1 off shots.

El Cajon Grand: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic, $3 wells. Saturday-Sunday, 5-7pm: Bloody Mary w/jumbo shrimp.

Flinn Springs Inn: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.25 imported, $3 wells. Sunday: $2 draft, $4 margarita, mojito, glass of wine, $5 Patron shot.

Main Tap Tavern: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $1 off 16-oz. drafts, $2 off pitchers, $3 calls. $5 nachos.

Every Tuesday

Open Mic Night

Wednesday Night

Thump Night with DJ Beau Doiron

Thursday, April 8

Fish Donics DJ Digital Opinion

Friday, April 9

Shoreline Rootz

Saturday, April 10

Semisi & Fulabula

Kareoke with Spencer
LA JOLLA

Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Every day, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 small sake, $4 large sake, $1.95 select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 California, spicy tuna, veggie roll.

Beauumont’s: Every day, 4-6pm: $3 draft, well, $5 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Specials on margarita, sangria, wine cooler.

Bull and Bear Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 Bud/Bud Light, $3.50 wells, Bull & Bear wine.

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

E&O Sushi: Monday-Friday, all day: Buy one sake, get one half off. 3-6:30pm: 25% off select nigiri and maki rolls.

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

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

Lupi Italian Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $3.50 martini, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.

The Melting Pot: Every day, 5-7pm: 1/2-off cheese fondue, salads, well-dressed salads.

Rock Bottom Brewery, La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 10pm-midnight: $3.50 beer, house wine, well drinks. Saturday-Sunday, 10pm-midnight: $3.50 beer, house wine, well drinks.

La Sala: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 drafts. $5 house wine. $7 specialty cocktails.

The Shores Restaurant: Sunday, 5-7pm: Red/white sangria: $7 glass, $25 pitcher.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells and appetizers (excludes seafood & gaucamole).

Sushi on the Rocks: Every day, 5-6:30pm: $2 hot sake, Coors Light, $3 cold sake, $4 Soju spritz, $5 house wine, $1.75 vegetarian roll, spicy krab roll, $2.75 spicy tuna roll.

Whaling Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 drafts. $5 house wine. Specialty cocktails.

Whisknladie: Every day, 5-7pm: $9 all-you-can-eat tapas.

LA MESA

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

Casa de Pico: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Free appetizer with purchase of bar drink. $3.50 margarita.

Chico Club: Every day, all day: $3 big ass beer (23 oz).

Heath House: Every day, 4-7pm: $2 domestic beers, $3 premium beer, wine & well specialty cocktails, wells, bottles, glass of wine.

Hoyley’s Irish Pub & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: $1.50 off drafts, $1.50 all mixed drinks, bottled beers, glasses of wine.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Every day, 4-6pm: $2 off all cocktails, wine, domestic.

COCO COO CHI

Coach Stop: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm, 4-7pm: 2.50 large drafts, domestic beers. 7-11pm: $1.50 12-oz. drafts, $6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

Coo Coo Club: Monday-Friday, 6-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $2.75 wells. $2.50 domestic.

LINCOLN PARK

L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic drafts. $3 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: $1 drafts. $1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA

Brick by Brick: Every day, 3-6pm: $2.50 house wine. 1/2-off beer.

The Morena Club: Every day, 7-2pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.50 wells and domestic bottles.

Padre Gold: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2.50 domestic bottles, $2.75 wells, $3.50 small domestic pitchers, $6.50 large. Thursday, 4-6pm: $10 bucket of five domestic beers.

LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3.50. $4 wines, wine, featured beer, martini, margaritas.

Fat City Steakhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 wells, $4 wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Puerto la Boca: Every day, 4-30pm-7:30pm: $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, $6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 French fries, $4.50 chicken wings.

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Every day, 5-7pm, 4:30pm-close: $1 off pints, $2 off tall beers.

DESI N’ FRIENDS BAR & GRILL

Desi N’ Friends Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 2pm-7pm: $2 wells, domestic beers. 11pm-midnight: $3 drafts.

Wine Steals: Wednesday, 5-30pm-7:5pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6pm: 30% off wine tasting.

MIURA

A Taste of Boston: Every day, 3-7pm: $2.25 Bud draft, $2.75 bottled beer (except Guinness), $3 drafts, $3.75 all wine. Discounted appetizers.

Callahan’s Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house beer, dairy drafts, well drinks, house wine, $1 appetizer.

MIKAMAR

Excalibur Cigar Lounge & Wine Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 select pints, $5 house wine.

The Filling Station: Monday-Friday, 7pm-8pm: $4 margaritas. Tuesday, 7pm-close: $2 kamikazes. Wednesday, 7pm-close: $3.50 premium drafts. Thursday, 7pm-close: $2 wells, domestic beers, $6 domestic pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: $3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: $3 Bloody Marys.

Mission Beach

Coaster Saloon: Monday-Friday, all day: $2.75 select beer of the month. 5pm-7pm, 1/2-price appetizers (some exclusions).

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Monday-Tuesday, 3-7pm: $2 off all bottles, $2 off domestic.

Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $2 domestic bottles and drafts, $3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, wells, $1 off other. Sunday, all night: $5 mules. $15 off wine bottles.

MISSION VALLEY

Adam’s Steak & Eggs: Monday-Friday, 3-10pm: Double well drinks, complimentary hors d’oeuvres.

The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 Gold margaritas, house wine, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells. Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells, $2 tacos. Wednesday, 4-7pm: $5 any martini, $3.50 house wine, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells. Thursday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells. Mission Valley, 4-7pm: $1 off any tequila shot, $3 house wine, bottled beers, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells. Saturday: 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2 draft beer, $3.50 wells.

Bull’s Eye: Monday-Friday, 3-10pm-close: $2.50 domestic, draft; $3.50 wells, $3 wine: Chardon- nay, Merlot, Jacob’s Creek Cabernet.

Come’s Breath Inn: Monday-Thursday, 11am-6pm: $2.75 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

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

NATIONAL CITY

McDini’s: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $2 off domestic pints, $3.50 wells.

Miyako Japanese Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 6pm-10pm: $3.50, Japanese-style chicken bites $3.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 draft, Bloody Mary; $5 call it-ex, it; Jayne’s Gas- tropub fare.

Triple Crown Pub: Saturday, 8pm-4am: $1 off all pints, $2 off beer pitchers. Sunday, noon-2am: $1 off all, $2 off beer pitchers.
OLD TOWN
Alamo Mexican Cafe: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: 1/2-price drinks, food specials.
Barra Barra: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, house wine, $3 house margaritas, $2 off 1/2-price specials. $2 flat-bread tacos.
Cafe Coyote: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3.75 draft beers, $4 specialty shots, $4.95 Coyote drinks, $5.95 flavored shots, $2 assorted tacos.
Fred’s Mexican Cafe Old Town: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $2.50-4.25 oz. house margaritas, $2.50 14 oz. domestic drafts, $3.80-20 oz. domestic drafts.
Harney Sushi: Wednesday, $5 specialty cocktails.

PACIFIC BEACH
710 Beach Club: Monday-Friday, 1-7:30pm: $7.10 beer & shot. Saturday-Sunday, noon-7pm: $7 pitchers.
The Australian Pub: Monday-Friday, 7pm: $3 Long Islands. Saturday, $2.50 Karl Strauss. Sunday, $3 Bloody Marys.
Big Kahuna’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 beer, wine.
Bub’s Dive Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, $10 pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers.
Cass Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2.25 domestic bottles, $2.75 micro-brew prints, $7.50 pitcher, $3.50 house wine.
Chateau Orleans: Wednesday, all day: 1/2 off all wine bottles. Thursday, all day: $5 Louisiana hurricanes, margaritas, 1/2-off champagne bottles.
Costa Brava: Every day, 4-6pm: 1/2-price sangria, 1/2-price tapas.
Dave’s Tavern: Every day, 4-7pm: $2 domestic draft, $3 mimosas, $3.25 wine. Free pool.
The Dog: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 6 pitchers.
Johnny V: Tuesday, 4pm-close: $3 well drafts, selected wines. $1.95 street tacos, 3/4-off appetizers. Wednesday, all day: $3 wells, drafts, selected wines, $4 Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drinks. Complimentary appetizers. Saturday, all day: $2.50 Bud Light bottles, Absolut, $3 margarita.
Miller’s Field: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 wells, 2 street tacos.

MOONDOGGIES PACIFIC BEACH
Tuesday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $2 wells, house wine, $3 imports, micro-brews, $4.50-$6.50 house beer, $4.50-$6.50 house wine. 4-6pm: 4/3 appetizers: spicy chicken wings, fried calamari, potato skins.

PACIFIC BEACH BAR & GRILL: Tuesday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, $4.50 domestic and domestic drafts. 4-6pm: $2.50 domestic and domestic drafts, discounted shots.

POINTE LOMA
The Boathouse: Every day, 2:30pm: $1.99 house margaritas ($3 Cuervo Gold), $3 beer of the month, $4 wine of the month.
Brigantine: Every day, 4-7pm: $4 big brew, Alaskan amber ale, house champagne, $3 featured Cabernet. $7 Brigantine 40th anniversary Chardonnay, featured Cabernet, $7.50 margarita, pomegranate margarita.

C-LEVEL: Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: $3.50 Bud Light, Karl Strauss, Stone IPA, $5 specialty drinks, wells, house wine. $5 crispy calamari, ahi tuna poke, steamed Fox River mussels.
Captain’s Quarters: Every day, 3:30-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic and domestic drafts and bottles, discounted shots.
Daddy-O’s: Every day, 4-7pm: $5 domestic, $7 premium $2 oz. drafts, $10 domestic, $12 premium pitchers.
Extreme Pizza: Every day, 4pm-6pm: $6 craft beer pitchers.

Fiddler’s Green Restaurant: Every day, 3-7pm: $4 house wine and beer, $3 well drinks and margaritas.
Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: Every day, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

Paradise Lounge and Grill: Monday-Friday, 3:30-7pm: $3.50 domestic wells, domestic bottles, $6.50 domestic pitchers, 9-9:30am: 1/2-off breakfast.
Pete’s Grill: Every day, 4-7pm: $2.50 Bud drafts, $3 microbrew drafts, house wines, $9.99 sliders, $1.99 fish tacos.
Point Loma Sports Grill & Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-off appetizers.
Riley’s Music Lounge: Every day, 4-7pm: $1 off everything, $2 beers.

POWAY
Brigantine: Every day, 3-6:30pm: $1 off draft beer, $3.50 champagne, $4.75 house margarita, $3.75 Chardonnay, red wine. $7.50 Cuervo Gold hand-shaken margarita.
Kaminski’s BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm, 9-11pm: $1 off all drafts, drinks, bottles, wine.
Philosa Poggs’ Bar & Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic pitchers/$7.95 pitcher, $3.50 import pitchers/$11.95 pitcher. $2.50 cheese quesadilla, $3.95 chicken wings.

RAMONA
Boll Weevil Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 all off pitchers.
Cheers of Ramona: Monday, 2-7pm: $1 off drinks. $10 steak, Tuesday, 2-7pm: $1 off drinks. $10 drinks. Wednesday, 2-7pm: $1 all off. $10 wings. Thursday, 2-7pm: $1 all off.

RANCHO BERNARDO
Bernard O’ Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 3:30-7pm: $4 wells, domestic specials, $3.50 domestic, $3.50 drink specials, $3.50 domestic pitchers, $4.75 house margarita, $5 wine.
Cafe on the Park: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm: $3 wells, $4 house margaritas, 1/2-off house wine by the glass, $1 off beer. Complimentary cheese & crackers, 1/2-off appetizers.
Capri Blu: Every day, 3-7pm: 1/2-off drafts, wells, discounted bar menu food.
Kelly’s Public House: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $3.50 wells, house wines.

SAN MARCOS
Alfresco’s Italian Buffet: Every day, 5-9:30pm: All drinks 1/2 price.
Back Alley Grill: Every day, Everyday: $3 domestic. $4.50 imports. $4 house wine.
Cow Shed Bar and Grill: Every day, 4-7pm: $3 domestic. $3.50-$4 wells.
Dalton’s Road House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off house wines, $5 margaritas. 1/2-off appetizers: cheesy fries, potato skins, buffalo wings.

SERRA MESA
Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: Sunday, $2.50 mind erasers, kamikazes, $3.50 mimosas, Bloody Marys.

SOLANA BEACH
Chief’s Burgers and Brew: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.50 domestic, $3.50 microbrew, 1/2-off appetizers.
Pacific Coast Grill: Every day, 4-7pm: $5 gold margaritas, $1 off draft, wells, wines by the glass, $2.50 wine bottles.

SORRENTO VALLEY
Delil Sport Pub: Every day, 4pm-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona, $3 wine; 1/2-off all appetizers.

OLD TOWN
Alamo Mexican Cafe: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: 1/2-price drinks, food specials.
Barra Barra: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, house wine, $3 house margaritas, $2 off 1/2-price specials. $2 flat-bread tacos.
Cafe Coyote: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3.75 draft beers, $4 specialty shots, $4.95 Coyote drinks, $5.95 flavored shots, $2 assorted tacos.
Fred’s Mexican Cafe Old Town: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $2.50-4.25 oz. house margaritas, $2.50 14 oz. domestic drafts, $3.80-20 oz. domestic drafts.
Harney Sushi: Wednesday, $5 specialty cocktails.

PACIFIC BEACH
710 Beach Club: Monday-Friday, 1-7:30pm: $7.10 beer & shot. Saturday-Sunday, noon-7pm: $7 pitchers.
The Australian Pub: Monday-Friday, 7pm: $3 Long Islands. Saturday, $2.50 Karl Strauss. Sunday, $3 Bloody Marys.
Big Kahuna’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 beer, wine.
Bub’s Dive Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, $10 pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers.
Cass Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2.25 domestic bottles, $2.75 micro-brew prints, $7.50 pitcher, $3.50 house wine.
Chateau Orleans: Wednesday, all day: 1/2 off all wine bottles. Thursday, all day: $5 Louisiana hurricanes, margaritas, 1/2-off champagne bottles.
Costa Brava: Every day, 4-6pm: 1/2-price sangria, 1/2-price tapas.
Dave’s Tavern: Every day, 4-7pm: $2 domestic draft, $3 mimosas, $3.25 wine. Free pool.
The Dog: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 6 pitchers.
Johnny V: Tuesday, 4pm-close: $3 wells, drafts, selected wines. $1.95 street tacos, $3 off appetizers. Wednesday, all day: $3 wells, drafts, selected wines, Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drinks. Complimentary appetizers. Saturday, all day: $2.50 Bud Light bottles, Absolut, $3 margarita.
Miller’s Field: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 wells, 2 street tacos.
No Dragons

Mrs. Lovett makes the worst pies in London (“even that’s polite/If you doubt it, take a bite”).

Cygnet Theatre is fast becoming Sondheim Central. Their Little Night Music captivated audiences, they are stage reading/singing Passion on April 12 and 13, and their current Sweeney Todd threatens to blow out the doors at their Old Town space.

Sean Murray and James Vasquez’s costaging has many excellent qualities. Chief among them, the production gets the “Sondheim-ness” of the musical: wild flurries of 8th, 16th, and 32nd notes; antsy leaps from melodic warmth to frigid dissonance; and then, as if easy as pie, duets and quartets collide contrapuntally. More than any other Sondheim musical, Sweeney Todd approaches sheer, swirling turbulence. But, as in Chaos Theory, there’s an underlying order beneath.

The score should have a “Here Be Dragons” warning stapled across the title: any weak vocal link and the swaths of staccatos turn to mud. In Cygnet’s cast, across the board, there are none. Better still, the individual and choral voices excel. Even better still (he said, reeking territorial chauvinism), a majority of the cast are San Diegans. Cygnet’s amazing production does us all proud.

Sweeney Todd, né Benjamin Barker, is the poor man’s Edmond Dantès. Like the Count of Monte Cristo, Sweeney’s exiled on trumped-up charges. He goes to Botany Bay, Australia’s penal colony. But unlike the Count, who finds a fortune beneath the Château d’If to fund his revenge, Sweeney returns to London with the clothes on his back, a matching set of razors, and vengeance in his heart. He sets up shop on Fleet Street — home of London’s newspapers (including tabloids and “gutter” journalists) — and becomes the template for Jack the Ripper.

But with a twist. The legend includes an early form of recycling: kindly nuts-horrific Mrs. Lovett makes the worst pies in London (“even that’s polite…/If you doubt it, take a bite”). So why not, she rationalizes, spike them up with Sweeney’s victims? After all, the price of meat’s so exorbitant these days. So she turns customers into cannibals.

Sean Murray, Cygnet’s artistic director, rarely appears onstage, and it’s a shame: he’s such a talent. As Sweeney, ashen-faced Murray has the forlorn, tangled brow of mistreated Victorian melancholics: Silas Marner or Jude the Obscure but with a glimmer of Oscar Wilde about the eyes. Murray gives Hugh Wheeler’s occasionally blank verse lines a rough edge. When he sings he probes Sweeney’s pain and rage, both beyond redemption.

Deborah Gilmour Smyth’s Mrs. Lovett is a treasure. Boundary free, strawberry-blond hair running rampant, she is at once hilarious and freaky: a maternal recidivist eager to abet any scheme for profit or, maybe even more, just for the sheer wacko joy of it.
Sweeney and Lovett begin as distant relatives of the Maccbeths. Then they sing “A Little Priest,” a ditty about how different people might taste — since they don’t commit sins of the flesh, for example, priests might be “pretty fresh” — and all comparisons vanish. Some liken the song to gallows humor. But it’s the opposite. In gallows humor, the hangman’s jokes would be funny if not so grim. In “Priest,” the subject would be ghoulsh if Sweeney and Lovett weren’t so gleeful. Murray and Gilmour Smyth could be singing “My Favorite Things.”

Sondheim’s score loves to extinguish melodic lines, swallowing them in some instances, the way Sweeney does lives. But the musical also has gorgeous get-this-one-right-or else songs, like “Johanna” (“I was half convinced I’d waken/ Satisfied enough to dream you”). Jacob Caltrider’s fresh young Anthony’s passionate version — and Steve Gunderson’s iceberg, evil Judge Turpin’s twisted rendition — give audiences a tune to hum for weeks to come.

Everyone contributes, but especially Ashley Fox Linton’s Johanna, Kurt Norby’s rightfully outsized Pirelli the barber, and Tom Zohar’s superb Tobias Ragg, the simpleminded orphan drawn like a moth to Sweeney’s dark flame.

A ton of credit to musical director Charlie Reuter, for the sharpness of the voices and for making his versatile five-piece backup group — brass, cello, woodwinds, keyboards, and percussion — sound like many more instruments.

Sean Fanning turns the Old Town space into England’s soot-choked Industrial Age: brick walls the color of black lungs. Shirley Pierson’s costumes range from pinpoint accurate to — for Mrs. Lovett’s layered looks — gloriously screwball. And amid all the expert work, Eric Lotze’s lighting is special. Shafts and pools, like clouds moving across the sun, dissect the stage. They shroud or halo performers. Roaring reds heighten the horror. Throughout, and without ever calling attention to his efforts, Lotze does with light what Sondheim does with music.
Everything and the performers Oyster says, “Try to hang me — see a French farce both
care and patience. When your son
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Forget the Titans
The creatures are the sole excuse for the movie, and a feeble one at that.

Something to live for (now that March Madness has passed): the new Alain Resnais film, *Wild Grass*, new as of the Cannes film festival last May, has popped up on the Landmark schedule for the Ken Cinema come July. That's a little too long a while to hold my breath. In the meantime....

*Clash of the Titans*, until something worse comes along, can stand as the low-water mark in the resurgence of 3-D, a movie shot in old-fashioned 2-D and accordionized as an afterthought in the laboratory. Any remake would have been hard put to be worse than the laughable original of 1981, and the latest CGI technology, with or without the augmentative 3-D, ought'n't to have had too impossible a job of improving upon the herky-jerky stop-motion monsters of Ray Harryhausen: the Pegasus, the Medusa, the Kraken, and the rest. But the jiggly camera and the muddy color establish themselves as fundamental no-no's for an appreciation of the receding planes of 3-D, and Louis Leterrier's sloppy staging of the action — not so much action, really, as mere motion — would be unfollowable even if your eyes were able to focus. Maybe as a rule of thumb, a fundamental yes-yes, it would be a good idea to know your movie was going to be in 3-D before you shot it.

It's hard to figure in what sense the narrative represents a clash of Titans, inasmuch as the Titans are identified as the overthrown forefathers of the gods of Olympus, in particular the brothers Zeus (Liam Neeson, equally fit in his white mane to play the Christian God), Poseidon (Danny Huston, gone mostly AWOL), and Hades (Ralph Fiennes, looking as if shanghaied from the role of Fagin in *Oliver Twist*), who now in turn face a revolt of mere mortals, under the leadership of the demigod Perseus (Sam Worthington, coiffed by the USMC), venturing to usher in "the era of man." (The defiant toppling of the statue of Zeus irresistibly brings to mind the toppling of the statue of Saddam.) But never mind all that.

The creatures are the sole excuse for the movie, and a feeble one at that. The Kraken, even as a follow-up to the elongated slithering Medusa, to say nothing of the earlier swarm of giant scorpions, looks pretty impressive when he rises from the bottom of the sea, but he does little more than roar and bare his teeth before he meets the basilisk eye of the beheaded Medusa. He never escapes the ho-hum sameness of CGI monsters — he could just as well be substituted into the climax of *How to Train Your Dragon*, with no gain in gravity — and if he is in any way an improvement on a Harryhausen monster it is only in the way that an airbrush can improve upon Halle Berry. One thing that the new generation of CGI monsters has so far failed to produce is evidence of an *auteur*, a recognizable signature, a human hand. With Harryhausen — a special-effects specialist and nothing but — it was always possible to enter a discussion of where a particular movie, a particular monster, ranked in his oeuvre. What these computer progeny lack above all is a parent.

![Clash of the Titans](Image)

**MOVIE REVIEW**
**DUNCAN SHEPHERD**

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**OPENS IN SAN DIEGO ON FRIDAY, APRIL 16**
The Runaways, titled after the all-girl rock band of that name, assembles some fact-based backstage clichés to facilitate the continued growth, right before our eyes, of Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning, as guitarist Joan Jett and vocalist Cherie Currie respectively.

“This isn’t about women’s lib,” announces the mid-Seventies Svengali. “This is about women’s libido.” (Tiredest cliché, twice used, is the dreaming of dreams beneath the Hollywood sign.) You might expect a degree of candor in a movie that starts out with a splash of menstrual blood (Fanning) on the pavement outside the Pup ‘n’ Fries, or that permits revenge to be taken on a chauvinist-piggy rock star by peeing (Stewart) on his guitar. And yet, in first-time filmmaker Floria Sigismondi’s screenplay, we hardly get to know these people beyond Currie’s curious tolerance for the sappy “Starry Starry Night” of Don McLean. Was that Sapphic kiss just a kiss? Was it ever a sequel to it? Or is it simply another growth spurt for Stewart and Fanning? In the void, the movie emerges as scarcely more than costume-party dress-up. (Theme: the Me Decade.)

The two leads unquestionably look their parts — the jet-black Jett with her Kabuki hair and the jail-bait Currie, “a little Bowie, a little Bardot,” and, we might add, a little Lolita — but their natural modes, Stewart’s tortured introversion and Fanning’s faux-lavish timidity, are a lot to overcome in the roles of barrier-smashing rockers, and they neither of them overcome it.

The Last Song, the first feature of TV director Julie Anne Robinson, offers a comparable, an analogous, a distantly parallel growth opportunity for Miley Cyrus, whose progress, in contrast to Stewart’s or Fanning’s, we have not been following on the big screen for so long. In honesty, ahead of last year’s Hannah Montana: The Movie, I myself had barely heard of her. She here gets to shed the Hannah Montana alter ego for an insipid summer romance, thick with pop songs and montages, from the sparkles pin of Nicholas Sparks. (Insufficient recovery time since Dear John.)

The central character, a one-time piano prodigy accepted into Juilliard on past performance, though she hasn’t touched a keyboard in years, goes griping to Georgia, together with her little brother, to read Tolstoy, to save turtles, and principally to reconnect with her estranged father before (spoiler alert) his surrender to cancer, and, in a meet-cute, she literally bumps into a blond beach volleyballer, spilling her milkshake down her front, who turns out (spoiler alert) to be a plantation-bred blueblood.

Along the way, she sulks, she sasses, she bounces off in countless huffs, she cries, she laughs, she kisses, she sings along to the car radio, she tries on girly dresses for a wedding at which we never meet either the bride or the groom, and she plays a piano solo at her father’s funeral so stirringly as to summon up an invisible orchestra in accompaniment. Altogether, she proves herself a perfectly adequate actress for a piece of drudgery. As an example for the girls of America, her level, declarative, strong, sour speaking voice is surely preferable to the generational epidemic of wees, high, squeaky, helium-filled voices.

Her hunched shoulders, giving her body the appearance of hanging on a coat hook, are another matter.

** THE GREATEST **

“The Greatest’ takes a piece out of you! A riveting cast that plays it for real. Mulligan is wonderfully appealing. Played with earth-shaking truthfulness by the enchanting Carey Mulligan.”

— Rex Reed, The New York Observer

“A gorgeously acted, poetically written story. Magnificent, heartfelt and romantic.”

— Ray Friso, Movie City News

“Pierce Brosnan and the remarkable Susan Sarandon are just perfect!”

— FoxNews.com

“The real revelation here is Brosnan!”

— Pete York Magazine

** MOVIE LISTINGS **

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

Alice in Wonderland — Tim Burton’s adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic gives him license, free rein, grazed rails, to stage a congenital freak show in a hermetic nowhereworld, a 3-D moving-picture book. The customary murky of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and its sequel, Through the Looking Glass, has the innovation of a marriagable age-of-consent heroine, driving down the rabbit hole to escape a surprise engagement party and an odious snoopy suitor. This innovation serves the dual purpose of heading off all the tired old sophisticated doodlebugs about the Reverend Dodgson’s fondness for little girls and, secondly, of feeding the bottomless contemporary appetite for feminist fantasies of empowerment.

(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 saturation. Just as Alice has been taught to pinch herself to return from a dream, you can try pinching yourself to reverse your sippage into a CGI stupor, and at any such pinch, snapping to attention, you can appreciate the amount of labor that went into it, the thorough planning, the attention to detail. And then very soon satiated again, under the glut of computer-manufactured topography, flora, and fauna, you can drift back into stuporville. Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne Hathaway, Crispin Glover. 2010. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Art of the Steal — Documentarist Don Argott relates the story, with the aid of Mia Wasikowska, of Jennifer Aniston, apart from her well-roseated face: Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler endeavors to match that with his beard stubble, Jason Sudeikis, Christine Baranski, Peter Greene, Siobhan Fallon, Jeff Garlin. 2010. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Broken Embraces — Almodóvar, as is wont, gives you splatters and splashes, swatches and swathes, of vibrant color, and he gives you the occasional rock you-on-your-heels image (a teardrop on a ripe tomato, lovers writhing within a white sheet cocoon), and he gives you deliberately over-the-top domestic melodrama played steadfastly straight: a blind filmmaker (shades of Woody Allen’s Hollywood Ending, albeit darker shades), a kept woman turned movie starlet, a manipulative millionaire, his conniving gay son, etc. He doesn’t, however, give you much to believe in, except in this instance the undoubted radiance of Penelope Cruz, who in her mid-thirties would appear to have yet done nothing surgically to disfigure herself. It is a sad comment on our times that that’s worthy of...
“ROCK ‘N’ ROLL FANS OF EVERY GENDER AND GENERATION WILL IDENTIFY WITH THIS.”
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“STEWARD AND FANNING HAVE NEVER BEEN STRONGER.”
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“THE RUNAWAYS’ GETS EVERYTHING RIGHT.”
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KRISTEN STEWART as Joan Jett
DAKOTA FANNING as Cherie Currie

THE RUNAWAYS

APPARITION PRESENTS: RIVER ROAD ENTERTAINMENT AND A LINSON ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION “THE RUNAWAYS” KRISTEN STEWART, DAKOTA FANNING AND MICHAEL SHANNON 2009 WENDY O’BRIEN, C.S.A.

SUPPORTING GEORGE DARAKOULAS, DENNIS BURTON, CAROL BEADLE, JIM RICHARD CREW A.C., EUGENIO CABALLERO, GREG BENOTT DEBE, KENNETH NEAL AND CHERIE CURIE

DIRECTED BY FLORA SIGISMUNDI

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comment about an actress of her age. With Linus Roache, José Luis Gómez, Blanca Portillo. 2009.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; THROUGH 4/8)

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 brick- of-retirement beat cop, the stressed-out undercover cop, the off-the- rack cop) pursue singularity in their pursuit of the path on what we come to suspect will be a collision course but we find out instead 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 plausibly as a thumbscree (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 Genere, Don Cheadle, Wesley Snipes, Will Patton, Brian O’Byrne) look good in comparison, and from that angle he succeeds spectacularly. 2010.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

Chloé — A renaming and reworking of Atom Egoyan’s chapter of the French film Nathalie by Anne Fontaine. Despite the pedigree (if you need reminding, he has signed such tone heavy doses as Auroar, The Sweet Hereafter, Exotica, among others), this would fit comfortably on the Lifetime Movie Network. It’s the kind of high-end escort onto her husband as a temptation, a test. True, the escort’s oral reports have a graphic you mightn’t hear on LSN (“I could feel he was excited through his pants,” “I put my tis in his face”), and Julianne Moore, as the midelewife gynecologist who leads the investigation, is a bit highbrow, but also the uninitiated Amanda Seyfried as the escort are decidedly “R” rated, though these are matter of degree, not substance. The movie is episodic (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 but also unrequited friendship with the brilliant voice, Dorothy). 2010.

★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Clash of the Titans — Reviewed this is for the sake of Sam Worthington (as Perseus), Ralph Fiennes, Gemma Arterton, and Mads Mikkelsen; directed by Louis Leterrier.

★ (CARMELO MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 4/9)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid — The live-action adaptation of Jeff Kinney’s popular series of cartoonishly illustrated “tween” books is not in diary form but is nonetheless sufficiently episodic (the “Cheese Touch” episode, the “Devil Worship Woods” episode, and so on), covering the hero’s traumatic first year in middle school, with no help from his tormenting older brother. The dishonorable, even nastily heroic, better say antihero, can be charitably said to have a lot of growing up to do. But whatever lesson the target audience may take away, actual grown-ups can appreciate the spectacle in the full knowledge that the growing-up in many ways and in many cases never gets done. The universality of the character extends way beyond his age group. Zachary Gordon is, for all the character’s faults, vulnerable and sympathetic in the title role. No less is Robert Capron as his cherubic best friend, a mutual outcast than whom the antihero firmly believes he will soon find someone better. Though there are bits of mandatory, albeit moderate, gross-out humor (boogers and such), there are also truly witty touches (the montage of physical changes over summer vacation in children on the verge of puberty; the animated popularity rankings, forever open to revision, from the top of the class to the bottom; the screaming headline in the school paper, “Cheerleader Gains Pounds!”), and the photography by Jack Green is gaily colored, and the direction by Thor Freudenthal has energy and flair. With Rachael Harris, Steve Zahn, and Devon Bostick. 2010.

★★★ (CARMELO MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 4/9)

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-style 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 co- incidence that the ex-FM 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, pacing himself prudently, walking a razor’s edge between anxi ety and calm, allowing the plot to have the wind without getting to know the cast of characters as palatable human beings — Olivia Williams a standout as the political esquire; and the bedrock of political piety pretty well buried. When at last he elects to turn up the heat — the brilliant device of following a preprogrammed computer route in the dead man’s car to a destination unknown, the pricky interview that awaits at that destination (“A less equal man than I,” raps a pedantic Tom Wilkinson, “might begin to find your questions imperfect”), and the black sedan with tinted windows lurking outside afterward, the effect is satisfyingly 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.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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 of deniability, once again. The only Tachel book, is long: two and a half hours with almost half an hour of anti-post-climax. In the early going, it juggles two separate cases and two separate investigations, a Leftist macho-mackering protagonist (Michael Nyqvist, with his Richard Burtonian full-moon cradled face) and a security-firm computer geek (a fine job by a non-star, the late Claire Bloom) who sports two nose rings, numerous ear piercings, a Goth hairdo and a charmless schoolmarm of Olivia Williams, a beauty big enough to light a firework. 2010.

★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Great Gatsby — A precious English schoolgirl of 1926 (a cellist, a Francophile, a smoker for sophistication), on track for Oxford, gets rerouted by a shadier old man who shows her the finer things of life: a Ravel concert, a Christie’s auction, nightclub, Paris. The foreseeable end is a bit of a slog, but the film in the early stages is very good on the pretensions of intelligent youth, and very good on the heady intensification of growing up fast. Peter Sarsgaard accent is bit is-and-miss; and the prim schoolmarm of Olivia Williams, a beauty disguised in eyeglasses and pulled-back hair, is strictly stock; and the comic portrait of the heroine’s hidebound dad, a same-aged furrowing svartar, and a blond bimbo (Alfred Molina, Matthew Beard, Rosamund Pike, in order) are sharp but narrow. Keeping things fully alive through out, however, is Carey Mulligan in the lead, showing off, among her other talents, the freshest smile since Eleanor Powell: plenty of teeth with a demure downturn at the corners of the mouth. And Sally Hawkins, back to reality from the giddy heights of Happy-Go-Lucky, has a tiny but vital part to play. With Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Emma Thompson; directed by Lone Scherfig. 2009.

★★★★ (CINEMA UNDER THE STARS, 4/9 AND 10; 8 PM)

Greenberg — Noah Baumbach, writer and Director of The Squid and the Whale,
How to Train Your Dragon — Computer-animated, seemingly computer-written, Viking tale, revolving around a twiggly little lad named Hiccup, “different” from his stout fellows, odd, aberrant, queer you might say, who rather than slay dragons, gets to know them, understands them, negotiates for peace between the species, yet still proves his mettle as a “real” Viking in a cataclysmic climactic battle against a unifying monster beyond all understanding. A movie awash in wishfulness. Available in 3-D. With the voices of Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, Craig Ferguson, and America Ferrera; directed by Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders. 2010.

★ (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)

The Hurt Locker — Fictitious countdown of the final six weeks in the twelve-month tour of an army bomb squad in Baghdad. The living and working conditions in a color-free wasteland appear perfectly credible, and the quasi-science-fictional details of the job — the spaceman protective suits, the remote-control bomb-sniffing robot, the tangle of colored wires, protective suits, the remote-control bomb-sniffing robot, the tangle of colored wires, the hide-and-seek triggers — are highly enlightening. And the defusing of bombs — the constant prospect of their blowing up in our faces — carries a guaranteed tension, as witness such forerunners as Robert Aldrich’s Ten Seconds to Hell or Michael Powell’s and Emeric Pressburger’s The Small Back Room. The ambush in mid-desert, outside the squad’s normal sphere of operations, is if anything even tenser: more unpredictable, more open to possibilities. Kathryn Bigelow, one of the rare female action directors, dead-set on matching any man in muscle, favors here the combat footage filmmaking style of jostles and jars to the camera, punchy zooms, whirring props, and a chronic shaky hand, not necessarily restricted to scenes of combat. This is trendy at best, a tired cliché at worst. (The amplified heartbeat and the slo-mo explosion ought to be put to bed for a rest period of not less than a generation.) She takes a lot of time on the action scenes, or more broadly the tension scenes, and not much time in between, so that the three principals — Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, each of them looking the part — are thin on character, static in development, no more than generic as opposed to individual soldiers. With Guy Pearce, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse. 2009.

★★ (GASLAMP 15; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Last Song — Reviewed this issue. With Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth, Greg Kinnear, Bobby Coleman, and Kelly Preston, directed by Julie Anne Robinson.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; 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; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief — It would be hard to conceive a more painful introduction to Greek mythology. Or reintroduction, even more. Chris Columbus, who directed the first couple of Harry Potter entries, is looking literally for another lightning bolt — Zeus’s stolen one — in the quest of a dyslexic present-day teenager, the unknowing bastard spawn of Poseidon, teamed up ad hoc with a same-aged demigoddess and sempio ("The politically correct term is satyr"), to retrieve his mother from Hades
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Blades of Glory (PG-13) Fri. & Sat.: (11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 4:00, 8:15, 10:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, Mon.-Thu.: (1:15, 3:30, 4:00, 8:15, 10:30)

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A Prophet — A sort of Prisoner’s Progress, a brutal and brutally long account of a young Muslim nai’d who enters a French penitentiary on unspecified charges, gets recruited by the Corsicans as a double agent to knock off a fellow Arab, and from there climbs up the criminal ladder as a man without an ethnicity. The Corsican and Muslim factions make a welcome change from their stereotyped American counterparts— the Hispanic, the black, the white supremacists — and there’s a good deal of informative and interesting material on the French penal system (e.g., twelve-hour day passes, will bring a sudden surge of taut and twisted reflections, unclear connections, loose ends. At points a pitch of intensity is reached, but that seems to be an effect more of the hyperventilating music of Alexandre Desplat than of any control of the throttle by direc-tor Jacques Audiard (Read My Lips, The Beat That My Heart Skipped, tepid thrillers).

Remember Me — Lovers’ tragedy set in New York City in the days leading up to and including 9/11, leaving aside the green and-white prologue set ten years earlier. Robert Pattinson of "the Twilight saga" and Emilie de Ravin of the TV series Lost do a generally credible and at times mortifying job of behaving like young people trying to impress one another when they hardly yet know who they themselves are, and when they are each having to deal with pre-existing tragedies and troublesome fathers (Pierce Brosnan, Chris Cooper, respectively). It’s possible that 9/11 as a dramatic device could be employed too often in films, and yet there’s no great narrative skill in getting it across, only a good deal of murky ap-prehension, unclear connections, loose ends. The performances by mostly unknowns, chiefly Tahar Rahim and chiefly excepting the characterful character actor Niels Are-strup, are nicely contained, in the French style, dedicated to team goals instead of in-dividual glory; and the gritty, grimy, moldy-green image fits in with the overall intent of giving the moviegoer the lowdown if not quite giving him a movie, a diversion. The carrot at the end of the 190-minute stick is a haunting rendition of “Mack the Knife” by the inimitable Jimmie Dale Gilmore. 2009. ★★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Secret of Kells — Medieval-period animated fantasy out of Ireland, co-directed by Tomm Moore and Nora TWosney. (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 4/9; KEN, THROUGH 4/8; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 4/9)

Shutter Island — “Disturbing” would be one word, maybe the best word, for Martin Scorsese’s adaptation of the Fifties-period Dennis Lehane detective novel. Nothing, let’s be clear, in the list of ingredients — the Alcatrazzary asylum for the criminally insane, the locked-room mystery of a vanished fe-male inmate, the dreamland investigations from the detective’s dead wife, his guilty flashbacks to WWII, his allegations of Nazi-like medical experiments f u n d e d b y H U M , the approaching hurricane — is particularly disturbing. Although all of it is likely to cause difficulty in swallowing, the locked-room part of it is actually appetizing. What’s disturbing, by and by, is to see a di-rector of Scorsese’s stature (not physical stature of course) stooping to the un-scrupulous bait-and-switch tactics that have become a vogue, if not a full-blown genre, ever since The Sixth Sense. The thickening Kafka-esque atmosphere, as befits a rat in a maze, alerts us that we’re not going to get the type of locked-room solution we expect from a detective like Dr. Gideon Fell. But it is only our instilled deference to Scorsese that would prevent us from anticipating, at the heart of the maze, the cheesy cheat which makes nonsense of everything we’ve come through. Or if not nonsense, at best irrelevance and at worst malpractice. The upshot is a terrible waste of energy, and in-deed a great deal of energy un profitably went into it, primarily that trademark overdirection that serves always as a sort of methodology of self-hype: the flash pans, the vertiginous overhead shots, the pumkin-head closings, the portentous tracking shots, the ponderous slo-mo, the full range of eye-grabbing gimmicks by which Scorsese sells, sells, sells his stuff. We like to see a director taking command, but when the material is piffle it can have the effect of travesty — rather like an orchestral tran-scription of “Tiny-Bitsy Spider” in the style of Beethoven. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley, Max von Sydow, Michelle Williams, Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, Ted Levine, John Carroll Lynch. 2010. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

A Single Man — Adaptation of the Christopher Isherwood novel detailing the planned last day of a homosexual English professor (an exquisitely tortured Colin Farhi) grieving his dead lover, and incom-pulsively tying up loose ends, saying his guarded goodbyes, practicing the proper postures, allowing himself to be laid, laying out his burial attire with the helpful note, “Tie in a Windsor knot.” Fashion “guru” Tom Ford, in his directing debut, sees to it that the drums are trio-cl, almost to be envied and emulated. He demonstrates convincingly a photographic eye to go along with a curatorial taste in the early-Sixties period, although the total ambience resembles that of a retro pictorial in Harper’s Bazaar rather than an accurate depiction of a gloomy Brit in sunny So-Cal during the Kennedy Era. And he controls the color saturation of his imagery as through an IV, maintaining gray dazed fading tones for the present tense, pedantically contrasted with flushed and flushed flashbacks; and any passing sensory sensation in the faded present, any flicker of life, any tremor of reanimation, any stir of passion, snatches of movement, are beguiled and aura- tion. It’s a definite idea, even if a transpar- ent one. With Julianne Moore, Nicholas Hoult, and Matthew Goode. 2009. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Terribly Happy — Danish crime thriller with Jakob Cedergren and Lene Maria Christiansen, directed by Henrik Ruben Genz. (KEN, FROM 4/9)

Vincere — Another side of Benito Mus-solini, the sex drive, the secret mistress, the hidden love child, and the resulting trouble for his marriage and his ambitions, but more so for his mistress. An interesting sub-plot, lurchingly chronicled, obscurely pho-tographed, operatically scored. Giovanna Mezzogiorno delivers an impassioned per-formance from start to finish, but Filippi Timi gets bumped midway through by newreels of the real E.Duce and gets de-moted, weirdly, to the role of the bastard son. Written and directed by Marco Bellochino. 2009. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Why Did I Get Married Too? — Conju-gal comedy written and directed by, and starring, Tyler Perry, with Janet Jackson, Jill Scott, Malik Yoba, Michael Jai White. (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10)

The Young Victoria — And the young Albert. (Past, wanna see the Queen in her teddies)? The story of the first occupant of the spanking new Buckingham Palace is a story of protofeminist liberation — “Even a palace can be a prison” — and a testament to the capacity of British thespians, specifi-cally Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bet-tany, Miranda Richardson, Mark Strong, Harriet Walter, Jim Broadcom, among oth-ers, to play any dry and dour history lesson as if it were Shakespeare. The minor bland love story ultimately nudges out the pungent family relations, and the only good poem complements the poetry of Handel and high vowels. Directed by Jean-Marc Vallee. 2009. ★ (GASLAMP 15)
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CAREGIVERS NEEDED. Speech helper 3 days/week for quad. Must have experience, must have valid driver’s license, must pass background check. Male preferred. Call: 619-747-1092.

CAREGIVERS, CNA, HHA. Immediate openings throughout San Diego and North County. Full time, part time, hourly and/or available. Call: 619-730-9210. Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:30pm.


HEALTHCARE: RNs, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla-based Comfort Keepers as a Home Health Aide, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work—you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rate, excellent benefits. Subsidiary licensed home health agency. Medical, dental, vision, paid time off, 401(k). Call Tessa at 619-747-4510 for more info.


HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE

BARISTA. Part-time position with flexible hours—need weekend availability. Friendly personality a must but experience not necessary—will train. Call La Jolla, 858-551-1003.

BARTENDER OPENINGS. No experience required. Sat 11:30-2:30 PM. Will train. Call now, 760-621-0860.

HELP WANTED

NURSES: LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES. AccentCare is a national leader in providing home health care services. We offer full-time, part-time, per diem 11 private duty shift care (including school cases countywide), competitive pay and excellent support system. Join our team and make a difference! Requires: Valid LVN license, at least one year actual LVN work experience, current CPR card, valid CA driver’s license, reliable auto with proof of insurance and registration. Call 800-598-0030, fax 800-607-3307, or e-mail: accentcare@accentcare.com. EOE.

HELP WANTED

JOBS WANTED

NOTE TO READERS: This category is for individuals seeking employment, so employers can contact them with available job openings.

CAREGIVER. Needing a responsible, caring, independent, compassionate private caregiver? Live in, hourly. 9 years of experience. References. Melinda, 619-475-1560.


JOB WANTED. Home shares. Also I can help with driving, shopping, personal accountant, and more. Looking for a part-time job. Please call 760-917-5577.

JOB WANTED. Cook, short order. Willing to work any position. 35 years in restaurant service. Call: 954-599-4715.

JOB WANTED. Maintenance director for Christmas School in Oregon. Skilled in all trades, excellent references. Seeking position on private estate, condo complex. E-mail: 6292laurier@gmail.com, 541-463-6887.
HELP WANTED RETAIL

CASHIER, Small pharmacy. 10-4 Monday through Friday, 9-6 Saturday, 10-5 Sunday. UCI area. Experience preferred. $9.50/hr. Fax 858-442-2978.

RETAIL, FURNITURE SALES, Full-time sales associates. Guaranteed hourly wage plus incentives and benefits. Apply in person. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday. Cash & Carry Discount Furniture and Tuckers Furniture, 14670 South Pacific Beach Drive, La Jolla 92037. No phone calls.

HELP WANTED SALES & MARKETING

APPOINTMENT SCHEDULER: 828 Appointment Scheduler/Phone Marketing. $15 hour base plus pay bonus. Setting appointments business-to-business, business-to-business via phone, no selling. Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:15pm. Please apply online at www.campland.com. Bring in this ad and receive a $5 bonus after your first donation!

HELP WANTED OFFICE / ADMINISTRATIVE

DIRECTV Home Services is currently recruiting for the following positions: Administrative Support Assistant (San Diego, CA), 10-40 hours/week. Please call 858-569-0831 for more details. Pay is negotiable, depending on experience. Mail your resume and salary requirements to DIRECTV Home Services, Attn: Recruiting, 601 E. Robb Ave., Suite 500, Englewood, CO 80111. Include reference number for the position in which you are interested.

AIRCRAFT AIDES, Disabled female attorney needs part-time assistance, Tuesdays, Thursdays and every other Friday. To assist with office. Hours are 8:15am-7:00pm, plus additional overtime. Duties include typing, transcribing, booking assistance at court. Good grammar, ability to read, type 50 words per minute. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and good handwriting. Must have good phone and computer skills. Must have valid picture ID, must be able to enter the long term parking. Please send resume: Human Resources, DPL Air US LLP, 401 E. Street, Suite 1700, San Diego, CA 92101 or e-mail sandra@dpair.com.

HELP WANTED RESTAURANT / HOTEL / CLUB

RESORT: Campland on the Bay is hiring NOW! EOE: Reservation Clerk, Registration Clerk, Day Camp Unit Leaders, Lifeguard. Hospitality Ranger. Please apply online at: www.campland.com or in person at: 2211 Pacific Beach Dr., San Diego, 92109. Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm. Jobline: 858-581-4208.

HELP WANTED SALES & MARKETING

MARKETING, Green Team Go Batters! With lots of achievement and movement in the green industry, we are looking for a self-motivated, go-getter with a green thumb! Average closer $60K+/ year! Media Allstars is a growing, dynamic, energetic company in a new career! Full- or part-time. Build your own territory. Prospecting and cold-calling responsibilities. Previous sales experience a plus. All training provided. Full benefits after 30 days include: Paid time off, medical and dental insurance. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:30pm. Required Traits: Excellent speaking and listening skills, high motivated, optimistic personality, quick learner with an entrepreneurial spirit, organized and disciplined. Work with nutraceutical build relationships. To $100 calls per day minimum! E-mail resume: employment@mediallstars.com.


SALES: Come in and give it a try! A 39 year-old aggressives sales company in San Diego. Needs smart, funny people who want to learn how to sell, must be able to read. No experience necessary. Apply today and become our 3rd addition. Paid training. Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm electric utility, medical, dental, vacation (after 90 days). Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! Call Max Alan: 800-854-1049 x101. Sorrento Valley: Dan, 800-854-2830 x233. Oceanside: Mike, 619-701-3631.

HELP WANTED

MISCELLANEOUS


APARTMENT RESIDENT MANAGER for 35 units in San Ysidro. Must have experience in managing, plumbing, maintenance, skills. Free 2 bedroom apartment plus $280/month. 619-435-9734.


CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM for Veterans separated within the last 60 months. Space is limited. Call 619-424-6865.


EARN MONEY EVERY WEEK for qualified plasma donors! Requirements: 18 years old, good health, proof of Social Security number, proof of residency within the last 30 days, current photo ID. Bring in this ad and receive a $5 bonus after your first donation! Otcapharma Plasma, 3352 Duke Street, San Diego (off Midway). 619-758-9734. www.otcapharma.com.

EXTRAS FOR MOVIES, to stand in the background of a film or TV production. Earn up to $152 day. No experience required. All ages needed. 800-605-4627.

GET PAID TO SHOP! Mystery Shoppers. Earn up to $200/day. Experience not required. Call now: 800-487-4704.

INSTRUCTORS: training instructors. Luxury residential and corporate facilities. All client types. Minimum certification and 2 years experience required. E-mail: info@football360.com. Fax resume: 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8681.

MOVER: Need cheap mover with truck of van to move studio apartment of furniture from downtown to downtown San Diego. 619-280-1789.

SUMMER JOBS: YMCA now hiring throughout San Diego County. Day Camp Leaders, Umpires, Day Camp Unit Leaders, Swim Instructors, Bus Drivers. Work outdoors! Make new friends! Hands-on experience! Opportunities for career growth! Nights and weekends or fall months available! Develop your spirit, mind and body! Free membership for employees! Apply online at www.ymcadi.org/employees or call 858-250-YMCA (9625).

HELP WANTED

SALES & MARKETING

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HELP WANTED

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• GPA of 2.0 or above in transferred classes

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RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online each week to sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
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 619-233-0439 or 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92191-5803, 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 JPS format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
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2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across
1. Strokes ... or ones stroked
2. “For shame!”
3. Toyota rival
4. “Colloquia” philosopher
5. Focus on ___________
6. Broad manner of smiling ___________
7. “October 1st,” alternately
8. Flamethrower compound
9. Parent’s words after ___________
10. “Was ... blame?”
11. Panini cheese
12. What a winning contestant on “The Price Is Right” will often do?

Down
1. Focus on ___________
2. “Colloquia” philosopher
3. Steak ___________
4. 1040 ID
5. Level
6. Play area?
7. “MA*S*H” setting
8. Flamethrower compound
9. Parent’s words after “Because”
10. Resilience
11. Resort on the Italian Riviera
12. Way, way back
13. “Uh-huh” indicator
14. South American country whose official language is English
15. Cav or Mav
16. Zipped past
17. JFK’s debater in 1960
18. Airer of “Fresh Air”
19. Pixel drawing
20. Cub?
21. Lift up the slope
22. 2003 and 2008 Best Actor winner
23. Love is _______ Splendid Thing
24. “Was ____ blame?”
25. “#@$%!” spoken by the husband of a countess?
26. Wrapped headdress
27. Yo te ____
28. Magazine founder Eric ___________
29. Wife of a countess?
30. “Singin’ in the Rain” studio
31. Disney
32. A bridge over troubled water
33. Prefix with cycle ___________
34. Name in the paper along with your ___________
35. Pixar drawing
36. Gripe
37. Conditions
38. Consume
39. Lift up the slope
40. Largest organ of the body
41. Victoria’s Secret model
42. “Best Buy” credit card
43. “X-Men” villain
44. “Just do it” and “Just say no,” e.g.
45. Antiquated
46. Concorde, e.g.
47. Quake result?
48. It’s worth its weight in gold
49. Mall units
50. Scoreboard
51. Hook’s hook
52. Aids and ___________
53. Cans
54. It’s worth its weight in gold
55. Miss America topper
56. Gripe
57. SKM
58. Israeli ___________
59. Indy additive
60. Prefix with cycle ___________
61. Wilder’s “____ Town”
62. “October 1st,” alternately
63. Prefix with cycle ___________
64. Magazine founder Eric ___________
65. They may be pulled ___________
66. Wilder’s “____ Town”
67. Thank you, sir
68. The great combo: Crossword and a rainy day.
69. “I got my technique down and everything!”
70. Thanks for the shirt!
71. Learning a fun
72. Truth told with bad intent beats lies you can invent
73. A tarpaulin ___________
74. T-shirt winner.
75. Thank you, sir
76. A tarpaulin ___________
77. Thank you, sir
78. T-shirt winner.
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97. Thank you, sir
98. T-shirt winner.
99. Thank you, sir
100. T-shirt winner.

THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:

Julio Side Howard is a terrific cook. — He was a king.
Manny Faria, Point Loma, 9. Happy first birthday Talia Joy.
Ron Meyer, Santee, 12. Thank you, sir.
Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 12. I am a votary?
Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach, 9. Thank you, sir.
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Happy birthday Arini!
Jon Connor, Oceanside, 12. “I got my technique down and everything!”
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 13. Thanks, Ann and Jer for O’Reilly siting.
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 13. Great combo: Crossword and a rainy day.
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. Satch and DC. The voice of Americans must be heard.
Ron Meyer, Santee, 12. I need a job that pays.
Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 12. Whoa
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. The CA Franchise Tax Board refunded my rebate No IOU!
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Happy birthday Arini!
Jon Connor, Oceanside, 12. “I got my technique down and everything!”
Marie Grace, College Area, 12. Thanks for the shirt!
Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 12. I love New York.
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. Satch and DC. The voice of Americans must be heard.
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 13. The time for the tea party is now
Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 12. Whoa
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. The CA Franchise Tax Board refunded my rebate No IOU!
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Happy birthday Arini!
Ron Meyer, Santee, 12. I need a job that pays.
Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 12. Whoa
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. The CA Franchise Tax Board refunded my rebate No IOU!
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Happy birthday Arini!

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: ___________________________ ___
Address: ___________________________ ___
Neighborhood/City: ___________________________ ___
State: ___________________________ Zip Code: ___________________________ ___
Circle T-shirt size:   L   XL
Personal Message: ___________________________ ___

Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12.
Jane Rice is everything nice.
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 12. Last week the t-shirts may have been random!
Joe Murray, Santee, 12. I need a job that pays.
Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 12. Whoa
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. The CA Franchise Tax Board refunded my rebate No IOU!
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Happy birthday Arini!
Jon Connor, Oceanside, 12. “I got my technique down and everything!”
Marie Grace, College Area, 12. Thanks for the shirt!
Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 12. I love New York.
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. Satch and DC. The voice of Americans must be heard.
Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, 13. Taking a walk off to visit my children in Tennessee
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 13. The time for the tea party is now
Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 12. Whoa
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. The CA Franchise Tax Board refunded my rebate No IOU!
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES


CORPORATE RENEGADES UNITED! Burst out of complacency, shake up the complacent, don’t be another face in the crowd. www.corporaterenegadesunited.com. Call Patricia, 619-612-9787.

CASH FAST! 5 days, not weeks, simply returning phone calls. No selling, no pressure, no convincing. Private,。“tax deductible by IRS.” Order at www.cashfast.com. Call 888-496-1490.


HELP WANTED. Dog walker, suburban San Diego. Monday-Wednesday, 7-10am; Thursday-Friday, 7-10am; Sunday 1pm-4pm. Her name is Archie, 10 yrs old. Cat store, 8 lbs. Classic broody. Daily walks. Call 858-472-0678. www.celebcenter.com.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Expert horticulturist, scholar. Monday-Thursday, 7-10am; Friday-Saturday, 7-11am. Sunday 1pm-4pm. Locations: www.freshwaterandsaltwatercases.com.

DACHSHUND/MINIATURE PINSCHER. Female. 7 years. darling, very loving. Calm, also playful, gets along with everyone. Fully house-trained. Microchip, more. Photos/locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

DACHSHUND/SHIH TZU. Male. 5 years, 11 months. Two-car, fully automatic. Very social, very obedient. Contact Galit, Los Angeles, 310-381-9314.

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopus Garden, 25h Aqaurium. $20 or 30% or 40% or 50% or 60% or 70% or 80% or 90%. Call 858-695-9875. We have 100’s of fish and beautiful corals. Protein expertise not found in Southern California. Call 760-930-2051. www.system4usa.com.


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CHRISS BLICK TOUCH MASSAGE. Aхh... the bliss. Service is customized to each client’s needs and desires. Easy to book. Call 619-994-9147.


THE CABRILLO ACADEMY OF THE SWORD. Beginners’ Classes, Advanced Strength and Challenge Training, Sales of Replica Swords & Daggers and other reenactment equipment. Instructing in Theatrical Swordplay offers. 760-345-2101. E-mail: jose.novoa@cabrillomuseum.org, Jon: 619-548-6872.
THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (100 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-333-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdr reader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPEG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or accepted.
5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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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:

- **Nicole Tui, East Lake, 4.** I see your dark side. Ellen Bourne, San Carlos, 3. I’m on a roll. Ham and cheese Jason Kron, Lakeside, 3. Think Obama cares it really obscure? Next on…
- **Trish Alcarse, Banker’s Hill, 2.** Why do I have to write a note? We love our Reader. Richard Markson, San Diego, 2. Go Padres.
- **Ann Gruzdinski, San Diego, 1.** Hi Lisa! I did it!
- **Lloyd Payne, Relius, 1.** Where’s my pudding up?

**EASY:**

- Don Bowman, Santee, 13. Happy Easter!
- John Pertle, Santee, 13. God is sovereign omniscient righteous eternal.
- Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 12. On-stage playhouse “Into the Woods” great entertainment! Go now!
- Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 10. Happy birthday Jerenath! Erin Noggle, Ocean Beach, 10. This project was small. Now bad plumbing and no washers!
- Sebastian Certik, Bonita, 7. Hi man!
- Josie Ranches, San Diego, 7. Happy Easter!
- Stuart A. Young, San Diego, 7. Don’t teach a pig to sing. Not only does it.
- Steve Lundquist, San Diego, 5. Summer
- Hans Butkicofe, Pacific Beach, 4. Easy does it!

- Ed RuU, San Diego, 6. Happy Easter!
- Todd Wilkins, San Diego, 5. Fill it to the rim with brim
- Sandra Gisham, Escondido, 4. Here I come and here I stay in San Diego.
- Edwin Salvador, Spring Valley, 4. Sid, ask somebody anybody, so you’ll know who I am.
- Duané D. Tremaine, E. Village, 3. If you can keep your head when all about you.
- Genevieve C. Coleman, San Diego, 2. Tom, there’s no shame in getting balled up by me!
- Julie Simons, City Heights, 2. Bob and Cathe
- M. Elliott, Rancho Bernardo, 1. Money is funny
- Rhonda Webber, San Diego, 1. Too bad Kys isn’t talking to me...

**MEDIUM:**

- Ray Bartolomae, San Diego, 12. Deal! I like it! Muy macho
- Linda Bible, El Cajon, 12. Give someone a hug today
- William Stiewig, Vallejo, 12. Great tip—go bigger!
- Dr. Dave Spera, Point Loma, 10. Hare great man, great swimmer, great friend.
- Alles Hills, 5.
- Happy birthday Jeremiah!!
- Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 10.
- On stage Playhouse “Into the Woods” great entertainment! Go now!
- Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 12.
- Willam Stiewig, Vallejo, 12.
- Linda Bible, El Cajon, 12.
- John Gaughen, North Park, 12.
- Nidia Allen, Point Loma, 12.
- Dennis Jardim, Oceanside, 6.
- Alford Claiborne, Encanto, 12.
- Celtic Claiborne, Encanto, 12.
- Rich sewell, Ocean Beach, 12.

**HARD:**

- Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 13. Work is fun.
- Esther Hays, La Mesa, 13. The mind is everything; what you think, you become.
- Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. Don’t abuse the Tea Party effect—accept no leaders.
- Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 10. The snow was lovely. It melted into buckets cold water.
- Wayne Ameele, Peñasquitos, 10. Give me a message! One entry per week or you will be disqualified.

**EVIL:**

- George Elam, Vista, 12. Tax time already!
- Jeff Loeb, San Diego, 12. SDVAMC Sudoku expert.
- Steve Schorr, Encinitas, 12. Hope spring eternal for the Padres.
- David Toman, San Diego, 12. What do you mean it’s not free?
- Nidia Allen, Point Loma, 12.
- John Gaughen, North Park, 12.
- Happy anniversary Shirley.
- Tracy Kvetel, Vista, 12. Sorry to see you go Phil.
- Debbie Klass, San Carlos, 12. Thinking of a message was harder

- Loren Boyer, El Cajon, 13. RNC took the whole first row of my favorite club.
- Jean Bradley, Spring Valley, 13. April 1, 1993 was Spunky’s birthday. We miss you girl.
- Joseph Ciapian, Little Italy, 13. Kallkosqually, I was arrested for conspiring to camp a conspiracy.
- Alford Claiborne, Encanto, 12.
- Rich sewell, Ocean Beach, 12.
- John Gaughen, North Park, 12.
- Butch Hays, La Mesa, 13.
- Annie Kolbe, Ocean Park, 13. Work was easier; authoritative bosses confusing democracy enterprise and freedom.
- Michael Rewa, Allied Gardens, 13. A message!
- Rich sewell, Ocean Beach, 13.
- Joe Steinbach, Clairemont, 13. Save gas—ride the bus.
- Susan Williams, North Park, 13.
- Sally MacKenzie, Rancho Peñasquitos, 13. Winner on my first try! Thanks!
- Joe Steinbach, Clairemont, 13.
Christine Hennes, San
indicates T-shirt winner.

Trainers. Earn extra income. Flexible
Hotel visits. HHP-0088. www.
Experience balance, nourishment in
taming. Moments of magic. In office/
Friendly. Professional. IPSB graduate.

READY TO BE TREATED
Deep to soothing light. 10am-9pm.
masseuse. Full body therapeutic.
In a beautiful atmosphere with a skilled

• Therapeutic Jacuzzi

S A

No
taking great care of mom

Another one bites the dust

Mamma Maureen rocks!

Zdenek Hostomsky, La Jolla, 11.
Another shot! Thanks, Reader!
Flo Abena, Rancho Peisaltos, 11.
Why do I lose valuable time...

FOACG, Ageless & Beautiful
Medical Spa, 1080 University
agelessandbeautiful.com.

LOSE WEIGHT NATURALLY.
Weight loss is a journey, not a
process. Eat real food and lose
weight. No starving the body. No
replacements or special foods to buy.
No surgicalsections. Ultra Light, the
professional weight loss system.
developed by a Naturopath in Australia,
is now available in the U.S. Learn how to
set and properly combine foods to keep the
body burning fat-279-7600, www.DrDoreyHill.com or
DorseyHill.com.

ROSYLIE ETALASH
GROWTH! The only
false lash growth formula
made by Allergan, makers of Botox and
Cosmetic Surgery, 1080 University
Suite H201, San Diego 92103.
Call today- supplies are limited. 866-

ARE THERE MISTAKES IN MIURIE june-1921,
20% discount with mention of this ad. Sean Daneshmand, M.D.

FANIE SKIN CARE. Special! Up to
20% off on 3 Body Contour Wraps.
Facials and waxing also available.
Organic, botanical
products for people of all ages.
No synthetic, animal fats,
waaxes, glycolic acids or
Perfumes. Heals the skin,
not seals it! Karie Hayden &
Associates. 858-581-3321.

FREE DIABETIC SUPPLIES.
Free home
items. Free diabetes meals. Must have
Medicare. Shipping paid. Call 800-065-
7635 Ext. 400.

HYPNOSIS!
The easiest way to lose weight,
stop smoking or relieve PTSD.
Call Merri at the
Psycho Associ atary Hypnotherapy Clinic, 619-579-2100.

Stop Smoking All natural Hypnosis is the easiest way to lose weight, stop
smoking or relieve PTSD. Call Merri at the Psycho Associ atary Hypnotherapy Clinic, 619-579-2100.

TAE CHI & QI GONG CLASSES.
First class is free. Ventures welcome. Facial Sanctuary, 4202 Park Blvd, San
Diego, 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.
FacialSanctuary.com.

CALLS IN YONDER... love the evil!
Enjoy the flowers!
After Anna
Day’s best!

Hppy Anniversary Dee and Ted.
Joan Hubert, Clairmont, 5.
Good work!

Love
Cherish the day!

Boat take me for a twisty ride this
weekend please!

Are there really ghosts?

Happy

Its pasta time!

EAT ORGANIC!
Rich companies. Bury our economy!

Juanito Gerardo, Mira Mesa,
2.

Another complaint, it has been a great ride.

Chris and Katie are...

Chris and Katie are...

GetBack2Life. $175, $25 for
workday hours! New patient
Accepting new patients. Emergencies
and walk-ins welcome. Now with

JOINTS IN MURIE june-1921,
20% discount with mention of this ad. Sean Daneshmand, M.D.

FANIE SKIN CARE. Special! Up to
20% off on 3 Body Contour Wraps.
Facials and waxing also available.
Organic, botanical
products for people of all ages.
No synthetic, animal fats,
waaxes, glycolic acids or
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TAE CHI & QI GONG CLASSES.
First class is free. Ventures welcome. Facial Sanctuary, 4202 Park Blvd, San
Diego, 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.
FacialSanctuary.com.

CALLS IN YONDER... love the evil!
Enjoy the flowers!
After Anna
Day’s best!

Hppy Anniversary Dee and Ted.
Joan Hubert, Clairmont, 5.
Good work!

Love
Cherish the day!

Boat take me for a twisty ride this
weekend please!

Are there really ghosts?

Happy

Its pasta time!

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Juanito Gerardo, Mira Mesa,
2.

Another complaint, it has been a great ride.

Chris and Katie are...

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Associates. 858-581-3321.
Brainstorms

by Don Rubin

Gimme Five

"I see by your hand that you were raised on a farm, perhaps somewhere in the Midwest. Yes, and you had several dozen brothers and sisters — that right? Most of your family has gone into the food business, but a cousin or uncle is somehow involved in professional football, while you are destined for a career in fashion or apparel. I would avoid banquets or luaus, and … hey, wait a minute … you haven't taken off your gloves!"

Each of the numbered lines and areas on this hand corresponds to a different characteristic in palmistry. Using our descriptions as a guide and the symbols as signposts, try your hand at matching them up.

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:

BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into a contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

3) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803 or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: Puzzles@sdrreader.com.

5) All Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!

6) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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.

THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:

= indicates T-shirt winner.

= Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 5. I am absolutely intolerant of intolerance and moral absolutism.
= Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 5. Specific expertise or Googling does not a good puzzle make!
= Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del Mar, 5. Joseph, thanks for all the computer help!
= Glenn A. Walker, Pacific Beach, 5. More of a botany exam than a brainstorm…
= Conway Redding, La Mesa, 4. Thank the gods for micrographs.
= Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 3. Tutta! Holy Toledo, Don Rubin is back?
= Michael Carchidi, Chula Vista, 2. The green, green grass of home.
= Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 2. Wow
= Jean Bradley, Spring Valley, 1. Great odds for a t-shirt, but your drawings really suck!
= Pete Chenard, City Heights, 1. SDUSD Landscapers, Caspe Diem. Nature beats last
= Harry Chiou, Mira Mesa, 1. Japanese Maple looks like Manxunca
= Michelle Dutra, Serra Mesa, 1. Happy Spring Vacation!
= Tom Somich, Clairemont, 1. Annuals — live fast and die young.
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STAGE NOTES
ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! A workstation titled “Don’t Do San Diego’s #1 film TV studio! Professional 3-camera shooting, no auditions; these auditions with Hollywood and local casting directors. For information, visit: www.actorsworkshopsstudios.com; 858-587-6466.

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OVERWEEK WORKSHOP with Bill Cowan Sundays, May 2-29, 12pm-2pm. $50. For information call: 619-542-1666. Effective for actors focusing on audition preparation. This workshop is suggested, Academy of Performing Arts, 5150 Baltimore Drive, La Mesa, CA 91942. Visit: www.sanpedroarts.com; 619-442-3661.

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COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

NOTICE TO READERS: The advertisers in this section are non-profit health care, mental health providers, uninsured counselors, and other non-profit organizations.


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NOTICES

ADDED TO INERTIAP. Image: www.actorsworkshopsstudios.com. This is how we like to see it. 619-494-4967.

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Hakisier Joseph  
Unemployed  
North Park  
I have a very bold name. Bold and accurate. I’ve gotten used to it. It’s a good name. I’ve never been able to understand why, but since I moved to this country they always have a translation for a person’s name. It means “the truth wins” or “champion,” or something like that. But it doesn’t mean anything to me. I guess everybody has their translations in America. They translate things like that. Somebody apparently translated it for me because they asked me, “What does your name mean?” It’s an original name from Africa.

Jonathan Mason  
Writer  
College East  
Yeah, I like my name. I don’t usually let them call me Jon or anything like that for short. I just go by Jonathan… make them go the extra mile and say the whole thing and pronounce all the syllables.

John Casey  
Pedicab Driver  
East County  
Yes. I love my name. My name is John Joseph Casey Junior. I’ve got my dad, my grandfather, his dad — generation after generation after generation… I’m, like, the fourth, I think. I’m supposed to name my firstborn the same as me or else I guess all of our family spirits are going to come back and haunt me or something. That’s what my dad tells me, anyway, so I guess I have to do it. It has more meaning to it because it’s like I’m carrying on my family.

Ariel Hamdi  
Sales Promoter  
Downtown  
Yeah. My name is Ariel, like the mountain. In Hebrew it means “the lion of God.” I’m from Israel, but it’s not a family name; in Israel it’s not common to name the sons with the name of the father. It’s hard for people to understand my name [in America]. It takes them, like, five minutes to pronounce it correctly. They’re like, “Aaron?” “Aiden?” “What? Ari?” People call me “Art” for short, but they have a hard time pronouncing that, too.

Nellie Pate  
Production Assistant  
Office Manager  
Hillerest  
Yeah! Nellie is my first name. I ran into another Nellie the other day, a little girl. It wasn’t her full name though. I’ve never met another Nellie that’s spelled with an i. Usually it’s with a j. There are two famous Nellys, where it’s spelled N-e-l-l-y. So, yeah, I like it. My great-grandmother was named Nellie — my patients named me after her. And then, I was born in 1979 and there was a gymnast whose name was Nellie Kim.

Peggy DeCino  
School District Clerk  
University City  
No, it’s Peggy, but my real name’s Margaret. I prefer Margaret but I don’t know how to make the change, because everybody knows me as Peggy. At work I said, “Why does everybody call me Peggy?” And my coworker said, “Because you told us that’s your name!” I’ve always been a Peggy; when I put my name on school papers, when I bought my first house, it was Peggy — even though my legal name was Margaret. Homeland Security changed everything. I went to the DMV to get my license renewed and they said my name didn’t match the database, so I had to go and change everything to Margaret.
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**Typo Patrol Results**

**I Do Love Him, but I Won't Say It**
p.32 Caesar's should be Caesars (2 typos)

**Typo Patrol Results**
p.138 Kimoko, should be Kimoko

**Mtume Salaam (City Heights) $30**

**Typo Patrol Results**
p.138 Alvin, should be Alvin.

**Karen Guarnotta (Linda Vista) $10**

**Events listings**
p.64 monkeyflower should be monkey-flowers

**p.65 leads should be lead**

**p.68 Rider should be Ryder**

**Music listings**
p.98 A Piano should be A Piano

**Karelyn Kimoko (El Cajon) $40**

**Crossword puzzle**
p.128 Japan's should be Japan's

**Gian Ghiu (Chula Vista) $10**

**Diary of a Diva**
p.26 trashcan should be trash can

**Eileen Bird (Rancho Peñasquitos) $10**

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movies, showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 5 p.m.

**Typo Patrol Results**

**Nathaniel Uy (Riverside) $30**

**Events listings**
p.65 underway should be underway

**Everyone's a Critic**
p.101 Brunch should be Brunch

**p.101 anticlimactic should be anticlimactic**

**Happy Hour listings**
p.104 Happy Hours should be Happy Hour

**Theater listings**
p.111 fiancés should be fiancées

**Bonnie Nickel (Point Loma) $50**

**Events listings**
p.72 party should be part

**Music listings**
p.72 hip-hop should be hip-hop

**Happy Hour listings**
p.105 Artesian should be Artisan

**p.105 Kinn should be Kirin**

**George Schwab (Encinitas) $40**

**Rentals COMMERCIAL**

**BANNER’S HILL MEDICAL Office. Lease Special: $1.65sqft or $350 office. Includes water, est. 2 parking spaces. Free parking. Renovated. ADA accessible. Nearest hotel. 1 1/2 miles. 619-846-8238.**

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**Happy Hour listings**
p.104 Saki should be sake

**p.106 sake should be sake (x2)**

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Heal Your Body. Get Fit. Clear the Mind of Stress.
Thursday, April 8 & Tuesday, April 13, 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 Marborough Drive, San Diego 92116. 619-884-2662, prakasheffulgence@yahoo.com.

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 sampled, small portions of each food prepared, recipes to take home. Admission $20-$25. Ages 21 and up. Belle Marie Winery and Chateau Dragoo, 26312 Mesa Rock Road, Escondido 92026. RSVP: 760-796-7557.

First Aid for Cats and Dogs.

Prajna Within.
Friday, April 23, 8pm, and Saturday, April 24, 2pm and 8pm. Stella Nova Dance Company presents a journey through the intricate human psyche and its relation to Mother Earth. Highlights “importance of emotional well-being,” says Rayna SfHl, Artistic Director. “When individuals activate the path of self-awareness, amazing opportunities open up for individual health, for stronger relationships, and for the health of our planet.” $22 general admission, $15 for students and seniors, $10 for ages 13 and under. David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla 92037, www.stellanovadance.org.

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**LEAD STORY**

The day before British army chef Liam Francis, 26, arrived at his forward operating base in Afghanistan, the Taliban shot down the helicopter ferrying in food rations, and Francis realized he had made the wrong decision to bring supplies on hand. In his pantry were only seasonings, plus hundreds of tins of Spam. For six weeks, until resupply, Francis prepared “sweet and sour Spam,” “Spam fritters,” “Spam carbonara,” “Spam stroganoff,” and “spaghetti and Spam.”

*sources.* The Daily Telegraph that he was proud of his work but admitted that “morale improved” when fresh food arrived.

**Leading Economic Indicators**

Details about Britain’s biggest marijuana-importing operation emerged in March following the conviction of its three managers in Southwark Crown Court. Theenterprise earned the equivalent of as much as $300 million at such a rapid clip that the partners apparently were unable to use much of it, despite buying real estate, jewelry, and expensive cars. An inspector said Scottland Yard found “moldy” cash “rotting away,” hidden under floorboards.

Among the items on display in February at the Verona Luxury Fair in Verona, Italy, a handcrafted billiard table covered in gold sheets; an armchair topped with the skin of 20 crocodiles; a 24-carat gold racing bike; a boat with a Ferrari engine; a golden coffin (with cell phone); and a diamond-cutting table covered in gold sheets; an armchair topped with the skin of 20 crocodiles; a 24-carat gold racing bike; a boat with a Ferrari engine; a golden coffin (with cell phone); and a diamond-

**Questionable Obsessions**

In November, Jim Barkett, 49, of Maple Heights, Ohio, announced he was ending his streak of 524 consecutive days in which he listened to the album Nosratollah with the heavy-metal group Judas Priest.

**Wild Life**

Farmer Chang Chung-tou, of Yunlin County, Taiwan, drove praise from environmentalists in December for having “toilet”-trained almost all of his 20,000 pigs to use his 600 specially rigged plots that collect separate urine and effaces. Changís farm conserves water and facilitates recycling.

In November, maritime rescuers were called to ocean waters off the coast of Darwin, Australia, to rescue an adult cow that was dog-paddling around and, according to a seaman, “not in a good mood.”

**22nd Century Already?**

Later this year, manufacturer Organovo, of San Diego, will begin shipping its $200,000 inkjet-type printers that create living organs for patients needing transplants. The 3-D “bioprinter” works by spraying extracted microscopic cells on top of each other in pass after pass. On the bioprinter’s equivalent of a sheet of paper, and under laboratory conditions, the cells fuse together and grow for weeks until an organ substantial enough for research use is created (and ultimately, substantial enough for human transplants). The bioprinter is faster than growing such organs from scratch, which scientists at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine have been doing for several years.

**Fine Points of the Law**

If you’re wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun and walk into a store to rob it, but there are no employees there to rob, is that an “attempted robbery”? Sanjuan Reyes, 22, and two teenagers were arrested in Joliet, Ill., in January and charged with attempting to rob the Supermercado Viva Mexico. Two acted as lookouts while the youngest, wearing a ski mask and wielding an air pistol, entered the store. Apparently, the only employees on duty were in the back room. The boy waited for a minute or so, bailed out, and the three fled empty-handed. Joliet’s deputy police chief said a crime was committed.

**Undignified Death**

A 36-year-old man drowned in Denville, N.J., in January during a friendly swimming competition with a pal, as they raced underneath a 30-yard long ice patch on partially frozen Indian Lake.

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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that gift, show him that we want to do what’s right. What a beautiful choice we have.

If you make that choice, you fall into one of two groups, “a little flock or a great crowd.” We don’t get to choose that assignment. There are a limited number in the little flock who receive everlasting life in the heavens. The number is very clear in Scripture. Revelations 14:1: “I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels standing around Mount Zion, and with him, 144,000.” Their assignment is to rule as kings with Jesus Christ in the heavens. They’re to rule over those of us on the face of the earth in the new system. What a beautiful arrangement that will be.

The new system will be full of “tremendous blessings,” said Watts. He quoted Isaiah 65:6: “They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruitage.” This prophecy from Jehovah shows that there will be no economic hardship. We’ll be able to do many things we’ve never dreamed of doing.

And some people have…”think about living forever on the face of the earth. What could you do? I’d like to learn how to play the banjo from my great-grandfather. You could sit down with King David and learn about the melodies to the Psalms. Or ask Noah, “How did you build the ark?” That reality can be yours, if you continue to take in knowledge of Jehovah’s purposes.”

After the lesson came the ceremony. Bread on trays and wine in goblets passed to members of the congregation, just like Communion in many other denominations. Unlike other denominations, “only those in the New Covenant with Jehovah partake of these emblems. They know who they are and what their assignment is. How many of you have ever gone to a wedding and said, ‘I wonder if I’m getting married today?’ Everyone received the plate and the cup, but nobody present partook of the emblems. Said Watts, “While the anointed partake of the emblems, those of us, the other sheep, attend as respectful observers. We’re happy to be here. We certainly appreciate the ransom sacrifice made on behalf of all mankind. There really is nothing else to put our faith and trust in in this life.”

Throughout, prayers of thanksgiving were offered, but also, prayers of petition. Elder Early closed by asking, “Help us to always put our trust in You, knowing that we’re living in a dying system, that Satan is working against us... Help us to do our best to live up to Your name, to live up to the opportunities You hold out for us.”

— Matthew Luckona
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