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They’re a cooperative bunch, those workplace smokers.

Carmen was too much – see Immortal Beauty
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No Labor Protests Here

By Don Bauder

If the massive union workers’ protests radiate from Wisconsin and Ohio across the country, you can almost bet there is one metro area that won’t participate in large numbers: San Diego County.

Across the nation, realistically, uprisings may be limited to very heavily unionized areas. Since fewer than 12 percent of American workers belong to unions (down from 36 percent 65 years ago), Americans aren’t likely to storm the Bastille over organized-labor issues, particularly since government workers’ unions dominate the labor movement today and many taxpayers are furious over the fat pensions and early retirements that municipal safety workers, in particular, enjoy.

While polls indicate that more than 60 percent of Americans don’t approve of the type of restrictions proposed in Wisconsin for public workers, it’s questionable that many people lacking an overriding self-interest will be aroused enough to take to the streets.

California is more unionized than the nation, but sympathy for labor unions is not likely to reach the boiling point in San Diego. According to the University of California Los Angeles Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, San Diego is one of the least-unionized metro areas in the state. Last year, only 13.3 percent of San Diego workers belonged to unions. The figure was 16.5 percent in Los Angeles, 17 percent in San Francisco, and 17.6 percent statewide.

Private-sector unionization was a mere 5.3 percent in San Diego, compared with 9.7 percent in the state, 7 percent in the nation, 10 percent in San Francisco, and 9.3 percent in Los Angeles. Public-sector unionization here was 45 percent, but the comparable state number was 36.1 percent, while in bureaucratically bloated Sacramento, not surprisingly, it was 58.8 percent. San Francisco was close at 57.4 percent.

For the movement to explode across the country, protesters’ focus will have to broaden. It will take more cosmic grievances to bring up the bile — say, the repugnant gap between the superrich and the not-so-rich. Income and wealth disparities are a major factor setting Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya, and Iran aflame. (Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak may personally control as much as $70 billion in wealth — about twice as much as the right-wing, Kansas-based Koch brothers, who are shoveling money and advice to the Wisconsin governor.) Americans should feel better resentment that average people’s wages, adjusted for inflation, have gone nowhere for 20 years, while the richest 1 percent have seen their incomes grow 33 percent over the period. Folks should gnash their teeth that the richest 1 percent rake in 24 percent of total income and the wealthiest 1 percent have more net worth than the bottom 90 percent. The top 15 hedge-fund managers are bringing home an average of $1 billion a year and paying only 17 percent taxes.

Someday, such figures will have people ready to revolt. But not yet — and almost certainly not in San Diego, which has an ugly antitax and anti-free speech history. In 1912, disaffected workers, including members of the leftistIndustrial Workers of the World (Wobblies) would gather in the Stingaree district, filled with whorehouses and opium dens, to hear soapbox orations about workers’ rights and social inequality. The city council passed ordinances severely restricting free speech. Police threw protesters in a vermin-infested jail. San Diego vigilantes, spurred on by hate-filled newspapers, physically brutalized the workers protesting uncivilized conditions.

Sources: Census Bureau, New York Times

INCOME INEQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD AND IN U.S.: the Gini Index
( Low numbers indicate less income inequality. Higher numbers indicate more income inequality)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Salt Lake City</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
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San Diego’s income inequality reflects the national average.

Economists scratching heads Unemployment fell to 9 percent in November, economists thought it would rise to 9.5% from 9.4% in December...

Callaway shafts shareholders Carlsbad golf company says it compensates executives based on performance. Not so...

Naming rights boosts bid for L.A. stadium L.A. Times reports Farmers Insurance’s $700 million naming-rights offer...

Read Don Bauder news updates like these every day at SDReader.com

continued on page 50
So Many Bodies on the Bayfront

By Susan Luzzaro

Clandestine negotiations, fueled by the prospect of a pot of gold set aside for cleaning up the South Bay Power Plant, have become a concern to some city council members and residents of Chula Vista. In late February, Councilmember Rudy Ramirez called for more daylight on the subject; more recently, the council called for a public hearing on the negotiations at the March 22 council meeting.

The South Bay Power Plant has long been a source of pollution and an impediment to Chula Vista’s efforts to develop its bayfront. Dedicated in 1960, the plant was owned and operated by San Diego Gas and Electric until 1999, when it was sold to the Port of San Diego. Duke Energy, the port’s first tenant, leased the plant and the land it sat on for seven years; the plant’s current operator is Dynegy. The plant was shut down on December 31, 2010. Dynegy is obligated to dismantle the plant and clean up the toxic waste on the site.

The first that many people knew of the city’s plan to take on responsibility for the cleanup was an editorial in the Union-Tribune. “Secret talks have led to a potential arrangement under which Dynegy would turn the entire problem over to Chula Vista along with accumulated funds of $72 million to pay for the work,” the November 21 editorial read. “The potential arrangement was brokered by David Malcolm at the request of Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox.”

This peephole into remediation negotiations generated concerns expressed privately, in letters to the editor, and on the council dais. Was the city of Chula Vista capable of doing the cleanup without taking on huge liabilities? If there was money left over, how should it be spent? Why were some members of the council kept in the dark? But for many, the main concern was, what part did Malcolm play in these sensitive negotiations that involved the cleanup of port land?

Malcolm, a former Chula Vista city councilman, was appointed to the Port Commission in 1995, and he served until 2002, when he resigned. During his tenure, he took a leading role in the port’s acquisition of the South Bay Power Plant and in the lease agreement on 10/26/1994. It was designated as [Historic Resources Board] Site #326, and was designated a historical landmark in 2002.

“Dismantling of the decommissioned South Bay Power Plant “could be a big gain for the South Bay and specifically Chula Vista.”

DA Dumanis confident her years of public service give her the “tools...to build consensus and move our city forward”

No Flag?

San Diego’s Fire Station 4 Story

East Village — Is the City ashamed of Fire Station 4, located on the corner of Eighth Avenue and J Street? The building has no signs indicating it’s a fire station and doesn’t fly the California or United States flag. The only signage is two plaques on the front of the station, one noting it was built by president Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration (in 1937) and another dedicating it to firefighter Roy C. Gundlach, who lost his life in the line of duty on June 26, 1918.

When one passes the building, it is natural to wonder what the purpose of it might be; I wondered until one day when the doors were open and I saw a fire truck inside.

When I sought more information on the station, San Diego’s deputy chief Lorraine Hutchinson responded in an email: “Fire Station No. 4 is designated as [Historic Resources Board] Site #326, and was designated as a designated resource, it would be highly preferable if the original signage could be reconstructed.... Logistics

DA Dumanis confident her years of public service give her the “tools...to build consensus and move our city forward”

Strawboys

Face-Off

District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis to Run for Mayor

San Diego — On Thursday, March 10, San Diego district attorney Bonnie Dumanis announced her intention to run for mayor next year.

“I want you to be among the first to know that I’ve made an important decision about our future,” read Dumanis’s statement to her supporters and the media. The DA then hit the local interview circuit, making appearances and touting her being “confident my long career in public service has given me the tools I need to bring change, build consensus, and move our city forward.”

Not so happy to hear the news of her mayoral run was a group of medical marijuana and social justice advocates who immediately pulled together to form a Facebook group called “Not Dumanis.” Members include former marijuana advocates who were prosecuted by the DA’s office and others who suffered the reputed “heavy-handedness” of Dumanis.

Eugene Davidovich, one of the No Dumanis coalition members and a medical marijuana proponent, said on his Facebook page: “The NOT DUMANIS campaign is ramping up. Dumanis will be held accountable for the many years of destroying families, innocent lives, and her undermining of the legal system through a monarchy style reign as District Attorney.”

By Gail Powell

Sunday, March 13

March 17, 2011

Reader

San Diego Reader
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.

No Jobs for Barbarians

I am a graduated manufacturing mechanical engineer of the University of Minnesota, 1981. As you say, Americans have been pushed out of the American engineering economy and the American labor economy by corporate leaders, business leaders, and union labor leaders (“Are Americans in Short Supply?” “City Lights,” March 10).

I worked with foreign students when I was in the university, and as we were only paid minimum wage as part-time and full-time students, we were equal in the sense of employment. When I graduated in 1981 and entered the real world, as you say, the American engineers coming out of the universities were looked at as worthless sandbags by corporate and labor America — as inexperienced and to be pushed under foreign people that are from a culture that looks at Americans as low-class barbarians to be held at the lowest position until dead.

I have not met one American company in my life that felt that American engineers are worth anything, and the government has made it impossible for us to move up, as the foreigners have been put ahead of us since the early ’80s. They have had children here and are now building a foreign country within this country for them and leaving us out. I worked day labor in order to eat, living in the streets, working with people that could not even speak English and were too dangerous to work with.

These same people are being kept separated by the enemy within in the U.S., and after 29 years of being held down by this enemy, I believe it is the U.S. government and labor that hate the United States people and are building up their own pensions and keeping us out of the U.S. economy. If you want to know why there are no American engineers around, this is why. We are washing dishes and working with people that we can’t even talk to in order to eat and have a roof over our heads.

Corporate and labor America have created more hate than the Communists, fascists, and Nazis of the 30s and 40s. These same people are running what you see in America now. They have destroyed the United States and my life to the point that we will never have a life, a normal social relationship, or any form of social accomplishment in our lives. All you will ever see is made in anywhere but America because we are emotionally dead American engineers trying to stay alive in a country that hated us all our lives.

John G. Wotzka
via email

Free Market Distortion

Don Bauder’s article about the H-1B visa program and its effect on American software engineering (“Are American Engineers in Short Supply?” “City Lights,” March 10) was a timely and informative one. I’ve been working in software engineering since graduating from a computer science degree in the early ’90s, and I’ve observed firsthand the effects of the H-1-B visa program. It should be noted that while there may have been times in which software engineers have been in short supply in the U.S., the free market would have quickly remedied the situation had it been allowed to operate properly. As basic economics teaches us, a supply shortage in an inelastic industry could be reached. Instead, the H1-B program was exploited to distort this market by flooding the market with low-cost captive labor from other countries. Studies showing that H1-B workers earn the same as their American counterparts miss the point entirely, as the market has already been distorted by their presence.

Few American engineers can demand a salary higher than the lowest-paid H-1-B worker who can do the same job. An additional factor not mentioned in Don Bauder’s article is the tremendous impact of outsourcing on American engineering. Demand for H1-B visas may well decline in the following years because so much work has been moved overseas.

Fifteen years ago, only basic tasks like technical support were performed offshore, but in 2011 some of the most advanced chip design, hardware and software engineering is being performed...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Monthly Payment</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Standard LASIK</strong></td>
<td>$2200*</td>
<td>$799</td>
<td>Per eye, any nearsighted prescription with no astigmatism. Additional $8 per month per eye for astigmatism (or $300 per eye).</td>
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<td><strong>All-Laser (blade-free) Standard (Intralase)</strong></td>
<td>$3300*</td>
<td>$1199</td>
<td>Regularly $2000 per eye (approx. savings of $1000 per eye). Per eye, any nearsighted prescription.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Custom LASIK</strong></td>
<td>$3500*</td>
<td>$1499</td>
<td>Regularly $2000 per eye (approx. savings of $1000 per eye). Per eye, any prescription.</td>
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I slowed to a walk so I could catch my breath, and Jane followed suit. “I can’t go to Walmart,” I said. “I’d be too distracted trying to get photos to upload to people@walmart.com.”

“Then meet me at Vons tomorrow,” Jane said. She picked up her pace and soon we were both back at a steady trot, which made it impossible for me to discuss the matter further.

My niece Bella graduated from Daisies and is now a Brownie, making her old enough to sell Girl Scout cookies. Jane, ever confident in her marketing abilities, volunteered to be the Cookie Mom, accepting responsibility for ordering, organizing, and selling cookies for all 26 girls in Bella’s troop.

I was a Girl Scout once. For the most part, it was horrible. My mom was a coleader, and she rocked at helping me get badges, the accumulation of which was the highlight of my short stint in the green vest. The rest was either work or torture. The work was facing rejection door-to-door with a cookie order form in hand. The torture (aside from the meetings hosted by the other coleader, a lady who insisted on serving celery and carrots for our troop-meeting snack) was camping.

For two traumatic evenings, I shared a tent in Rohr Park, ten miles and a world away from my house. The canned beans and eggs cooked over an actual fire was nasty fare. The activities were drudgery — tying knots, running relays... I don’t even remember what we did, only that I vacillated between being bored and bothered.

But that wasn’t the worst part. As a chubby new girl, I was the perfect target for the kind of cruelty that can only be dreamt up by children. I was teased and excluded from joining groups, but that was the same uninspired bullying I’d encountered at school. The real creativity presented itself while I was packing up my things the last morning and discovered the source of the terrible smell that had been permeating my cold, dew-drenched tent all weekend — someone had smashed hard-boiled eggs in strategic locations beneath my sleeping bag.

I did love those cookies, though. Especially the Thin Mints. We would keep those in the freezer and eat them cold. As a kid, I had no idea how much the scout’s parents had to hustle in order to get cookies ordered, sold, and delivered. Mom pushed them on her friends, Dad took order forms to work. Always taking it to the next level, Jane masterminded a cookie-selling empire to help Bella’s troop make the numbers. She had me tweeting, Mom harassing school-district employees, and her husband passing the order form around at work. Her main tactic was to do as many booth sales as possible.

“I don’t want to hear it,” Jane said as we were walking the last stretch back to my place. “I know how you hate it when people push stuff on shoppers outside of stores.”

“Naw, this is cool,” I said. “It’s much easier for me to say, ‘No thanks, honey’ to a little girl than it is to say, ‘It’s none of your business’ to a guy with a clipboard who wants to know whether or not I’m registered to vote in California. Seriously, those people should be banned — I don’t care how much I might agree with whatever their agenda is.”

“Yeah, well, I’ll be there by 11:00,” Jane said. “It would be awesome if you could watch Bella for a few minutes while I’m setting up.”

Because we had a bunch of errands to run in the area, I brought David with me to Vons the following morning. When we arrived, we both gave Bella the pick-up-and-spin-around hug she’s come to expect from us. Uncharacteristically bas couture, Jane was wearing a U.S. flag bandanna on her head in honor of Operation Thin Mint, a program that sends cookies and sweet notes to American troops stationed abroad. I could tell by her expression and frantic manner that she’d had a rough morning.

It was a chilly day, so David and I took Bella and one of her Brownie friends for cocoa at the Starbucks inside. I was tempted...
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**ITEM OF THE WEEK**

**JVC KD-R210**

- Includes (4) 120-watt 6.5” Speakers

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Most Interesting Man in the World:

“I don’t often find myself in San Diego, but when I do, I prefer Tijuana.”

“The zoo? Why would I go see a tiger I wasn’t allowed to wrestle?”

Living Like Kings of Old?

City Council Votes to Replace City Operations Building with Fictional Castle

“As long as we’re wishing…”

JUST OUTSIDE THE NAZI-BUNKER-STYLe CITY OPERATIONS BUILDING, DOWNTOWN — In response to governor Jerry Brown’s exceedingly generous offer to allow redevelopment projects that are already “under way” to continue despite his plan to eliminate urban redevelopment funding in general, the San Diego City Council recently approved a $4 billion wish list of projects they deemed worth pursuing. Most notable among these was the $500 million plan to replace the current City Operations Building with Castle Grayskull from He-Man and the Masters of the Universe.

“Redevelopment has proved to be a powerful source of magical energy for San Diego, one that has made our city the envy of all Eternia,” said council president Tony Young, whose district includes the public baths owned by He-Man’s boon companion, Duncan the Man-At-Arms.

Councilman Todd Gloria agreed. “We can establish the source of the Power of Grayskull here in San Diego or we can send it to Snake Mountain and hope that Skeletor and his minions send a small fraction of it back to us. It’s a no-brainer, in my point of view.”

But councilman David Alvarez voted against the measure, noting that “the vast majority of Grayskull’s magic has been targeted toward the support of lazy Prince Adam and his even lazier twin sister, Princess Adora. I can’t help but notice the $300,000 set aside for the grooming of Adam’s cowardly tiger, Cringer. King Randor and Queen Marlena hardly need this kind of public backing for the care and feeding of their precious little boy. And all the while, poorer communities” — like those that Alvarez represents — “receive little of Grayskull’s magic. No heroic blonde warriors in leather harnesses and loincloths have been seen in Barrio Logan lately, that’s for sure.”

As if on cue, He-Man suddenly burst into the council chambers astride his mighty Battle Cat, astonishing all those present. Brandishing the Power Sword that was developed using funds from last 2008’s Proposition P, he proclaimed, “I have the power!” before lopping off Alvarez’s head and revealing him to have been Beast-Man all along.

San Diego Risk Management director Greg Bych gained a $16,000 pay raise for helping push the retiree health care overhaul.

On Will & Grace, Megan Mullally played Karen Walker, a wildly wealthy woman with no sympathy for others’ suffering.

In Max, John Cusack played an art dealer who gained a measure of notoriety for befriending young, artistically frustrated Adolf Hitler.

San Diego chief financial officer Mary Lewis picked up an extra $30,000 a year during a salary freeze and budget crisis.

Joe Nemmer had a small role in Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call: New Orleans, a film about a corrupt, addicted, and possibly crazy officer of the law.

San Diego chief operating officer Jay Goldstone explained that the raises were necessary because Bych and Lewis were doing extra work critical to financial reform initiatives.

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Councilman Todd Gloria agreed. “We can establish the source of the Power of Grayskull here in San Diego or we can send it to Snake Mountain and hope that Skeletor and his minions send a small fraction of it back to us. It’s a no-brainer, in my point of view.”

But councilman David Alvarez voted against the measure, noting that “the vast majority of Grayskull’s magic has been targeted toward the support of lazy Prince Adam and his even lazier twin sister, Princess Adora. I can’t help but notice the $300,000 set aside for the grooming of Adam’s cowardly tiger, Cringer. King Randor and Queen Marlena hardly need this kind of public backing for the care and feeding of their precious little boy. And all the while, poorer communities” — like those that Alvarez represents — “receive little of Grayskull’s magic. No heroic blonde warriors in leather harnesses and loincloths have been seen in Barrio Logan lately, that’s for sure.”

As if on cue, He-Man suddenly burst into the council chambers astride his mighty Battle Cat, astonishing all those present. Brandishing the Power Sword that was developed using funds from last 2008’s Proposition P, he proclaimed, “I have the power!” before lopping off Alvarez’s head and revealing him to have been Beast-Man all along.

San Diego Risk Management director Greg Bych gained a $16,000 pay raise for helping push the retiree health care overhaul.

On Will & Grace, Megan Mullally played Karen Walker, a wildly wealthy woman with no sympathy for others’ suffering.

In Max, John Cusack played an art dealer who gained a measure of notoriety for befriending young, artistically frustrated Adolf Hitler.

San Diego chief financial officer Mary Lewis picked up an extra $30,000 a year during a salary freeze and budget crisis.

Joe Nemmer had a small role in Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call: New Orleans, a film about a corrupt, addicted, and possibly crazy officer of the law.

San Diego chief operating officer Jay Goldstone explained that the raises were necessary because Bych and Lewis were doing extra work critical to financial reform initiatives.
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**Back When in the Reader**

**Thirty-Five Years Ago**
These days, one can wander into the Santa Fe Depot, downtown San Diego, and feel like a ghost. The imagination of a train buff can easily supply the atmosphere of a busy center of rail transportation, the hub of a city’s activity, the place where so many dreams once began and ended. But one who enters the depot without imagination in high gear is faced with the cool, loftly emptiness of an aging masterpiece of architecture (dated 1915), outmoded and underused through the fault of nothing but the changing times.

— "Great Expectations,"
Rich Donnelly,
March 18, 1976

**Thirty Years Ago**
It took a moment for the import of Aunt Bertha’s words to register. Despite her weight loss, if she were ever hired for a Calvin Klein jean commercial, the company would go bankrupt in a month.

She is currently slimmer, but not enough to warrant sending her CARE packages with food or plying her with sweet potatoes and peanuts the way some African tribes do when they want to fatten up a bride for her groom. That Aunt Bertha described herself as a Sexual Threat was yet another example of human optimism.

— Restaurant Review: "Against the Grain,"
Eleanor Widmer, March 19, 1981

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**
Fearless predictions for Oscar night: (a) There will be some point, and possible at more points, be a standing ovation. (b) Someone will crack a joke about the inordinate length of the proceedings. (c) A male presenter will feign embarrassment standing next to a female presenter in a low-cut dress. (d) Some recipient will express gratitude to someone referred to as "babe." (e) I won’t win any money on wagers.

— Restaurant Review: "Against the Grain,"
Eleanor Widmer, March 19, 1981

**Twenty Years Ago**
Six years ago the Mentors were momentary occupants of the moral hot seat when their song "Golden Showers" was a highlight of the Rev. Jeff Ling’s congressional testimony during the infamous record label hearings.

Of course the Mentors, a near-mental trio with a male-domination fetish, are offensive. Obviously they’re a joke — moronic vocal delivery can only be perceived by the perceptive as parody. Is the joke funny?

I don’t even find them as entertaining as GWAR, who have interesting costumes with things on them. GWAR proponents point out that band’s elaborate stage show as reason for their existence. The Mentors can claim nothing beyond a few good riffs.

— Of Note: "Mentors," Mike Keneally,
March 21, 1991

**Fifteen Years Ago**
I wondered if [Quentin] Bell recalled what his aunt, Virginia [Woolf], gave him for birthdays when he was a child.

"I can’t remember her actually giving me presents. I expect she did, but I can’t remember what they were. She was extremely kind to me. She was very good with children, to young people altogether. When I heard, ‘Virginia’s coming to the house,’ it was like being told that we were going to have a treat. It was so wonderful. We wrote absurd books together. I did the pictures and she did the text. Some day these may be published, although I rather hesitate.”

— Reading: "Bloomsbury Recalled," Judith Moore,
March 21, 1996

**Ten Years Ago**
There are few national holidays celebrated so widely outside of their country of origin as St. Patrick’s Day. Every American is Irish on March 17. In fact, America celebrates St. Patrick’s Day more wholeheartedly than Ireland does — which is surely related to the fact that there are about as many Irish pubs in San Diego as there are counties in Ireland: 32, plus one English-Irish inn for good measure.

Naomi Wise, March 15, 2001

**Five Years Ago**
I don’t think I’ve been bored since childhood. Early on I learned there are so many interesting alternatives (including getting in trouble) that it really hasn’t come up. In adulthood I’ve spent so much of my time vacillating between what Woody Allen calls the two basic conditions of man — the horrible and the miserable — that boredom becomes appealing in its sheer elusiveness.

— T.G.I.F.: "My Record Speaks for Itself,"
John Brizzolara, March 16, 2006

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There are those among us who believe every event ends with winners and losers. As to the NFL lockout, it’s too early to know if NFL Inc., or Players Inc., or CBS/TBS/TNT/TruTV Inc., will be winners or losers, but I can tell you one thing: United Football League (UFL) management is dancing in the street.

The lockout seemed to be the UFL’s bet from the beginning. They saw NFL owners hire union-busting lawyers, saw them renegotiate their TV contracts in order to guarantee money in case of a lockout — in short, saw them doing all the things you need to do to prepare for a shutdown.

You can make a pretty good guess when the UFL decided the lockout was going to happen: summer 2009. The original UFL plan was to begin play in 2008 with eight teams. Instead, they opened a year late with four teams in what seemed like a spur-of-the-moment decision. The chairman of the UFL’s board of directors was hired on August 6. The California franchise announced its name on August 11. The name of the Florida franchise was announced on August 12. Training camps opened on September 13. The regular season launched three weeks later with four teams and a six-game season, followed by a championship contest in which half the league’s franchises were on the field.

The UFL has completed two seasons of play. They have announced money earned and money lost. I put these figures alongside the league’s attendance figures, which were, best case, imaginary. The UFL says it lost $32 million in Year I and $50 million in Year II. The league settled a $6 million creditor’s lawsuit just last week. Some players, even now, have not received their last paychecks for the 2010 season. The league had two-year contracts with HDNet and Versus, which meant UFL games were broadcast nationwide. Those contracts expired and have not been renewed.

In a preemptory strike, ESPN declared it will not broadcast UFL games until hell freezes over. Period.

Sound familiar? Remember the USFL, XFL, NFL Europe, World Football League, and the rest? A new professional football league marches onto the playing field with heads held high, eager to conquer the sports/television industrial complex, and three years later is shoved out the kitchen door for pigs to feed on.

Oh, ye of little faith. Introducing William Hambrecht (investment banker, chairman of Hambrecht + Co.), league founder, owner of Las Vegas Locos, a two-time UFL champion, which means they are the only champion the league has known. And let us not disremember that Bill, besides being league founder and owner of the only championship franchise, is also the possessor of the only two UFL championship trophies in existence, the aptly named “William Hambrecht Trophy.”

Things couldn’t be better. Follows is what Bill told VegasNews.com about the UFL’s prospects for 2011: “The league is currently completing its long-term planning process, and I believe that the successes of the past two years and the initiatives we are putting in place are evidence that the United Football League is moving towards a steady future.” When you hear somebody talking like that you know it’s time to go to the bank and take out all your money.

In hopes of getting some shake from the NFL lockout, the UFL has moved up its season: their first game is scheduled for August 7. This year the UFL has mustered five teams for its eight-game regular season. The championship game will be played on or about October 16 at a location to be announced. For sure. Almost certainly. Why not?

Here’s the strange part: the UFL plays pretty good football. In two years, more than 100 UFL players have been sent/returned to the NFL. Even a five-team league, without a television contract, has shown that enough skilled players are out there to populate an NFL-type professional football league. The UFL’s game is better than college football, better than the Canadian Football League, and better than the XFL ever was. This, on no marketing and nothing but bad publicity.

The UFL plays in the midst of the college football season, the NFL season (if there is one), baseball postseason, NBA preseason, start of the NHL regular season, and the NASCAR Sprint Cup. In other words, they compete with every big-time sport on the continent.

Finally, regard this UFL press release dated March 11. The Las Vegas “Locos will hold open player tryouts at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas on Saturday, April 9; Cerritos College in Los Angeles, CA, on Saturday, May 7. Players must preregister online at ufl-footbal.com/tryouts/locos.”

The UFL is doing well just to be here. Good luck, fellas.
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Lincoln gashes Gahr in state regional semifinals

Lincoln Park — The top-seeded Hornets started fast and cruised to a decisive 83-52 victory over fourth-seeded Cerritos Gahr to move closer to a second consecutive state title.

"We had the home advantage," said Lincoln guard Tyree Robinson. "Our crowd was really loud tonight, and we came out with the win."

Lincoln (31-1) stormed out of the gates in the first quarter, taking a 10-1 lead two minutes into the game. The Hornets led Gahr 23-10 after a fast first quarter that included four Lincoln dunks — including three from senior guard Norman Powell.

Lincoln lost its offensive rhythm to start the second quarter, only scoring two points in the opening three minutes. Gahr (26-8) closed the gap to eight points midway through the quarter, but the Hornets responded with an 11-2 run and took a 39-23 lead into halftime.

"The issue for us in the first half was us finishing layups," said Lincoln head coach Jason Bryant. "We turned them over, but we had a problem finishing."

After halftime, Lincoln turned up its defensive intensity to pull away from Gahr. The Hornets opened the third quarter on a 16-5 run and led by 22 headed into the fourth quarter on their way to a 31-point win.

"They got tired midway through the third quarter," Bryant said. "It was just too much up-and-down for them and it worked out well for us."

Lincoln has won 21 games in a row and is two wins away from back-to-back state titles. The Hornets’ six postseason wins have come by an average of 36 points.

The only team ranked ahead of the Hornets in the state, and the only team to beat them, Long Beach Poly, lost 72-55 to Santa Ana Mater Dei in the Division I state playoffs, giving Lincoln the opportunity to finish the season as California’s best team if they bring home a state championship.

Boys 2010–11 All-CIF Selections
(Players listed in alphabetical order)

First Team
Angelo Chol, Hoover, 6’9” Sr.
Tyler Cross, Horizon, 6’6” Sr.
Johnny Dee, Rancho Buena Vista, 5’11” Sr.
Drew Kitchens, La Costa Canyon, 6’5” Sr.
Alex Perez, Otay Ranch, 6’1” Sr.
Norman Powell, Lincoln, 6’4” Sr.
Tyree Robinson, Lincoln, 6’4” So.
Joe Rahon, Torrey Pines, 6’2” Jr.
Eric Norman, Francis Parker, 6’9” Sr.
Dominique Love, Bishop’s, 6’3” Jr.
Max Heller, Torrey Pines, 5’9” Sr.
Bryan Dvorak, El Camino, 6’2” Jr.
Marcus Booker, Mt. Miguel, 5’9” Jr.
Dalante Dunklin, Francis Parker, 6’0” Jr.
Chris Gorman, El Camino, 5’11” Sr.
Corie Osetkowski, Canyon Crest, 6’10” Sr.

Second Team
Dayton Boddie, El Camino, 6’2” Jr.
Marcus Booker, Mt. Miguel, 5’9” Jr.
Dalante Dunklin, Francis Parker, 6’0” Jr.
Chris Gorman, El Camino, 5’11’’ Sr.
Max Heller, Torrey Pines, 5’9” Sr.
Dominique Love, Bishop’s, 6’3” Jr.
Eric Norman, Francis Parker, 6’9” Sr.
Bryan Dvorak, El Camino, 6’2” Jr.

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**T.G.I.F.**

**BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA**

**You name it, we’ll try anything to stave off the whole magilla that is mortality.**

Having just recently turned 60, I am pulling up the rear of what has commonly been termed the Baby Boomers. Apparently the generation dates from the end of WWII or 1945, so that would place me five years behind the generational norm. Still, I believe I am qualified to speak for many of us. Most of us were raised in decades when youth was revered, celebrated as if it were an accomplishment, encouraged, praised as if it were something noble to strive for, surely a kind of insanity or at least an example of unsound, skewed values. And even now, 65 years later, youth is as venerated as ever, maturity in the media is a gaze-eyed cliché that might as well have been the same crap our parents’ generation tried to put over on themselves, and I suspect it is the doing of young ad execs — as if there is such a thing as old ad men.

For well more than a decade now I’ve wondered, ‘What are we going to be like as a country when over half of us are doddering oldsters?’ The picture is shaping up, all right; and probably its first major manifestation is the healthcare boondoggle. It is clear that to some degree my peers and I really did assume we were not going to get old. On some level, we bought a kind of Peter Pan voodoo that would sprout from happy mushroom thoughts or wheat grass and good vibes or solar-powered Orgone boxes and macrobiotics. Whatever. Drugs — psychedelics — may have played some role in this but not as much as one might think (my opinion, naturally) because that stuff gave us relatively rational men like Andrew Weil as well as endless self-help mutants and plastic-surgery grotesques.

One symptom has been shared by many of us, one of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross’s classic phases of death, denial, apologizing in a clearly unpracticed manner. The door closed and I went on my way. Fuming.

Soon, what struck me is the kid’s obliviousness to the idea of being called “Dog,” as if it were “Buddy” or “Pal.” I continued down Pacific Highway with the full knowledge that I had become the bitter old bastard I once hated when I wrote my 1977 failed punk book, “Old and in the Way.” I was also aware that my once purposeful stride had become what can only be termed a dodder. I used to wonder why old bastards did that, doddered, and now know unquestionably why: everything fucking hurts — it doesn’t “freaking” hurt, it fucking hurts.

I also realized that it was butt-crack’s generation that had invented sex, not mine, and it was his generation that had arrived at a judgment of disdain for well more than a decade now. We denied we’d ever retire (the Rolling Stones just keep on going, etc.) or ever want to; and some version of roller disco, drinking inordinate amounts of water contained only in plastic, wearing sunscreen or magic bracelets, becoming wrinkled adolescents to the point of transmigration into deflated and slack-skinned leathery things having been shot through a high-G cannon as we jogged along the beach or trails, grimacing, wearing tennis togs or jogging suits to church as you approach those years in which it appears wise to cover certain bets. You name it, we’ll try anything to stave off the whole magilla that is mortality.

Points I’ve noted where the devolution of human intelligence parallels our particular generation’s march off the mortal coil may be more apparent than real, but so much of my empirical experience is that way...I cast a wide net.

I’m in an elevator in a downtown hotel, not a bad one. The upper-middle-income dentists at the convention seem nattily dressed and they’re handing car keys with Mercedes logos to valets. The elevator opens at three, and I am confronted by a homunculus, maybe 25, with multiple face-piercings, a Metallic T-shirt, and a hard-shell electric-guitar case. “Out ya go, Dog,” he says. “Dog?” I echo, stunned. And then again, “Dog?” He is stepping backward, clearly being reasonable by creating space and gesturing. “I’m going to the lobby,” I explain.

“No room, Dog [dog?]. I got this shit comin’ in.” He indicates amplifiers, etc.

“First of all, my name’s not Dog...” I went on as he backed up even farther. My voice rose. Soon he was...
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They’re a cooperative bunch, those workplace smokers.

Without complaining — audibly, at least — they leave the building to light up, even when it’s cold and raining. In some offices, that means taking a 15-floor elevator ride to the street.

continued on page 28
But remember when people puffed away while working at their desks? The smoke’s ubiquity in offices was taken for granted. It wasn’t until 1995 that California passed the law banning smoking inside public buildings.

A man on his smoke break downtown told me a story about the transition days. “It was no big deal for most of us,” he said, as we stood in the shadows of the Wells Fargo building on B Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. “Everyone started going outside right away, except one guy. To stay inside, he’d take his smoke break on the pot in the bathroom. When you went in there, you knew right away what was going on because there were trails of smoke coming up over the stall walls. You’d say, ‘You’re not supposed to be smoking in there.’ And he’d come back with, ‘No, it’s not me. It must have been somebody before me.’ Yeah, right. ‘I smell smoke right now, and you’re the only one in here.’ ‘Well,’ he’d say, ‘that was another guy. I don’t know who it was.’ So you’d turn the light off when you left and leave him sitting in the dark.”

A few days later, I was in a classroom on the Naval Amphibious Base, located approximately where the road going south out of Coronado starts onto the Silver Strand. On the whiteboard at the front of the room, which is used mostly for CPR training, a sign read: “Designated Smoking Area Is Behind the Garbage Containers.” Curious about how this message is taken, I found the dumpsters across the street, where they were protecting the view of a corner of San Diego Bay from an unsightly group of smoking sailors.

Does it bother you guys, I asked, to be sent out behind the garbage to smoke? Two of them made me also wonder how California smokers, downtown, for instance, feel about being forced out of buildings they work in daily when they want a cigarette. The sailors didn’t think it bothered people in California anymore because the restriction has been in effect for so long. “But in Kentucky, where I’m probably take offense.”

I continued speaking with the second sailor, whom I’ll call Steve, since he doesn’t want his words to come to the attention of his command. “I think a lot of people who smoke are actually ashamed of it,” he said, giving himself as an example. “I won’t smoke in front of my parents, my brothers, or my young son because I just don’t want them to see me do it.”

Steve, who is a petty officer first class, granted that smokers often take too many breaks, possibly a contributor to his “shame,” and that other sailors can become resentful over it. “I sometimes get on junior personnel for taking too

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**Bam! San Diego**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

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Free, safe, confidential information, referrals, and support for peers (individuals with lived mental health experience) and their loved ones.

Mon: 10am – 6pm
Tues: noon – 8pm
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We are a grassroots, non-profit organization that offers free education, support services & advocacy to improve the quality of lives of everyone affected by mental illnesses.

info@namsandiego.org

www.namsandiego.org

Funded by the County of San Diego
many smoke breaks because it’s just an excuse to stand around and do nothing.”

Yet Steve sympathizes with his smoking charges; on board the amphibious ships he serves, all smoking is disallowed while refueling or when Harrier jets and helicopters take off and land. “If the restrictions go to 10 or 12 hours, then you’ve got lots of sailors on edge big time, dying for the signal they can smoke again.”

* * *

I took my nosiness about smoke breaks back downtown, to San Diego’s large office buildings. For the next two weeks, during the sunny spell we had in January, smoking workers opened up about their habit, and I endured the occasional puff in the face. First impressions suggest that Steve had a valid insight, that many smokers carry at least an uneasy shame about having others see them with a cigarette in their fingers. Among 15–20 smokers who eventually unburred some of their feelings, only two women consented to give me their names. There was even greater reluctance by current smokers to name their employers; none of them would do it. Most would not even identify what floor of a building they worked on.

* * *

Standing in front of the San Diego County Court House, the man I’ll call Ray (“The reason I won’t give you my name is there’s such a social stigma attached to smoking”) betrayed not the slightest qualm about continuing to smoke, although he did acknowledge quitting briefly several times in the past. He said he has smoked for 50 years.

At my back was the bright morning sun, which Ray’s dark glasses shaded from his eyes. On his shirt front was a jury-duty badge. “They haven’t selected me yet,” he said. Ray works in the radiology department of a large hospital, not near downtown. He had no complaints about having to leave his building to smoke. But due, perhaps, to the hospital setting, there are people who hassle him about his smoking, even outside, almost always in a nonverbal way. “They’ll hold their noses or wave their hands in front of their faces, as though my smoke is getting in their eyes, despite the fact that I’m in a good distance away.”

Ray, who looked to be in good health, has never had a smoking-related illness, he said, acknowledging that he can’t predict what the future might hold. “But my body is used to smoking and, if I give it a sudden shock by stopping now, that might be worse for me than if I continue. I’ve known people that quit and got cancer only a few years later.”

In San Diego, Ray pays $6.70 for a pack of cigarettes (he returned to the jury room before I could find out which brand), though he said he can get the same pack for $2.70 in Tijuana. “That means that the $4 extra we pay here amounts to a tax on smokers. Smok-
IT’S FLU SEASON AGAIN

If you are experiencing:
• Fever
• Cough
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• Sore Throat
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You may have “THE FLU”

eStudySite is conducting a research study to study the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication in treating uncomplicated influenza, better known as “THE FLU.”

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65 years old, have a fever, and are experiencing flu symptoms, you may qualify. You MUST be seen within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.

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Hepatitis C Research Study

eStudySite is conducting a research study on an investigational medication in patients with Hepatitis C. If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C please contact eStudySite to see if our research study is right for you.

Qualifying patients may receive:
• study-related medical examinations
• study-related medication
• lab tests, and
• compensation of $1,200 for time and travel

For more information, 1-877-500-eStudy
Contact eStudySite toll free at: (1-877-500-3788)
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ARE YOU TOO SHY?

☑ Do you get VERY NERVOUS around people?
☑ Do you FEAR being the center of attention?
☑ Do you AVOID going to social events and meeting new people?

If you answered YES to any of the above, you may be eligible to participate in an experimental research study comparing several study drug options to treat social anxiety disorder. Medical assessment and clinical care provided.

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For more information, call Profil Toll Free today +1 (866) 245-8171.
Have you been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and are currently Feeling Depressed?

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

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

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

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Depression Medication Not Working?

Have you been taking your antidepressant medication but still experience low mood? Are you feeling hopeless and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty? If so, and you are between the ages of 18 and 65, you may qualify to take part in a research study that could last up to 19 weeks of an investigational medication for Depression.

Qualified participants may receive:
• Compensation for time and travel
• No-cost study medication or inactive placebo and study-related medical care
• Study-related evaluations by board-certified physicians

Call 858-ARTEMIS (278-3647) today to see if you may qualify for this research study.

You breathe deeper as you smoke. I get away from my desk, my eyes relax, my mind relaxes.

“I smoke Maverick’s...”
Do You Experience Episodes of Accidental Bowel Leakage?

Do you avoid visiting friends, going out to eat or traveling due to this condition?

Here's your opportunity to participate in a clinical study for the advancement of non-surgical treatment options for women with accidental bowel leakage.

**General Information**

Dr. Emily Lukacz of UCSD is now enrolling women in a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational medical device for the treatment of accidental bowel leakage. This study is being sponsored by Renew Medical, Inc., the makers of the investigational medical device.

**To Qualify, You Must Be**

- Aged 18 years or older
- Experiencing ongoing regular weekly episodes of accidental bowel leakage
- Interested in participating in a clinical study of an investigational medical device

**Study Participation Involves**

- Study-related evaluations, procedures and product at no charge
- Participation in a 5 month study of an investigational medical device

Enrolled participants will receive retail gift cards. Your participation will be kept confidential.

Please contact the Clinical Nurse Coordinator

**858-925-3997**

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**Suffering from Schizophrenia?**

Is This You or Someone You Know?

Learn About a New Research Study in the Treatment of Schizophrenia

This study is testing the benefits of a long-acting, once-monthly injection vs a daily pill in treating schizophrenia.

You may qualify if you

- Are 18 to 65 years of age
- Have schizophrenia
- Have been released from jail within the past 60 days
- Have an address or phone number where you can be reached
- Have a person (family member, friend, case manager, probation/parole officer) who is familiar with your daily activities. If you cannot be reached, this person must agree to update the study staff about any changes in your life.

Participating

- Take a more active role in your own healthcare
- Receive study medication at no cost
- Receive study-related medical care at no cost
- Possibly help yourself and others by contributing to medical research

If you think you qualify and would like to find out more, please contact

**Synergy Clinical Research**

1-888-619-7272

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**Gout Clinical Research Study**

Do you experience occasional painful flare-ups of Gout?

TriWest Research Associates is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational drug for Gout. Qualified participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational drug at no cost and may be compensated for their time and travel.

Call Monday through Friday

**888-582-9626**

for more information to see if you may qualify.

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This illustration is by the caricaturist, James Gillray (1757-1815). The image conveys a feeling of intense pain brought on by gout!
smoke; the other thing is that if they price it up more, people will stop smoking. The high cost has caused more people to stop smoking than anything else. I just buy cheaper cigarettes."

One guy, I said, told me that "the Man" doesn’t want us to smoke. "Probably not," said Hixson, "but there are a lot of vices and addictions that are much worse. Even when you could smoke in restaurants, when you could smoke everywhere, except where they had oxygen in hospitals — that was about it — I was at least considerate of other people. If I was outside and with a nonsmoker, I made sure that my smoke was not blowing in their face. Nowadays, as long as we stay in our little designated smoking areas, everything’s fine."

How does that feel? "I have no problem with it. A lot depends on where they put the smoking area. Every business and every building is different. Sometimes they put it in the back alley next to the dumpster, and if you have an ashtray, you’re lucky. Here it’s fairly nice, you have places to sit, there are ashtrays. Hixson’s light brown hair was blowing in the breeze. "I’m a San Diego native and love this sunshine."

Do most of your friends smoke? "No, though my husband does. And we smoke in the house. If people come over and they don’t like it, they can go someplace else, make other friends. I’m an adult; it’s my decision. But it is also a matter of respecting the nonsmokers, especially in their homes and their space. So I expect them to respect mine for other reasons."

"The high cost has caused more people to stop smoking. I just buy cheaper cigarettes."

Tom stood beneath the 22-story Procopio building between Fifth and Sixth Avenues on B Street, in an open causeway on the west side. He flicked the burnt tip of his cigarette into a spittoon-looking urn with sand in the top. Nobody in the building told Tom he must stay 20 feet [the state’s minimum requirement] from the door while smoking. But did his company, I

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

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**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.

**THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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

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**IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME?**

We are conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medicine. If you meet the following criteria, you may be interested in participating in this clinical trial.

- **Age 18-79 inclusive**
- **At least 28 stools over a 7-day period**
- **Moderate to severe pain in your abdomen associated with:**
  - Relief by defecation
  - Change in frequency of bowel movements, or
  - Change in appearance of stool

Participants receive study related care, diagnostic tests, and study medication at no cost. Payment for time and travel to the study center may be provided.

For more information about the research study, please contact:

**Medical Associates Research Group**

**(858) 277-5678 • www.MARGinc.com**

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**SCHIZOPHRENIA CLINICAL TRIAL**

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are enrolling men and women for an inpatient clinical trial. Individuals who have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and are currently experiencing an increase in their symptoms may qualify.

Eligible participants will 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 **(858) 836-8350.**
asked, say he must take his smoke breaks here? “No,” he told me, a big smile spreading across his face. “It’s just that this spot is where the ashtray is.”

Tom, who is 50-something, looks trim. He has the graying facial skin that smokers often have. He said he’d quit smoking if it started affecting his health.

Does his boss care if Tom takes too many smoke breaks in a day? “She probably would if she didn’t smoke, too,” said Tom, chuckling again. “She usually goes across the intersection, over there.” He points toward the Bank of America building, which is kitty-corner from where we stand. “There’s no big deal about having to come outside to smoke,” said Tom. At the mention that some smokers feel banished by the requirement, he scoffs. “Oh, people will always find something to complain about.”

Does he smoke at home? “Not in the house or in my wife’s car. But I do smoke in a little pick-up truck I drive.”

Michelle Scribner, who is 27 and has smoked for four years, quit smoking when she got pregnant with twins a few years ago. Her resolve lasted for the entire pregnancy, plus an additional four months after she came back to work. Then she started smoking again.

Did the stress at work cause you to light up again?

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

If you or someone you know is:
- Between the ages of 18 and 70
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode
- In overall good health

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

Together, we may be able to put insomnia to bed for people over 65 in the future.

The Insomnia Study is conducting a research study to evaluate an investigational drug designed to work differently than available treatments. If you experience episodes of insomnia or are dissatisfied with your current insomnia treatment, you may be eligible to participate.

There are risks associated with any investigational drug. The study doctor will discuss with you the potential benefits and risks that may be associated with participation in this clinical research study.

Do you suffer from Schizophrenia?

If so, you may want to consider participating in an investigational research study.

You may be eligible for the study if:
- You have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia
- You are currently taking one of the following medications
  - Risperidone
  - Olanzapine
  - Aripiprazole
- You are between the ages of 18 and 64

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

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
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Fungus Clinical Trial

Are you 12 years of age or older?
Is the area between your toes red, scaly, or itchy?
Are you willing to apply a new topical investigational medication to your feet daily for 2 weeks?

No Insurance Required.

Qualified participants receive up to $100 for time and travel.

This study is being conducted at:

University — Clinical Trials —
I don’t think so. It’s just that I needed something to do out here while I’m on break.”

Scribner works in an upstairs law office in the Westin Hotel building, which, on the first floor facing C Street, houses Jessop’s Jewelers. She told me that several months ago she was asked by building employees to move her sidewalk smoking away from the middle of the block. They said her smoke was entering Jessops’ doors and the C Street entrance of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, whose address is on Broadway, on the other side of the building. Scribner’s boss allows her three breaks a day, one for lunch. For the others, she stands near the building’s northwest corner, where she has an ashtray.

“When you’re out on break,” Scribner said, “people spot you from a distance, since you’re standing there smoking, and come up trying to bum cigarettes. Or they’ll hit you up for money.”

Lily, 57, and a very fit librarian, quit smoking four years ago, but retains vivid memories of her habit. “Inside and outside smoking are different experiences,” she said. “I think it was something that got disseminated into the air, either the smell or taste. Or maybe I couldn’t quite inhale as much smoke. I’m not sure what was going on, but it wasn’t as fun [to be outside]. I guess you could put it that way.”

The cause of the diminished sensations, Lily speculated, was movement in the air. “It didn’t have to be a heavy breeze or wind,” she said. “If there was anything in the air, and there’s always something in the air that makes things waft, then you’re not going to get the same experience. Smoking, to me, was definitely a stronger experience indoors.”

When the smoking law first sent people outdoors, “it was more annoying,” said Lily, who started smoking at 16 in her home state of Ohio, “because all of a sudden you’re relegated to doing something you haven’t had to do. On the other hand, we were becoming more educated about the

Childhood Eczema (3 months to 5 years of age)

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ITCHY DRY RED SKIN?

If so, he or she might have Eczema or Atopic Dermatitis, a skin condition usually hereditary and often associated with allergies or asthma. Eczema is a chronic condition that affects the skin resulting in dry, flaky skin that appears over red, inflamed areas. Intense itching and burning may also occur. Eczema affects all ages and races and can be triggered by just about anything coming in contact with the skin.

• If your child is between the ages of 3 months to less than 18 years of age, they may be eligible to participate in an upcoming clinical research study using a new topical investigational drug.
• Eczema must cover at least 25% of the skin.
• Office visits, exams, and other study-related procedures are provided at no cost, and no insurance is required.
• Qualified participants will receive up to $325 for time and travel.
• If you are interested to learn more about this research study, please call:

858-278-8470 or www.univct.com

Are you depressed?

Do you suffer from these symptoms?
• Difficulty concentrating/remembering
• Difficulty sleeping/eating
• Fatigue/loss of interest
• Persistent sadness/hopelessness

The UCSD Psychopharmacology Research Initiatives, Center of Excellence, is conducting an investigational drug research study on major depression. If you are experiencing an episode of depression, are between 18-70 years old, and in generally good health, you may be eligible to participate. Participants will be compensated for time and travel.

Call us today:
1-866-UC PRICE • (1-866-827-7423)

Schizophrenia

A mystery to most and, for some, a major challenge in their lives.

California Clinical Trials is conducting a medical research study on a medication for schizophrenia. If you, or someone you know, have been diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizo-affective disorder and are 18-65 years old, there is:

• Study-related medical services at no cost to you • Compensation up to $4,080, if you qualify & complete the study

Call us today:
1-888-CC-TRIAL (228-7425)
www.cctstudy.com

California CLINICAL TRIALS
This study may not provide any medical benefit for participants
dangers of smoking and the effect on other people, so the more educated I got, the more I understood. It went in stages, back and forth. At some point, I had become better educated about whatever was coming my way. Like, ‘Oh, we’re not going to do this on campus,’ or ‘We’re not going to do this within [20] feet of the building.’ Those things made more sense than at another time when I didn’t understand the repercussions of smoking as well. At some point, I was even glad that you were relegated to less because that caused me to smoke less. I also knew by that time that I should be stopping. So in a lot of ways, I was thankful for being in California. Whenever I went back to Ohio, it was much more lax, and so I ended up being able to smoke a lot more. Same thing when I went overseas, like I did once to France.”

Lily told me she smoked Marlboro Lights in a hard pack. Do you remember what you paid?

“No, but obviously it was growing all the time,” she said. “It sounds strange, but I always voted for the taxes on smoking, because, again, that was more incentive for me to stop.”

The clincher for Lily was a cluster of terrifying heart palpitations she began to experience in 2007. She spent several days in the hospital while doctors administered tests and monitored her vital signs.

“There’s nothing like an immediate health issue to get rid of a bad habit. And it has to be immediate. You can’t just say, ‘Well, I might get cancer sometime in the future.’ No doctor told me to stop, but suddenly, smoking was like saying I’m inviting a tachycardia, which could go into a fibrillation and kill me instantly. And why would I do that? I would be practically embracing it with open arms.”

After getting out of the hospital, Lily stopped smoking and drinking caffeine. “The doctors did not tell me to stop caffeine, either. But it’s a stimulant, too. It was actually [my boyfriend], who is well versed in chemicals and what they do to you, who said, ‘You’re going to want to stop smoking and drinking coffee.’”

### Taking on major depression one step at a time

Are you struggling with depression?

Have you taken an antidepressant but still feel low, lack interest in life, sleep badly, and feel tired every day?

If the answer to these questions is yes, and you are a healthy adult (18–65 years of age), you may be eligible to join a major clinical research study looking at a new study drug for depression.

For more information, please contact:

PCSD Feighner Research
(619) 692-1003

### Confidential Professional Psychiatric Care

Clinical Innovations is currently enrolling volunteers in clinical research studies for:

- **DEPRESSION**
- **SCHIZOPHRENIA** (inpatient and outpatient)
- **BIPOLAR DISORDER**
- **ADHD for Children**

Qualified participants will receive study related medical care, medication, and could be eligible for compensation for time and travel.

### CiTRIALS™ CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

Transportation is AVAILABLE
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### Feeling better, but not where you want to be?

The Depression Outreach Study is evaluating an investigational drug that’s intended to be taken with your current antidepressant (SSRI), to see if it helps to lessen any ongoing symptoms of depression. All eligible study participants will receive investigational study drugs, coverage for their current prescription antidepressant, and study-related care at no cost. If you’re at least 18 years old, have been diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and are taking a prescription antidepressant, you may be eligible to participate.

The Renaissance Study

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT US:
866-4STUDY1
866-478-8391
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME (IBS)

...bloated...uncomfortable
...abdominal pain
...then...DIARRHEA

A research study is underway for men and women 18 years of age or older suffering from diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. An oral investigational medication will be used in this research study for those who have been previously diagnosed or in those who suffer with abdominal pain, bloating, and episodes of diarrhea or watery stools daily.

Participants may receive at no cost study-related:

• Colonoscopy (if not performed in the past 2 years and over the age of 50) or sigmoidoscopy (if less than 50 years of age)
• Examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
• Lab studies, EKG, and study medication
• Compensation for your time and travel

Interested call:

Medical Center for Clinical Research
(619) 521-2841
www.mccresearch.com
he offered me a Vicodin [in exchange] for one. He could get medication but not cigarettes,” she says, laughing. “That was a good one.”

She tried to explain to me how smoking feels. “You have to smoke to know, but it’s kind of like a head rush, a lift. It’s nothing like alcohol. Some people get a high off of eating. I don’t.”

Do people complain about your smoking? “If I go over and stand too close to the sidewalk, people will complain about the smoke as they walk by, not really saying things, but coughing or things like that. But then I move. I’m not a rude smoker. I’m not going to smoke in your house. I don’t smoke in my house.”

Do you know rude smokers? “Oh, definitely. They’ll tell you to move. I do the opposite. I get out of there. It’s just common courtesy. I’m not going to smoke in somebody’s car that doesn’t smoke, or somebody’s house that doesn’t smoke, or in a restaurant. My mother used to smoke in restaurants during the 1970s. Bob’s Big Boy. I remember especially. I remember being able to smoke in restaurants, though I didn’t do it. People in other states still smoke in grocery stores and other such places. A number of people I know in those places roll their own. They buy the paper and the tobacco by the bag and the little device that rolls it. It’s a lot cheaper than buying cartons.”

Do you ever feel ashamed of smoking? “Some people are ashamed of smoking, yes, maybe embarrassed. I’m not like that, but I’m not going to smoke around people who don’t smoke, though if I go outside to have a cigarette and they come out to talk to me, then it’s fine. I don’t infringe on you, so don’t infringe on me.”

“Some people are being taken away to some extent. My mother used to tell me that when I was growing up. She’d say, ‘Next thing you know you won’t be able to walk down the street and smoke,’ and now you can’t here in certain areas, for instance Del Mar and El Cajon. You’ll get a ticket.”

RESEARCH STUDIES

Have You Been Treating Your Diagnosed ED With a Maximum Dose of Prescription ED Medication

For at Least One Month?
You May Qualify for a new ED Research Study

YOU MUST:
- Be a male with a history of Erectile Dysfunction
- Of at least 3 months duration
- And have taken Prescription ED Medication for at least one month

If you qualify, all study related care is provided at no cost, including study exams, study medication and up to $480.00 in compensation for time and travel. No Health Insurance Required.

Call 619-299-6500
http://www.sdur.com

DO YOU SUFFER FROM BIPOLAR DEPRESSION?

If so, you may qualify to participate in an investigational medication research study.

Volunteers may be eligible to participate in the study if they are:

- Male or female ages 18-65
- Diagnosed with Bipolar I Depression
- Currently take a mood stabilizer and are still experiencing symptoms of depression

Eligible participants will receive study related procedures and investigational medication at no charge, and may also be compensated for time and travel.

To learn more about this research study and to see if you are qualified, please contact:
North County Clinical Research
(760) 639-4378

Excessive worries?
Do you avoid seeking help due to cost or inconvenience?
CONFIDENTIAL help is available.
You may be eligible to receive

free, computerized treatment at home
as part of a clinical trial of a computer-guided interactive treatment program by the San Diego State University Psychology Department.

No medications. No need to attend weekly therapy sessions.

http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu/gadhome.php
Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety
Call: (619) 229-3740
or e-mail: sdsucuta@hotmail.com

We want to see them.
If your toenails are yellow, thick, or brittle, you may have nail fungus. Not only is toenail fungus unsightly and embarrassing, but it can spread to your other toes, from foot to hand, or even to family members.

Right now, doctors at University Clinical Trials in San Diego are taking part in a medical research study of an investigational medication for nail fungus that may help. This medication is clear and applied directly to the nail. If you join, you will receive the nail medication and all study-related care at no cost. You will also be compensated for your time.

Space is limited. Please call 1-888-978-8398 or visit www.ToenailStudy.com to learn more.

Take the Next Step
To learn more, and for a free, confidential pre-screening, call 1-888-978-8398 or visit www.ToenailStudy.com
Unwanted Body Fat?

Remove it with precision with VASER Ultrasonic LipoSelection.
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Make the necessary lifestyle changes to permanently lose Post-Pregnancy weight! Ageless & Beautiful Mind and Body Center's system is based on extensive research.
Do something to positively change your health!
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- Medications
- Buddy System

That’s what a transit guy told me.

“As far as restaur-

ants and nightclubs go, I have no problem going

outside, but if you can’t
go outside, where are you
going to smoke? So you
don’t even go out if you
can’t smoke outside on
the street.

“In certain areas of
San Diego, they design-
ate places where you
can smoke and eat and
drink at the same time.
I live in Chula Vista,
where you can’t smoke
even outside at bars and
restaurants. You can
stand around the front
doors of restaurants,
but you can’t sit down,
like on a little patio, to
have a cigarette and, let’s
say, a drink.

“If you’re going to
limit where you can
smoke, then you should
set up designated areas
every few blocks and not
say you can’t smoke in the
whole city, like El Cajon
and Del Mar do. The resi-
dents vote on it. Living in
Chula, I don’t get to vote
for the mayor here in San
Diego, but he affects me
and my life and every-
thing around me, since I
work here in town.”

* * *

Paul, who was wearing
a blue pinstriped shirt
stood in front of the
Merrill Lynch build-
ing on Seventh Avenue

smoking area, I said, not-
ing a couple of magnolia
trees outside the front
door, and red flowers
with yellow stars in their
center. “Yes, and that’s
unusual,” said Paul, who
has worked in other big
office buildings.

The San Diego native
started smoking in high
school by “going along
with the crowd.” Today,
he tries not to let his boss

Once in a while, I still get a
little annoyed about having
to come outside to smoke.”

Skin Treatments

Photo Facial $79 (1 hour, 15 minutes)
- Microdermabrasion with light therapy treatment, non-surgical, no recovery time. Increases
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- European facial
- 1-hr. therapeutic massage
- Spa pedicure and manicure
- Choice of any body spa treatment

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- 30-min. head, neck and back massage
- Spa pedicure

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see him smoke, though the boss does know it happens.

To my question about negative feelings he might have about smoking, Paul replied: “It used to be that I could smoke in my office. My bosses smoked; everybody smoked.” He remembered the change coming in the late 1980s or early 1990s, when, on their own, managers probably began trying to free their buildings of smoke.

“Once in a while, I still get a little annoyed about having to come outside to smoke. I’m coming down from about midway up the building, four or five floors. It takes away from my work time, obviously. I try to time my breaks so they don’t affect things I’m working on.”

Are you only allowed to have a certain number of breaks per day?

“No, I’m on salary. I’ve seen that happen when people are hourly.”

How often do you come down to smoke?

“About eight times a day, once an hour. But I get a lot of business done down here.”

I imagine him outside making investment sales, but no. “It’s more just talking to people, a social thing,” said Paul, who is friendly and has a big smile. “Down here, outside the office setting, some of the guys talk about projects we’re working on together. At other jobs in the past, where the bosses smoked, we’d all go outside, and I could get approvals to move forward or draw out ideas, things like that, with my bosses. Not so much now, since a lot of them don’t smoke anymore.

“I’ve also spoken to a lot of the homeless that go walking by here. It’s been nice getting to know them, talking to them. “I am trying to quit, which I’ve done a couple of times over the years. The longest one was two years. Several other times, I reached four or five months. My family complains.”

I asked Eric Bird, no longer a smoker, if in his business the nonsmokers complain about their colleagues using smoke breaks to get out of work. Bird is a set-up man for conventions, movies, and live entertainment venues. He used to smoke behind hotel kitchens while working.

“Actually,” he said, “when people stand around staring into space, or at a garden or sunset, they’re thought to be goofing off. If they’re standing around smoking, that’s considered normal.”

— Joe Deegan

---

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**Spring Specials**

- **Botox** $149 (for 1 area) + **$249 Juvéderm** (1 syringe) = $398 (Reg. $498)

Both Treatments must be performed on the same day to receive $100 instant rebate

**Offers expire 03/26/11.**

---

**Laser Hair Removal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lip or chin</td>
<td>$39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both underarms</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian</td>
<td>$99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Bikini lines</td>
<td>$59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Laser Hair Removal Specials for Men:**

- Shoulders      $99 per session
- Full back      $230 per session
- Chest & abs    $230 per session

1 FREE Laser Hair Removal Treatment*  
*W/purchase of 5 Treatments. Same area only. Must be pre-paid in full. Offer expires 04/2/11.

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**Wrinkle Treatments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botox</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st area</td>
<td>$199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd area</td>
<td>$179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd area</td>
<td>$159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysport**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Restylane**

- $100 mail-in rebate, with minimum purchase of 2 syringes of $225 per syringe due at time of treatment

**Juvéderm Ultra XC**

- $199 per area
- $275 after rebate
- $299 per syringe

---

**Skin Rejuvenation Treatments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melanage</td>
<td>$349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Melasma and Pigmentation</td>
<td>$595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Toning &amp; Firming Package</td>
<td>$259*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Microdermabrasion and Laser Collagen Rejuvenation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPL Photofacial</td>
<td>$145*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For sun damage, freckles and redness.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*With purchase of 5 treatments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latisse</td>
<td>$119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For longer, thicker lashes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy one get one Free. After manufacturer mail-in rebate. Offer expires 04/2/11.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Starting your own business is hard work. There’s the mission statement, the business plan, tax and insurance issues… You need to consider whether you want to be a sole proprietor or in a partnership, possibly even a corporation. What about employees? Is one too few but two too many? How should you attempt to finance it? Are you able to bootstrap it, or will your family be able to pitch in?

How do I know how hard it is? Am I a business owner? No. But I’m currently on book number five regarding the topic. Perhaps *Birthing the Elephant: The Woman’s Go-For-It Guide to Overcoming the Big Challenges of Launching a Business* will whisper the secret words to me that will help me get over my paralyzing fear, and I’ll finally be able to go for it.

Since we got married in September, my husband Sean and I have been vacillating over what to call our burgeoning, new joint-savings account. Do we name it our “dream-house fund” and hire a realtor or call it a “start our own business fund” and get busy being our own boss? When we moved into our rental home on Madison Avenue last year, we fell in love with the area immediately. We would be ecstatic to own a home anywhere in the vicinity, and we see how much potential our little neighborhood has to start a business.

Sure, El Cajon Boulevard still has some unsavory types trolling around. Derelicts, druggies, and prostitutes still dot the street here and there, but so do shiny new businesses. When we head down the crest of the hill coming from Washington Avenue and pass under “The Boulevard” sign on our way home, we are greeted by Luigi’s Pizza and Eclipse Chocolate. Apertivo has moved into Dao San’s old space, and they’ve

---

**Author:** bowlajello  
**Neighborhood:** North Park

Editor’s note: This is the winner of February’s $500 first-place prize for our monthly neighborhood-essay contest.

Deadline for the next contest is March 31, midnight.

To post your entry, go to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.
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San Diego Reader, March 17, 2011
added an adorable little patio where you can sip wine in the sunshine. There are enormous properties with “Your Name Here” signs flapping in the breeze, and there are little slivers of spaces up for rent, some tiny enough to easily be a one- or two-man operation. And so we dream.

On Sunday, the sun was back after a spattering of rain, so I suggested we head into Hillcrest to go to the farmers’ market. Sean pleaded with me to try Pancho Villa Farmer’s Market instead. He’s been trying to get me to go for months, but I’ve been resistant. I can’t forget the last time I tried a new market at someone’s urging. I had gone to Vien Dong in Linda Vista, and the smell of fish guts smacked me in the face.

“Pancho Villa’s doesn’t stink” he assured me. “Besides, if I recall, the smell at Vien Dong didn’t stop you from getting ass-end up in a tank chasing a Dungeness crab around to bring home to slaughter.” True. I didn’t really care, anyway. This morning I was jumping at the chance for one of our neighborhood walks, where every business on our route will be given the once-over, and we could assess the viability of our own little shop being nestled in with the group.

As we head toward Señor Mango’s on 30th to get our favorite Vam- piro juice, we take a moment to peer in the window of the dry-cleaner on the corner. “How does she even function in that mess”? The place looks like it hasn’t been cleaned or organized since the 70s. Clutter and disarray line the windowpane and counter. She must be a dry-cleaning savant.

I had gone to Vien Dong in Linda Vista, and the smell of fish guts smacked me in the face.

We get in line at Señor Mango’s and gladly wait our turn in the bustling little shop. We spend the time marveling at the simplicity of their business and how little space is actually needed to run it. Sean suggests that we look for a house that could be converted into a shop in front, and we could live in the back. “Yuck!” I didn’t like the sound of that any more than I liked the idea of a bed-and-breakfast. I

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San Diego Reader March 17, 2011 45
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Antonette, RN
Laser Hair Removal

No “Going out of business” sign, no warning. We speculate about what could have happened.

I admire their sign over the door. “Hortus: Cacti, Succulents, Art, Eccentrics.” We had been in a few weeks earlier to say “Hi” and welcome them to the neighborhood. We discovered that there are three owners: an artist, a horticulturist, and a collector — three people to share the expenses and the workload.”

A few doors down, in a little space that I had long admired but had no viable business plan for, we saw a handwritten sign that read, “Mucho Mountain Bikes, Coming Soon!” How will they have a bike shop in such a small space? I try squinting to see past the sign, but I can’t make out what the storefront will look like. I’m so excited to see what they’ll do.

As we continue on our way, I spot the Homeez Hut. It van that has recently been parked in random spots along the block. Ahah! That’s what we need to do. Not a brick-and-mortar store, but a service. All we need is a truck and — voila! — my husband stood back and inspected my diminutive frame. He picked up my arm, assessed my bicep, and declared, “Not with that little chicken wing.”

“Okay, okay! Pretty Lady Hair Salon is gone.” I could have sworn that they were there just a week ago. It’s not as if I ever considered having my hair done there, but it’s disconcerting to see a business just vanish. No “Going out of business” sign, no warning, no fanfare. Just gone. We speculate about what could have happened.

As we pass Nami, I have to laugh. I remember when I drove by for the first time, and I was thrilled to know that we lived so close to a sushi bar. Then I took a closer look while I was on foot, and under the name was a breakdown of their acronym: National Alliance on Mental Illness. I was glad I had double-checked. I would have been mortified if I walked in and requested a warm sake.

We speculate about what could have happened.

“Heading up 30th into the warm sunshine, we pass Hortus and stop for a look in the window. I admire their sign over the door. “Hortus: Cacti, Succulents, Art, Eccentrics.” We had been in a few weeks earlier to say “Hi” and welcome them to the neighborhood. We discovered that there are three owners: an artist, a horticulturist, and a collector — three people to share the expenses and the workload.”

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We speculate about what could have happened.

“Wow, check that out,” I say as we reach the Children’s Creative & Performing Arts Academy, which, according to their banner, accepts students from preschool to high-school age. “Here’s what I don’t understand: how can they have a school of any sort right across the street from a strip joint?”

Botanico Chango is closed on Sunday, so their sandwich-board sign is not on the sidewalk advertising despojos, limpiezas, espirituales. The window, however, still announces all the fun stuff awaiting your arrival: “Religious Articles, Santeria, Amulets, Oils, and Spiritual Advice.”

We make our way into Pancho Villa’s Market just as two cop cars veer in, and three police officers hop out and start swarming the car they’d pulled over. I’d like to see what’s up, but my
husband reminds me that I’m probably hexed, so I’d better not tempt fate by exposing myself to the possibility of being shot.

We hustle inside Pancho’s. It smelled, but it smelled wonderful! The scent of freshly baked tortillas filled the entire store. We made our way through rows of fresh produce so cheaply priced that I thought it must be a typo. There were at least a dozen varieties of peppers, and the bakery in the center boasted tortes and tarts that were a fraction of what you’d pay at Whole Foods. The meat counter stretched almost the entire length of the store, and you had to appreciate the fact that no part of any animal would be going to waste. We stocked up on produce, salsa, and took home a warm stack of corn tortillas that should last us a month — all for around 13 dollars. I left ashamed that I had waited so long to support one of my local businesses.

We head home down El Cajon Boulevard and stopped to linger at the window of ABC Piano, whose building has recently been put up for sale. We don’t have the heart to go in. Last time we stopped by, before it was for sale, we met the old man who owned it. He must have been 90 but was still so energetic, helpful, and charming. You could tell how much he loved his store and how he was so passionate about music.

As we were waiting for the light to turn so that we could head up Utah Street toward home, I noticed a Grand Opening sign on the newest “spa” — or, as we like to refer to them, “Rub and Tugs.” Glowing red lights announce these “spas” at all hours of the night. Mimi, Ana, and Sumiko were just a few blocks away, but I guess there was a need for one more because the glaring red sign on the dark storefront with shaded windows announced that Kimmy Spa was now open for business. I also noticed that she had added her business name to the community billboard in the parking lot. Nestled in between “Dr. George K. Reese, Chiropractor,” and “Accidentes de Trabajo” was Kimmy’s sign: “Massage Therapist.”

“Holy crap! Can you believe that glaring error”? It’s silly that I’ve been so terrified about not being good enough to start my own business. It turns out perfection is not such a big deal. Why am I so scared? Kimmy isn’t perfect, and she’s still in business. If she can get a business started, so can we. ■
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Underarms $60 / Lower Legs $145
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San Diego gained the reputation as the city least tolerant of free speech — and that legacy remains. Mainstream media and the establishment still disparage anyone challenging the conventional wisdom.

Income inequality can foment social defiance, but San Diego is more balanced than one might suspect. The Census Bureau has a Gini Index, which measures income inequality on a scale of 0 to 100. Metro areas with scores closer to zero have more equality; those closer to 100 have more inequality. In 2009, San Diego was about in the middle of major metro areas. The most unequal metro area, 54th on the list, was New York City, home of Wall Street. The most unequal — not bad at all, and right at the U.S. average. (Traditionally, the most unequal — too small to be included in the largest 54 metro areas — has been Southern Connecticut, including superupscale Greenwich, Darien, and New Canaan. That’s where so many of those hedge funds are based, in the aptly named Gold Coast.)

It’s true that San Diego County median rents — at $1224 monthly — are the fourth highest in the nation, according to the Census, and even though housing values have plunged 36.6 percent from their late 2005 high, the median housing price is $387,600, according to the National Association of Realtors. But San Francisco tops that at $588,900, and San Jose is higher still at $628,700. What do you want to do: go to Youngstown, Ohio, where the median price is $60,400? (Mobsters will smash down any labor protests in Youngstown.)

San Diego’s cost-of-living index, as compiled by the Council for Community and Economic Research, is 32.5 percent higher than the nation’s — about the same as Boston’s and Philadelphia’s. But San Diego housing costs are 93.3 percent higher than the national norm; utilities costs are slightly lower than in other cities, and costs of groceries, transportation, and health care are only 7 to 15 percent higher than in other metro areas.

Housing affordability is still a problem, despite the crash. Only 62 percent of county households can afford to purchase an entry-level home, according to the California Association of Realtors. That compares with 69 percent in California and 80 percent in the United States. It has always been said that San Diegans are hit with a sunshine tax. They live on psychic income. That’s because, historically, incomes have been only a bit above average while the cost of living has been well above the national norm. But San Diegans’ incomes have been creeping up. Last year, per capita personal income in the county was $45,630, or 27th highest among 366 metro areas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Southern Connecticut was far ahead at $73,720, and San Francisco was second at $59,696. But the Bay Area’s cost of living is 62 percent above the nation’s.

You could live in Yuma ($25,496) or El Centro ($28,154) and pay a different kind of sunshine tax — too much sunshine and too little income.

Culturally and economically, San Diego is definitely not likely to join lustily in the union protest movement, even if the focus becomes income inequality. The county doesn’t breed dissent, and the overlords don’t tolerate it. ■

On the bayfront

Fast-forward to February 6, 2011, when Malcolm jumped into an email conversation about the power plant that was taking place between members and friends of a Chula Vista community group called Crossroads II. Malcolm’s email laid out his driving concern that Dynegy was about to be taken over by a hedge fund, which might not share the city of Chula Vista’s sense of urgency to tear down the power plant or remediate the site.

Malcolm wrote: “…I told Mayor Cox and Councilwoman Bensoussan we need to make a deal with Dynegy [Dynegy] before Carl Icahn/ Hedge Fund get[s] control of the plant. You read a little about the agreement to pay the City of CV $72,000,000.00 upfront to take their clean up responsibilities. This was an OPTION for 120 days for free!... Unfortunately, Steve Padilla gave a copy of the agreement I made with Dynegy to the Port. Well guess what…. The Port wanted the money [the rent paid by Dynegy] and worked the press to kill the deal the City had with Dynegy…. I almost called Peter [a Crossroads’ member] and briefed him on what we were doing because I didn’t trust Padilla….”

Steve Padilla was the city of Chula Vista’s representative on the port commission on October 18, when he gave the agreement to the port. Padilla was abruptly replaced in early January. On February 18, Icahn’s attempted buyout failed, and on March 8, Dynegy announced that it may be forced into bankruptcy.

The day following his email, on February 7, I interviewed Malcolm. Malcolm said he stood by everything he had written. He elaborated on who made up the team that had been negotiating with Dynegy. He said the team consisted of himself, Chula Vista mayor Cheryl Cox, Councilmember Pam Bensoussan, Laura Hunter from the Environmental Health Coalition, and former California senator Steve Peace. Peace is best known as the author of energy deregulation in California, which set the stage for San Diego Gas and Electric’s sale of the South Bay Power Plant to the port.

Malcolm detailed the way the negotiations with Dynegy had unfolded. He said that he became involved when a Dynegy consultant expressed frustration about the failure of the port to negotiate the closure of the power plant with the state agency, the Independent System Operator. While he talked, Malcolm pulled up a timeline on his computer and said the first team negotiations took place on August 28, 2010. He was in Texas at the time and had to participate via telephone.

The mayor gives a different account of how and when Malcolm became involved in the negotiations. On February 6, following Malcolm’s jump into the email conversation with the Crossroads group, Mayor Cox also unexpectedly joined the online conversation: “When the California Independent System Operator… informed me in October that they removed Reliability Must Run status from the South Bay Power Plant, their action triggered a response from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water...
Quality Control Board… That weekend, I called David Malcolm, the author of the agreement that in 1998/99 that called for the Plant’s demolition, removal, and remediation by February 2010, in order to learn more about the terms of the agreement from its author.”

The mayor repeated her account of the timeline at a March 1 council meeting. Councilmember Patricia Aguilar asked the council, “How did David Malcolm become involved in the negotiations and to what extent is he involved?” Cox reiterated that she had called him in October. She added that she saw his role not as a negotiator but rather as being available should anybody want to contact him for information. City manager Jim Sandoval said he had never received any direction one way or another about whether Malcolm was authorized to negotiate for the city.

An account provided by former commissioner Padilla conforms with Malcolm’s description of his role in driving the negotiations. The city of Chula Vista hired an outside attorney — John Lormon of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP — to help with bayfront talks. Not all councilmembers were informed of this step. Lormon first drew up a terms-of-agreement sheet that included the decommissioning of the plant, rent arrangements between the port and Dynegy, and site remediation. This was the agreement that Padilla submitted to the port on October 18. (The agreement became moot when the state agency decided to decommission the plant.)

Then, according to Padilla, David Malcolm and Councilmember Bensoussan called a meeting at the South Bay Fish and Grill on October 27. At that meeting, Malcolm and Bensoussan presented Padilla with a new document, a draft letter of intent, which had been prepared by Lormon. The letter effectively said that Dynegy was going to assign the decommissioning obligations and remediation to the city of Chula Vista and that the port acknowledged and agreed to the assignment.

Padilla said he was stunned. He said, “To my knowledge, even at this time, only two councilmembers knew of this agreement.” He asked Malcolm and Bensoussan, “You want the city of Chula Vista to assume the risks and obligations of cleaning up the power plant site?” Padilla said they wanted him to present the draft letter of intent at the next port meeting.

An October email from Malcolm to Padilla also shows Malcolm’s hand in shaping the agreements. Among the email recipients was Malcolm’s cousin Dan, who had been chosen to replace the retiring port commissioner from Imperial Beach in January 2011. The email contains attachments, and Malcolm’s instruction reads: “[Steve] Peace can open and so can Dan Malcolm… There are continued on page 52

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only a few changes in the redline. Spelling of Dynegy and #7 as added. Except as set forth in the definitive agreements, the rights and obligations of the parties under existing agreements shall remain in full force and effect including, without limitation, the Environmental Remediation Agreement, the Facility Services Agreement and the Easement and Covenant Agreement. Only other changes are spelling and grammar errors.

Another email, written last October, again illustrates Malcolm’s role in the negotiations. In the email, he seems to be attempting to persuade members of his team that the power plant site won’t need much cleanup. “Their [Dynegy’s] desire is to pay an agreed upon fee up front and be released. They will share their 16 bids on the demolition of the plant with us. You must remember, [San Diego Gas and Electric] remains liable for certain ground contamination (if any). I will tell you the number of soils tests we did BEFORE the purchase of the plant were extensive. The Port didn’t want to get in line of title of a possible toxic situation and maybe more important Duke didn’t want to take on a possible expensive mitigation project. Both the Port’s and Duke’s environment people ‘poked’ holes through the property and found nothing. If we assemble the right team to review the bids, review the soils reports this could be a BIG gain for the So Bay and specifically CV.”

The email is at odds with his statements in the February 7 interview, at which time he said, “San Diego Gas and Electric has to clean up everything from the 50’s all the way up through 1999, which was the vast majority of time when they had bad things like PCBs and transformers, all those things that leaked. Those things haven’t existed since Dynegy became involved.” He proceeded to elaborate how excess cleanup money might be spent. “Chula Vista could decide to use some of the leftover money to restore some wetlands down there in the South Bay Wildlife Refuge and use some money to help the Nature Interpretive Center.”

In early February, I interviewed former commissioner Padilla. He commented on the difficult position he had been put in trying to serve the Chula Vista City Council and the port. Padilla said that negotiations between the city and Dynegy ultimately needed port approval. “We [the port]…said we’ll get you any information you need, but you need to know that at the end of the day, Chula Vista will have to provide evidence of how they can financially do this [clean up the site] and how they’re going to perform. And that’s standard to any tenant — to any lessee — in the port, and Dynegy is no different.”

The way the negotiations were set up, Padilla said, was “taking a chance on starting World War III. Frankly, it seemed like some people wanted to create this conflict between the city and the port when there didn’t need to be one. And it really centered around these same people, and I think, frankly, some of this was by design. They were looking for a fight with the port instead of working with the port to advance the bayfront.”

When asked point-blank if Chula Vista should secede from the port, Malcolm said, “I’ve always thought that Chula Vista ought to control its own future. The port was formed in 1963 because the San Diego Harbor District was bankrupt, and National City had the most money in their harbor district, followed by Chula Vista. So the port district was put together to save San Diego Harbor District. Now, if you ask each of the city councils if they ought to be controlling and planning their own waterfront, I think they would tell you yes. The only one who would be opposed to that would be Imperial Beach because they’re heavily subsidized by the port.”

Padilla responded to the idea of breaking up the port by saying, “If these people think that without a financial partner like the port that the Chula Vista bayfront can go forward, if they think the city of Chula Vista can manage the wetlands and tidelands, deal with all the state regulatory agencies, that the port tidelands and bay tidelands are all going to be managed piecemeal, if these people think that’s good policy for the environment, that it’s going to be welcomed with open arms by the environmental community statewide, I think they’re smoking pot.”

Ron Powell, media contact for the Port of San Diego, said, “I’ve always thought that Chula Vista was a bastion for border-lit-transmission reception computer equipment and satellite equipment and that would be Imperial Beach because they’re heavily subsidized by the port.”

Under the Big Top
Calliente Border Betting

Resumes

Tijuana — A little less than a month ago, Calliente’s gambling palladium located near the Yellow Cab taxi stand was taken down to make way for a permanent structure.

It’s back, replaced with a modestly sized circus tent, which will no doubt be a sweat lodge during the spring and summer months. The temporary tent is equipped with all the computer equipment and satellite-transmission reception video screens that made the place a bastion for border-crossing bettors in the past.

The tent has been erected just opposite the site of its predecessor, so habitués of the former need only meander along
the same old path while veering southward as they approach their familiar stomping grounds.

By T.B. Beaudeau
Friday, March 11

Bluefoot on Hot Seat
Fight Over Bar Spills Into the Streets
North Park — Several patrons wearing stickers that read “I Support Bluefoot” crammed into a meeting room in City Hall on March 10. They were there to ask San Diego’s planning commission to uphold the neighborhood-use permit granted last December to the Bluefoot Lounge.

Days after the City issued the permit, North Park resident Jaime Rosales filed an appeal.

Rosales claimed that the bar should not have a permit to serve distilled spirits because of zoning requirements, that Bluefoot negatively affects the health, safety, and welfare of the neighborhood, and that the owners failed to mitigate any negative impacts to the local residents.

The issues are not new and have been fermenting since the bar opened in 2006.

During public testimony, North Park resident Mark Nail, who lives near the corner of Upas and 30th Street, played commissioners a video of a fight between bar staff and unruly patrons that had poured out into the neighborhood one night.

“If you ask [Bluefoot’s owners], there is no problem,” Nail told commissioners. “In the past two years, Bluefoot’s owners have made no effort to meet and improve this situation. Late at night, drunk patrons loiter in our neighborhood, smoke pot in our driveways, and urinate and defecate on our lawns.”

Bluefoot’s owners, Cook and Nguyen, say efforts to reduce the impacts to the neighborhood have gone unnoticed. They gave examples such as setting up late-night noise patrols and a hotline for neighbors to call with noise complaints.

“We’ve been here five years and they’ve done everything to try and shut us down,” said Nguyen. “If our hours are reduced, it would be detrimental...we would have to shut down. We couldn’t compete with the other bars.”

In the end, the planning commission voted to amend the permit, allowing the bar to keep its current hours while reducing their permit to two years.

Commission-continued on page 54
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**STRINGERS**

continued from page 53

Powerless
Propane Starts House Fire
El Cajon — At approximately 11:10 p.m. on March 7, a fire tore through and destroyed a residence in the 100 block of North Westwind Drive.

The El Cajon Fire Department responded with two full crews, which knocked down the flames before they spread to adjacent homes.

The residence was filled with a large amount of property and debris. According to the home’s owner, power had been shut off to the home and the residents had been using liquid propane for heat and lighting purposes. While moving the propane, one of the residents accidentally started the fire.

The Red Cross assisted in finding temporary housing for three people and two pets. Structural damages were estimated at $200,000; contents, $90,000. It was also reported that the residence was in foreclosure.

By D. Lahr
Tuesday, March 8

Corny Issue
Government Attempts to Stave Off Corn Shortage
Baja — The rising price of corn is raising a political uproar in Baja as tortilla prices skyrocket. A projected diminution in the corn harvest due to frost blight in Baja and other corn-growing regions has led to market manipulations from both free-marketeers and the Mexican government.

A trainload of 25 toneladas of corn recently arrived in Baja from the state of Querétaro, the government’s first shipment of a promised 4000 tons to offset the cost of tortillas to the average Mexican household.

The price of corn has more than doubled since January, rising from the equivalent of about $350 a ton to $680 a ton (as of March 7). According to Baja California agriculture secretary Antonio Rodríguez Hernández, the rise in price is due to speculators in the commodities markets anticipating an impending shortage, since the frost-bitten cornfields are not due to be harvested until June.

Tortilla manufacturers have been buying corn at the higher prices and are passing along the increase to their customers, arousing a political uproar from consumers that has led to governmental efforts to beat down the markets by flooding them, at least temporarily, with surplus corn.

Source: *Frontera*
By T.B. Beaudieu
Sunday, March 13

**What If...**

Earthquake Might Displace 90,000
Tijuana — A recent seismic study by scientists of CICESE, an Ensenada-based investigatory group, determined that an earthquake measuring greater than 6 on the Richter scale would cause significant damage to Tijuana and outlying areas of the city.

A quake with an epicenter located along any of three faults that run near the city — Silver Strand fault to the west, Vallecitos fault in the southeast, and La Nación fault to the north — would result in at least 5000 lives lost and 80,000 persons injured, according to a computer model.

The principal areas of the city affected would be La Mesa, Mesa Otay, and El Centro. El Centro is the primary tourist zone of the city along Avenida Revolución and contains many seismically sensitive Masonry buildings that have not been retrofitted to withstand earthquakes.

The computer model was predicated on six quake-modeling scenarios in the 6.5 Richter magnitude range, utilizing software used by the United Nations to determine earthquake risk around the globe. The modeling assumption was that the quake would occur along the fault line five miles north of the city and that 68,000 buildings would suffer damage.

By T.B. Beaudieu
Wednesday, March 9

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By T.B. Beaudieu
Wednesday, March 9
to ask the barista to add a shot of espresso to each cup, thinking I’d help my sister by reviving up two tiny balls of pure selling zing, but in the end I just asked for extra whipped cream.

Once the girls had their cocoa, I looked around for some form of supermarket entertainment (I heard somewhere that children bore easily). I spied a scratcher lottery vending machine, which conjured fond memories of my Aunt Jane allowing me to scratch her tickets for her in New York.

I bought two tickets and gave each girl a penny. When one turned up a winner — for one free ticket — I allowed the girls to share scratching duty. Jane found us sitting at the low counter by one of the doors. She looked irritated. “Where have you been? We’re not legally allowed to sell any cookies without the girls,” she said. We hurried out behind her, and Jane said, “Okay, Bella, remember what we practiced?”

Bella positioned herself by the entrance and called out, “Five for five, get your Girl Scout cookies, five boxes for 20 dollars!”

“How can I resist a pitch like that? I’ll take five,” I said, handing over a ticket — I allowed the girls to scratch her tickets (I heard somewhere that children bore easily).

We hurried out behind the doors. She looked up the low counter by one of the vending machines, which children bore easily). I spied a scratcher lottery vending machine, which conjured fond memories of my Aunt Jane allowing me to scratch her tickets for her in New York.

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using dermal fillers allows her to correct facial hollowing to achieve a lifting and smoothing effect. Having worked for 20 years in this field, I’ve witnessed the tremendous changes the H1-B visa and outsourcing programs have brought to American engineering. On one hand I am thankful that I have been able to work with with so many fine H1-B-sponsored engineers, many of whom I consider dear friends. On the other hand, I am saddened at the thought of my country losing its high-tech engineering capability, outsourcing jobs and importing inexpensive labor while so many Americans are out of work and are struggling to make ends meet.

A final thought. It is interesting to note that Apple Computer, one of the world’s most admired and successful high-tech companies, applies for relatively few H1-B visas.

Henry Foster
via email

Bubble Dreams
Re “That Five-Hour Drive to Las Vegas…” (Cover Story, March 3).

When did the Reader get to the point that it deemed the facile dribble of a pseu-
dosavant like Laurence Neal worthy of even printing, much less with a cover illus-
ration attempting to suggest any similarity of any kind to Hunter Thompson?

Larry and his entourage of 90210 hopefuls best pray their bubble doesn’t pop be-
fore they make it to their dreams of leaving life in La Jolla. They’d all wet their diapers.

The Reader has a history of some truly exceptional, authentic, and legitimate cover pieces — what were you thinking on this one?

Completely Incredulous
North Park

Lard Disgust
In response to “Best Buys” on page 20 (March 3), I’m disgusted that Café Coyote in Old Town uses lard in their flour tortillas. No wonder they don’t know how to make a vegan burrito.

Lorelei via voice mail
Thursday  |  17

**32ND ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY OPEN READING**
D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla hosts its popular celebration of Irish poetry and prose. Attendees are invited to read selections by James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, and others. As always, “Messrs. Guinness and Harp” will officiate the proceedings. See **SPECIAL**, page 62.

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Saturday  |  19

**BIRDS OF THE SEA**
The Sea Days program at Birch Aquarium at Scripps focuses on oceangoing birds. Discover how these creatures adapted to survive in a watery world, learn about migration and where you might catch a glimpse of these amazing creatures, make a bird craft, and enjoy story time. See **FOR KIDS**, page 64.

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Sunday  |  20

**SACRED SKY, SACRED EARTH: CORONADO**
Actors, dancers, musicians, singers, and visual artists from Coronado School of the Arts will collaborate with technological artist Peter Terezakis to create an interactive art performance at North Coronado Beach. Students will guide audience members through a “powerful meditative experience.” See **SPECIAL**, page 62.

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Monday  |  21

**STAGE MONKEYS IMPROV**
Check out this form of improvised longform comedy known as “The Harold.” Using a single audience suggestion, Stage Monkey players will create characters, scenes, and songs and weave them together on the fly. See **IN PERSON**, page 66.

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Tuesday  |  22

**SCIENCE OF SPORTS**
What design elements go into shaping a surfboard? How does air pressure affect a mountain-board ride? Learn this and more during the San Diego Science Festival event, featuring a wave machine, a skateboard ramp, surfboard shaping, baseball-hitting machines, and demonstrations. Science and physics students, professors, and inventors will answer questions. See **FOR KIDS**, page 64.

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Wednesday  |  23

**STREET-PAINTING FESTIVAL**
Chalk artists will transform the walkways of Southwestern College into a colorful gallery in celebration of Women’s History Month. Food, entertainment, crafts, vendors, and community resources round off the event. See **SPECIAL**, page 64.
ROAM-O-RAMA
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | by Jerry Schad

SHEEP CANYON
Anza-Borrego’s Sheep Canyon – hard-to-reach, but oh so beautiful.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 104 miles

Hiking length: Up to several, hard-fought miles • Difficulty: Strenuous to very strenuous

Remote Sheep Canyon, secluded in the middle reaches of Coyote Canyon in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, features some of the most rugged yet beautiful terrain in San Diego County. The canyon has two main forks (labeled Sheep Canyon and South Fork Sheep Canyon on maps), both containing trickling streams, full-skirted California fan palms, large sycamores, willowy cottonwoods, grottos with waterfalls, and boulder-sized rocks by the millions.

On account of the past season’s fairly abundant rainfall, the streams in both of Sheep Canyon’s forks should flow throughout the spring season. Since those rains came rather early, the wildflower bloom is a bit ahead of schedule. The canyon lies at a somewhat higher elevation than the desert floor, and that means the peak bloom might take place in late March. The starting point for hikes into either fork of Sheep Canyon — Sheep Canyon Primitive Camp — is accessible these days only by the toughest kind of four-wheel-drive vehicle. Without that (and that means just about everyone) you face about three miles of final approach by horse, foot, or mountain bike. Overnight backpacking does the trick for many.

To get to Coyote Canyon and Sheep Canyon, drive north (hope fully not in a low-slung conventional automobile, but rather in a high-clearance, preferably four-wheel-drive truck or SUV) from the north end of the paved DiGiorgio Road in Borrego Springs onto the unpaved, sometimes rough road ahead, which swings left and climbs steeply, is sometimes referred to as “Boulder Alley.” It’s all but impassable now.

So, presumably on foot, you make your way up the steep, rocky road ahead to a summit, where the road levels and smooths out. The going is easy all the way to the Sheep Canyon campground. Once you get there, you can pitch a tent and explore either fork of Sheep Canyon at your leisure.

Although parts of the main Sheep Canyon are rugged and overgrown with lush vegetation, foot traffic in the lower end has hewn out a traceable, if primitive, footpath. From the campground it is only two miles — and an elevation gain of 900 feet — to a point where you enter a broad, bowl-shaped valley. This is a good place to enjoy the view of rugged peaks in every direction before turning around. Around the margins of the bowl, seasonal springs can be found in several of the small tributaries.

South Fork Sheep Canyon is, mile for mile, perhaps the most difficult canyon to explore in the whole of San Diego County. The rewards for exploring it in depth are a close-up view of an idyllic 30-foot waterfall, glimpses of a half-dozen more cascades, and the pleasure of exploring a hidden, upper valley seldom visited by humans.

Very ambitious hikers have forged connecting routes in between the upper reaches of Sheep Canyon and the South Fork. That kind of activity involves plenty of rock scrambling and bushwhacking through scratchy chaparral vegetation.

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

SHEEP CANYON

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Chicago  continued from page 58.

On the last day of our trip we found the city bus tour of all city bus tours: in summer months, the Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Co. (coachusa.com/chicago-trolley) offers three tours in and around the city that visitors can take advantage of over a three-day period. I’d never been on a bus tour anywhere else in the world that covered the city in such detail.

rapid-transit system has been voted one of the “seven wonders of Chicago.” But we miss changing El lines. Now we’ve walked over a mile to our hotel, suitcases in hand, and thirst dominates our needs. The first pub shows its sign: Struggler’s Tavern. We look at ourselves and know that we have arrived. This would become our local bar for the weekend.

I was soaking up the information and views from the signature bus tour when I realized that I had around an hour to get to O’Hare for my return flight. I needed to leave Chicago quickly.

“Where is the nearest train station to catch the El?”

“Catch that bus on the corner.”

I saw the bus, ran to it, and just before the doors closed I slid in with my one (thankfully) small travel bag. But I didn’t have any cash on me, just credit cards that don’t work on city buses. The driver saw the expression on my face.

“Don’t worry about it,” he said.

“Take a seat.”

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.
Vernal Equinox on Sunday, March 20 at 4:21 p.m. Pacific time heralds the beginning of the spring season for Earth’s northern hemisphere. At the instant of vernal equinox, the sun lies in the plane of Earth’s equator. As a consequence, days and nights are of equal length (12 hours each) everywhere on our planet. Another consequence is that the sun rises due east along the horizon and sets due west. During the next three months, as the sun shines more and more directly on Earth, days will lengthen and the rise and set times of the sun will gradually shift toward the northeast and northwest, respectively.

**African Daisies** are bursting into bloom around San Diego, especially along the freeway embankments. The name refers to a wide variety of species belonging to the genus Arctotis, Dimorphotheca, and Osteospermum, with flowers ranging in color from yellow, orange and white to purple. These hardy ground covers require little water except when in active growth, and help to hold soil in place during heavy rains.

**India Hawthorn**, one of the most common flowering shrubs used in landscaping as hedges and dividers in San Diego, is blooming best right about now. The plant, which has several varieties, covers itself with blossoms ranging in hue from pinkish white to vivid pink.

The **Moon**, just past full phase, rises into the darkening eastern sky at around 7:25 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, some 25 minutes after the sun sets. About twelve hours later, you can watch the moon sink into the Pacific Ocean while the sun is about to come up on the other side of the sky. This out-of-phase, rise-set synchronicity is characteristic of every full moon. The 12-hour difference on this occasion is explained by the fact that both the sun and the moon will be near opposing equinoxes in the sky — in other words, both will lie nearly over Earth’s equator.

What’s more, the **Bird Watching in Salt Marsh** is easy walk with variety of birds and views of salt marsh habitat. Of particular interest is the **Arctotis**, a South African wildflower with vivid pink. It’s also a hardy, useful in landscaping as hedges and dividers. Another useful wildflower is **Osteospermum**. While the **Dimorphanthus** is characteristic of every full moon. The 12-hour difference on this occasion is explained by the fact that both the sun and the moon will be near opposing equinoxes in the sky — in other words, both will lie nearly over Earth’s equator.

**Experience Elfin Forest** Naturalist Don Parnell leads moderately strenuous 12-mile hike over most of the reserve’s trails plus a down and up of Del Dios Highlands County Preserve trail. Fast-paced hike is not for young children. Rain cancels. 760-652-4212. Saturday, March 19, 8:30am; free. 14 and up. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ESCONDIDO)

**Explore Indian Hill** Join Canyoneers for hike through hillsides of teddy bear cholla and barrel cactus to remains of a 1912 railroad camp. Four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles recommended to reach trailhead. Directions: 619-250-0171. Saturday, March 19, 10am; free. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

**Explore Lakeview** Walkabout adventurers head above in above the lake rim for “beautiful views.” Join group at park entrance. 619-231-7463. Tuesday, March 22, 10am; free. Lakeview Park, Mira Lago Way at Mira Lago Terrace. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

**Find Tadpoles and Fairy Shrimp** Hike with Will Bowen, learn about critters in road pools and puddles. 858-484-3219. Sunday, March 20, 4pm; free. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way. (CARME VALLEY)

**Salt Marsh Planting** San Diego Audubon Society invites volunteers to restore sensitive coastal habitat in San Diego Bay. Plant salt marsh plants to create enhanced feeding, resting grounds. Enter work site at power plant; bring identification for staff at security booth. Wear old clothes, waterproof boots or shoes if you have them. Gloves, tools, water, snacks provided. Bring a shovel if you have one. Required advance registration: 858-273-7800 x101. Friday, March 18, 11am; free.

**Resident and Wintering Birds of Lake Wohlford** Naturalist Sally Sanderson leads easy two-mile hike to see birds along Lake Wohlford. Bald eagles have been spotted in the area. Rain does not cancel. Meet in parking lot near Oakvale Campground. 760-839-4680. Sunday, March 20, 8:30am; free. Oakvale Campground, 1400 Oakvale Road. (ESCONDIDO)

**Birding in Borrego Springs** Join Audubon Society birders on north side of Christmas Circle, then proceed caravan-style to sight birds in search of resident birds such as cactus wren, black-throated sparrow, white-winged dove, as well as wildflowers along the way. Bring binoculars, field guide if you have them. 619-668-3281. Saturday, March 19, 8am; free. Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

**Celebrating the Season Walk** Among sunflowers, yarrow, wishbone, tidy tips, “and other flowering surprises of sage and chaparral!” with trail guide identifying and revealing plant secrets. 619-668-3281. Saturday, March 19, 9:30am; Sunday, March 20, 9:30am; Wednesday, March 23, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Bird Watching in Salt Marsh** Easy walk with variety of birds and views of salt marsh habitat hosted by Friends of Famosa Slough. Bring binoculars if you have them. 619-224-4591. Saturday, March 19, 1pm; free. Famosa Slough, West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boule- vard. (OCEAN BEACH)

**Birding Bonanza!** Lake Murray hosts rich variety of migratory and resident water fowl and land birds. Mission Trails Regional Park resident birder Jeanne Raymond “shares tips on bird iden- tifying and behavior patterns.” Meet on east side of Lake Murray, in parking lot off Kiowa Drive. Bring binoculars, field guide if you have them. 619-668-3281. Saturday, March 19, 8am; free. Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

**San Diego Wine Tours** Starting at $299

**Temecula Wine Tours** Starting at $299

**San Diego Zoo Safari Park** One Father Junipero Serra Drive.

**Lake Wohlford** Hiking the boardwalk.

**Lake Murray Reservoir** 5540 Kiowa Drive.

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Other conditions may apply.

Must be 18 years of age and weigh less than 230 pounds.

Bring this ad for a FREE VIDEO of your skydive on Sunday! Expires 3/27/2011.
**Champagne Circus** Circus performer Jackie poses for Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art School. Bring sketchpads, drawing implements. 858-405-9453. Saturday, March 19, 3pm; $10. 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (Hillcrest)

"Experience the World in the Village" Enjoy live music and performances, storytelling, hands-on art, children’s activities, more on State Street (between Christiansen Way and Oak Avenue). 760-434-2815. Saturday, March 19, 1pm; free. Downtown Carlsbad, State Street at Grand Avenue. (Carlsbad)

"Garde Manger: A Collaboration of Food and Art" Each chef selects a theme and is paired with a visual artist for an artistic collaboration project. Chefs “prepare a dish exemplifying qualitative elements, quantitative precision, and conceptual bases of the food artist’s inspiration. The visual artist will then create a mirrored work fashioned off of these themes.” 858-354-6294. Saturday, March 19, 16pm; free. Thumbprint Gallery, 2637 University Avenue. (North Park)

"Homegrown" Exhibition of work by local artists, along with demonstrations, advice on techniques, food. 619-461-4440. Saturday, March 19, 10am; Sunday, March 20, 10am; free. Fusion-Glass Company, 8872 La Mesa Boulevard. (La Mesa)

"Out from Underground 2" Exhibit is “reprise of the well-received street art/modern pop show” from last summer. Artists include Acamomchi, Kathleen Blavatt, Alex Chu, Kinzie Davis, Shepard Fairey, Ben Liddi, Mark Rumland, Michael Starkow, Josh Reem Valencas, Eric Wison, many others. Bid on artwork during silent auction. Proceeds benefit Autism Research Institute. 619-905-4747. Saturday, March 19, 16pm; free. 21 and up. Mosaic Wine Bar and Gallery, 3422 30th Street. (North Park)

"Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth: Coronado" Actors, dancers, musicians, singers, visual artists from Coronado School of the Arts collaborate with artist Peter Terezieks to create site-specific, interactive art-performance at North Coronado Beach (at Avenue G and Ocean Boulevard). Students “guide audience members through the powerful meditative experience.” 619-522-4050 x5. Sunday, March 20, 6pm; free. 5 and up. Coronado City Beach, Ocean Boulevard. (Coronado)

"The Cross and the World" St. Mark’s 40th annual religious art festival exhibition begins with awards on March 19, 1:30pm. Viewing continues on Saturdays through April 23. Art juror was Larry Baza, poetry juror was Seretta Martin. 858-273-1480. Saturday, March 19, 10am; free. St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive. (Clairemont)

"The Kimoano" San Diego artist Michael Strong leads an “artistic journey to Japan” while instructing in the making of five cards inspired by Japanese woodcut prints. 619-667-5060. Wednesday, March 23, 10am, 2pm and 5pm; $22. 10am and up. Stamp Adict, 7151 El Cajon Boulevard. (College Area)

32nd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Open Reading Read from favorite poetry and prose selections by James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Fingal O’Flaherty Wills Wilde, Sean O’Casey, Edmund Burke, et al. As always, “Messrs. Guinness and Harp will participate.” 858-456-1800. Thursday, March 17, 7pm; free. D.G. Will’s Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (La Jolla)

Beyond Yoga During “Energy Anatomy Workshop” learn of your subtle energy fields and techniques to access them through movement, sound, and visualization.” 619-542-1842. Saturday, March 19, 1:30pm; $35. Yoga Oasis, 1450 University Avenue #201. (Hillcrest)

Burrowing Owls in Southern California Wildlife Research Institute director Dave Bittner considers “efforts to assist nesting of owls with artificial burrows” and Salton Sea wildlife for Life at Mira Costa senior learning group in room 1068 (1pm). “Bird Beaks and What They Eat” revealed by Renee Rivid (2:30pm). 760-721-8124. Friday, March 18, 1pm; free. Miramar College, One Barnard Drive. (Mission Valley)

Celebrated Art and Elegance Versailles Ballroom is transformed into a gallery showcasing Alexander Salazar Fine Art, EC Gallery, Noel-Baza Fine Art, and Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art, all participating in upcoming ArtWalk. Meet artists, see them create art; enjoy hors d’oeuvres and libations, live music, more. Reservations: 619-615-1090. Friday, March 18, 6pm; $32. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (Downtown)

Celebrate State Route 2 — On the Highway! Celebrate completion of SR-52 during festival on the freeway between Cuyamaca Street and North Magnolia Avenue. Ribbon-cutting (9am) followed by three-mile fun walk/run/bike ride. Live music, classic and “green” cars, booths, for kids, flyovers from Gillespie Air Show. 619-699-1979. Saturday, March 19, 9am; free. Caltrans field office — San Diego, 9851 Buena Vista Avenue. (San Diego)

Celebrating Mexico’s Pu-pépecha Women Meet Guadalupe Hernandez Dmas and Linda Morales Jeromino, hailing from Michoacan, Mexico; view trailer for upcoming documentary about their way of life entitled Tierra Brillante (Brilliant Soil); view, purchase handmade traditional huangenos, embroidered linens, pottery. 858-453-5560. Wednesday, March 23, 6:30pm; free. Institute of the Americas, UCSD, 10111 North Torrey Pines Road, (La Jolla)

Cherry Blossom Festival Celebrate onset of spring during traditional festival promising Japanese food, arts and crafts, entertainment, cultural demonstrations, crowning of new “Little Miss Sakura.” 619-232-7221. Saturday, March 19, 9am; $4. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (Balboa Park)

Circle of Art Juried fine arts show and sale with 61 artists exhibiting their work in media including oil and watercolors, photography, sculpture, ceramics, pottery, weaving, jewelry. 307-359-0919. Saturday, March 19, Noon. 2pm. Sunday, March 20, 9am; free. Christmas Circle, Palm Canyon Drive at Borrego Springs Road. (Borrego Springs)
Considering Divorce or Separation? National Conflict Resolution Center offers workshop for those who are contemplating or in the midst of divorce, legal separation, or other family law matters. Topics: legal, financial, and family/personal issues, as well as process, benefits, and costs of mediation as alternative to court system. 619-238-2400 x0.

Saturday, March 19, 8:30am; $35-

costs of mediation as alternative as well as process, benefits, and
cial, and family/personal issues,
advantages of mediation over litigation. 619-298-9978 x8014. Thursday,

April 17 and 29. Intention fasts

carry “on the tradition of fasting in the wilderness, an ancient pro-
cess for helping people make and
mark challenging transitions.”

Fred Hall’s Fishing Tackle and Boat Show Show promises equipment, travel, and other information, vendors’ booths, seminars, wakeboard competition, trout pond, dock dogs, more. 805-389-3339. Wednesday, March 23, 1pm, free-$13. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Get Active in Environmental Conservation San Diego Coastkeeper seeks volunteers to gather data to improve, protect surface waters of San Diego. Interested in collecting water-quality samples and taking basic water chemistry measurements on a regular basis? Watershed monitoring program training planned; new volunteers paired with returning volunteers for site teams around county. Training: 8:30am; field session: 11am. RSVP: 619-758-7743. Saturday, March 19, 10am; Sunday, March 20, 10am: free. Orfila Vineyard — Escondido, 13455 San Pasqual Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Globalization... What’s the status? Consider answers with Meeting of the Minds discussion group. 619-370-1027. Wednesdays, 7pm; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Hula Hoop-Making and Play Learn to make a hula hoop, “then learn some moves” 760-729-0007. Wednesday, March 23, 5pm, $25. Craftality, 2835 Roosevelt Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

Inspiration for Parents, Teens, Tweens Learn to succeed in life, “so you can fulfill your goals and dreams” during event led by Zenaida Roy-Almar- jo (Rhymes and Reasons to Inspire Positive and Proactive Communicating Young Adults), licensed clinical therapist Mary E. Gilder, licensed LifeSuccess consultant Paul R. Leite. 619-533-3968. Saturday, March 19, 10am: free. Logan Heights Library, 811 South 28th Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

Riveted Textured Pendant Create a multicolored layered pendant of your own design while learning some of the fundamentals of working with nonferrous metal (sawing, filing, riveting).

Intention Fast 2011 Introduc-
tory meeting for fasts slated for April 17 and 29. Intention fasts carry “on the tradition of fasting in the wilderness, an ancient pro-
cess for helping people make and
mark challenging transitions.”

Donation $70. Registration: 619-298-9978 x3014. Thursday,

March 17, 7pm; First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST)

Middle-Eastern Drum and Belly Dance Class Doumbek drumming class for all levels taught by Frank Lazzaro (6-7pm), followed by tribal belly-dance class taught by Sabrina Fox with live drumming (7-8pm). $12 per class. 760-476-9171. Monday, March 20, 1pm; Ideal Hotel, 540 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Multi-cultural Art Show and Concert Enjoy music from around the world, artwork, t-shirts and food for sale during event in Tea Room hosted by ShelterBox International in conjunction with Red Lotus Bloom-
ing Club. Proceeds benefit disas-
ter relief. Minimum donation: $5. 619-204-0751. Sunday, March 20, 1pm; Ideal Hotel, 540 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Puppy Playtime Puppies less than six months old with current vaccines invited to play with other puppies. Pet trainer on hand to answer dog socialization questions. 760-476-9171. Monday, March 21, 6:30pm; free. Unleashed by Petco, 2663 Gateway Road #103. (CARLSBAD)

Red vs. Blue States: Mainly a Cultural Divide? Civilized Conversation Club hosts nonpartisan, open discussion forum. 858-231-6309. Thursday, March 17, 7pm; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Flower Fields with 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon ride ($5 general), visit sweet pea maze. Season passes available. 760-431-0352. Daily, 9am; through Sunday, May 8, free-$10. Flower Fields, 5704 Pas-
eo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

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### Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

from instructor Anne Wolf. Materials fee includes pretextured and plain brass, copper, and silver sheet and wire. 619-223-0054. Sunday, March 20, 2pm; $70-$78. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Rd., studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

Science Family Day. San Diego Science Festival features the park! "Family friendly science-inspired adventures as part of this park-wide event." Hands-on activities at Resden Hall Science Center, San Diego History Center, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego Air and Space Museum, Japanese Friendship Garden, other venues. Children 17 and under free with paid adult admission. 858-822-4470. Saturday, March 19, 11am; Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

ShamROCK 2011 Party promises entertainment on three stages by the Foox, the Young Dubliners, Lexington Field, DJs, traditional Irish music with step dancers, more. Over 60,000 square feet of green Astroturf is rolled out for party. Food and libations from over 27 venues on offer. 619-233-5008. Thursday, March 17, 4pm; $25-$30. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

Spring Fl ing Market Collection of entrepreneurs offering their wares, including locally designed and produced clothing and accessories, visual art, performance props, imports, at 364 2nd Street (at C Street). Entertainment by Stone Train, Leilana, Hoop Charme r, Anja Indirani, others. Sunday, March 20, 11am; free. Encinitas, Highway 101 between D and J streets. (ENCINITAS)

Spring Flower Show Japanese Flower show with displays from various schools. Demonstrations planned. 858-759-2640. Saturday, March 19, 11am; Sunday, March 20, 11am; free. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

St. Patty's Crafty Happy Hour Stop in, craft a "shamrock pin so you won't get caught without your green," enjoy a green beer. Donation: $10. 760-729-0007. Thursday, March 17, 5pm; 21 and up. Craftality, 2835 Roosevelt Street. (CARLSBAD)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, March 20, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5400 Kearny Mesa Road. (HEASY MESA)

Street Painting Festival San Diego Women's History Month street painting festival with chalk artists transforming campus walkways "into a colorful gallery." Food, entertainment, crafts, vendors, community resources, more. Street painting open for viewing until dusk. 619-482-6304. Wednesday, March 23, 9am; free. Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road. (SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE)

The Art of the Circus Circus Vargas raises its big top for performances around county. Circus "bridges the gap between old tradition and modern innovation." Prior to each show, audience is invited into center ring for "crash course in circus skills such as juggling, feather balancing, and hula hooping." Tickets: 877-468-3861. Thursday, March 17, 7:30pm; Friday, March 18, 7:30pm; Saturday, March 19, 1:30pm, 4:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, March 20, 12:30pm, 3:30pm and 6:30pm; Monday, March 21, 6:30pm; $15-$60. Circus Vargas - Vista Village, Vista Village Drive at Wave Drive. (VISTA)

Time to Remodel? Home remodeling and design seminar promising "one-on-one time" with designers. Learn "valuable tips and tricks" for any home. Reservations: 800-675-9548. Saturday, March 19, 10am; free. Jackson Design and Remodeling, 4797 Mercury Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Warner Springs Art Show and Sale Original oil and watercolor paintings by local artists on display and for sale at the golf course, along with calendars, note cards, prints, books, photographs, most with local scenery or subject matter. 760-822-8043. Saturday, March 19, 10am; Sunday, March 20, 10am; free. Warner Springs Ranch, 31652 Highway 79. (WARMER SPRINGS)

Wine and Cheese Night Make four wine glass charms and one bottle decoration (5:30-6:30pm, 7-8pm), enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine. Materials included in fee; $10 per class. 858-309-5050. Friday, March 18, 5pm; South San Diego, 8601 Aero Drive. (HEASY MESA)

Wine, Women, and Chocolate Soul Sharing Sisters plan food, networking, speaker Sarita Maybin divulging "tools to assist women in evergreening obstacles to help achieve our goals." Tickets include wine, appetizers. All are welcome. 760-798-0074. Saturday, March 19, 2:30pm; $35. (VISTA)

DANCE


Argentine Tango New six-week session of lessons begins on Monday or Wednesday with Colette Hebert in a 6-week class free. Fees: 514-726-5567. Monday, March 21, 7pm; Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Rd., Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Balkans Night Enjoy live dance music when Dromia plays tunes from Greece, Bulgaria, Armenia, Albania, Turkey. Bring snack to share. 619-281-5686. Saturday, March 19, 8pm; $8-$12. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (BAY PARK)

Hustle Dance Jam DJ, instructor David Nguyen plays hustle music for singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson 8pm; dancing 8:30-11pm. 619-275-3533. Saturday, March 19, 8pm; $5-$8. Pattie Wells' DanceTime Center, 1255 West Moreno Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Wild with Lizards Martha Wild calls, Pick of the Lizard provides music for contra dance. Beginners' dance workshop 7:30pm; dances taught and called to live music 8:11pm. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, March 18, 7:30pm; $8. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

### FOOD & DRINK

"Beer U: Craft Beer Around the World" Ken Wright presents "some exotic and exciting brews from the most remote corners of the globe." 760-471-4999. Monday, March 21, 7pm; $25. 21 and up Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1999 Citra- cado Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

"Oil and Vinegar — The Magic EliXirs" Learn how, why, and when, what they taste like, how to make your own dressings, vinegarettes, infused oils and vinegars with Chef Arleem Lloyd. 760-233-2433. Tuesday, March 22, 6pm; $65. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Bean Salads, Anyone? Cooking demonstration presented by Vegan San Diego. Taste and learn to make dishes such as bean salads, "EcoVegan Spicy Bits," more. 858-433-0347. Saturday, March 19, 12pm; free. Mira Mesa Library, 8405 New Salem Street. (MIRA MESA)

Taste of Opera — Carmen Chef Katherine Emmenegger translates Bizet's "enchanting music into the cuisine of Spain." Nicolas Revels entertains "with stories and inside information on the opera." Sample pinchitos morunos, sherry braised chicken and saffron rice, more. Fee includes tasting menu of recipes prepared. Reservations: 619-533-7000. Friday, March 18, 6pm; $54. Great News! 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

### FOR KIDS

"Birds of the Sea" Learn about ocean-going birds, discover how adaptations allow them "spots to catch a glimpse of these amazing creatures." Make a bird craft, enjoy story time. Included in admission ($12 general). 858-534-7336. Saturday, March 19, 11am; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

"Science of Sports" What design elements go into shaping a surfboard? How does air pressure affect a mountainboard ride? Find out during San Diego Science Festival event including a wave machine, skateboard ramp, interactive surfboard shaping, baseball-hitting machines, live demonstrations, more. Science and physics students, professors, interview on hand to answer questions. 858-822-4470. Tuesday, March 22, 10am; free. San Diego Hall of Champions, 2131 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Disney's Aladdin Jr. "Every beggar has a story and every cam el has a tail!" School-wide musical production combines "talent of 70 students" in kindergarten through eighth grade. 760-420-5424. Thursday, March 17, 7pm; Friday, March 18, 7pm; Saturday, March 19, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, March 20, 2pm; $8-$10. Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, 600 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

The Princess and the Pa uprincess Hakua is in a strange new land; can she pass a test to prove she's worthy of the prince's hand in marriage? Find out in Big Joe Productions show. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, March 23, 10am and 2pm; 3:30; $3-$5; 4 and up. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)
Sheep and Goats
I Answered the Call

The Neighborhood Church
Contact: 1001 W. Country Club Lane, Escondido; 760-741-7881; neighborhoodchurch.com
Membership: 100
Denomination: Assembly of God
Pastor: Yancey Valdez
Age: 43
Born: Santa Ana
Formation: Berklee College of Music, Boston, Mass.; Global University, Springfield, Mo.
Years Practicing Ministry: 17

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend writing your sermon?
Pastor Yancey Valdez: Usually, it can take anywhere between a good 8 to 12 hours a week…. If there’s a specific theme or a question that the congregation has that I feel needs to be addressed to the church, then I might have to speak on that. Otherwise, I’m going by a book study or series.

SDR: What topics does your congregation look to have addressed?
PY: If I know there’s times when marriages are struggling and families are hurting, I might talk about something that will help strengthen the marriage. I’ve also talked about the economy, which has really been hard at times. The Bible is full of great economic advice.

SDR: What is your main concern as member of the clergy?
PY: So many kids are without their dads or their moms. The hard part of this is seeing them become adults. Take a young teenage boy, for instance. If he never had a dad around, when he gets married, he’s going to have no idea what it’s like to be a husband or a father. He’s never seen that truly modeled. The same thing with a girl — she has no idea when she grows up what a husband is supposed to look like. These young people are coming into adulthood ill-equipped. Both my wife [Jill Valdez, associate pastor at Neighborhood Church] and I try to encourage men and women to strengthen marriage in the family.

SDR: What’s it like working in ministry with your wife?
PY: Jill knows me better than anyone else. I’ve had a lot of pastor friends that ask me, “How do you do that? I could never do that with my wife.” I say it’s taken practice, and it hasn’t been without its ups and downs, but we’ve done it for so long, it’s a great blessing. I like the fact that we know each other so well and complement each other in what we do.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?
PY: We are committed to building lives worth living. We have an acronym — we are NC LIFE (Never giving up in prayer, Celebrating Christmas, Learning together, Including all who come, Finding others who need to know, and Emerging from ministry). Those six actions are what we do. They are what the New Testament Church did. We believe we are a 1st Century church in the 21st Century.

SDR: Where do we go when we die?
PY: Those people who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior go to Heaven. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” There may be others out there saying there are many paths to God, but Christianity is not so much religion as it is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I can’t do anything to add to my salvation except to trust in Jesus. There are consequences for not following Jesus. Those who don’t accept Christ, according to Scriptures, are condemned to Hell.

— Joseph O’Brien
For more interviews and church reviews, see sandiegoreader.com.
**The Shoemaker and the Elves**

Two funny little elves sneak into shoemaker's shop to help make shoes in Weaver's Tales puppet show. 619-544-9203. Thursday, March 17, 7pm and 11pm; Friday, March 18, 7pm and 11pm; Saturday, March 19, 11pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, March 20, 11am and 2:30pm; $5-15. San Diego Puppet Theatre, 2150 Pan American Road West, (BALBOA PARK)

**Art in Action: Tales from Ireland**

Storyteller, thespian Erin Coleman, museum director Olivia Luther, museum registrar Mary Johnson read tall stories inspired by life on the Aran Islands in conjunction with Patricia Patterson's exhibition. Fee: $5 per person, $15 per family. RSVP: 800-988-4253. Saturday, March 19, 10:30am; California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

**Inspiration for Students**

Ze-naida Roy-Almaro, authority on Rhymes and Reasons to Inspire Positive and Proactive Communicating Young Adults, divvies "how to motivate and empower yourself to succeed and increase life's positive results." 619-533-3968. Friday, March 18, 10am. free. Logan Heights Library, 811 South 28th Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

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**Calendar LOCAL EVENTS**

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**The Truth Behind Christianity**

Wednesday, March 30th, 7-7pm

If you are curious about a different way of looking at the Bible, find out how you can have deeper love and inclusiveness and let the complexity and joy of the Bible welcome you into an introductory lecture presented by Spiritual Leader Dr. Tom Samer on Wednesday, March 29th, 7pm at One Heart One Mind Center for Spiritual Living.

10225 Barnes Canyon Rd., Ste. C-100 San Diego, CA 92131 858-453-9830 www.onenearminds.org

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**Ancient Faith Radio**

In The World

Visit the Holy Lands of the Bible!

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www.jordanisraelgreeceargentina.com

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**Solace and the American Health Crisis**

Uman Malhotra discusses the health care system, signs books. 619-867-2895. Saturday, March 19, 11am; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Hillbilly**

Science fiction authors Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson sign and discuss their books. 858-268-4747. Wednesday, March 23, 11am. free. Palomar College Bookstore, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 302. (HEARNEY MESA)

**Oceanus**

Actor, environmental activist Ted Danson discusses his book during event moderated by Robert Pincus. Book "details his journey from join- ing a modest local protest in the mid-1980s...to his current status as one of the world’s most influential oceanic environmental activists." Purchase Oceanus from Warwick’s to receive two adult tickets. Thursday, March 17, 7pm; La Jolla Country Day School, 9490 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Quarterama**

Ideas and Designs of America’s State Quarters Author with Gar- rette Burke, who is also designer of California State Quarter. 619-236-4835. Thursday, March 17, 7pm. University Bookshop and Coffee House, 835 West Girard Avenue. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**Shimshyki**

Local author Ellen Sarver Dolgen discusses her "guide to women's middle changes." Books must be purchased from Warwick’s for signing. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, March 22, 7:30pm; free. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Slime Science**

Discovery Lab transformed for kids 5-12 "to have fun making oozing observations" with goo, goop, more. Regular admission (0-10) plus $2 activity fee. 619-238-1233. Saturdays, 1pm; through Saturday, March 26, 5 and up. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Storms and Cells**

Meet "storm-chasing scientists" Josh Wurman, on hand for opening of "Cellular Journey" exhibition. See the DOW ("Doppler on Wheels") mobile radar system used to track tornadoes in Tornado Alley film. Hands-on cell explorations. Fingerprint activities for preschoolers. 619-238-1233. Saturday, March 19, 11am; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Woodraths and Other Oak Occupants**

During Nature Adventures program, see "a rodent’s huge architecture, find out who collects shiny items, who hides acorns, and why they all like the oaks" through songs, pup- pets, specimens, trail walk, craft. 619-582-6261. Thursday, March 17, 10am; Friday, March 18, 10am; free. 5 and up; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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**In PERSON**

“Mark Twain Tonight!”

Veteran actor Hal Holbrook returns with his Tony Award-winning one-man show. “Holbrook adds to his Twain material every year, editing and changing it to fit the topic. he has no set program; he chooses material as he goes and widely performs.” 619-570-1100. Saturday, March 19, 8pm; $30-$65. 5 and up. Balboa Theatre, 888 Fourth Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Making the Wildman**

Actor, environmental activist Ted Danson discusses his signed book during event moderated by Robert Pincus. Book "details his journey from joining a modest local protest in the mid-1980s...to his current status as one of the world’s most influential oceanic environmental activists." Purchase Oceanus from Warwick’s to receive two adult tickets. Thursday, March 17, 7pm; La Jolla Country Day School, 9490 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Author Talk**

Caitlin Rother discusses, signs her new book, Dead Reckoning, the true story of a murderer at sea. 619-533-3974. Saturday, March 19, 11:30am; free. 619-238-1233. Saturday, March 19, 10am; Kensington-Normal Heights Library, 4123 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

**Comedy Night at Doc’s Sa- loon**

Stand-up comedy by Russ T. Nailz, Christian Spicer, Matın Atabek, Michael O'Brien, host Lamont Ferguson. 562-786-3111. Friday, March 18, 8pm; Free. Joey’s Smokin’ B-B-Q, 6955 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

**Consider Sky of Red Poppies**

Local author Shawn Stenberg signs her book during event held in conjunction with “One Book, One San Diego” reading campaign. Book set in Iran is “about culture, politics, and the redeeming power of friendships.” Books available for purchase. 619-236-5817. Wednesday, March 23, 6:30pm; Free. San Diego Public Library, 280 E. Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Music and Dance**

Yale Steam plays violin, tells stories of “the rich tradition of klezmer music,” joined by classical guitarist Talulah Strom. 619-475-4842. Sunday, March 20, 2pm; free. Bonita-Sun- nyside Library, 4375 Bonita Road. (BONITA)

**Nautical Book Celebration in Search of Adventure and Moments of Bliss**

Local author and navigator Lois Hofmann and Capt- tain Gunther Hofmann on hand for slide show, question and answer, and book signing, 619-223-9899. Saturday, March 19, 3pm; free. Fiddler’s Green Restaurant, 2760 Shelter Island Drive. (POINT LOMA)

**Old-School Musical Radio Show**

Scott Paulson, performing on a variety of instruments and sound effects, is joined by pianist Angelica Eslar to present “The Tale of the Ugly Duckling” for the Winter/Spring Concert Series. (VISTA)

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**SPORTS**

From Tecolote Canyon to Mount Soledad Head out for 25-mile bicycle ride with the Knickerbickers. Optional lunch follows. 858-450-0373 or 619-787-7427. Saturday, March 19, 9am; Joe’s Pizza, 5583 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAREMONT)

**Wild and Tame Tuesday**

The Scott West Band, Jorge Narvaez, and Joe Nafziger provide music; comedians Ben Garciaeyes, Gina Manning, host Sindi Somers brings jokes. 619-384-0761. Tuesday, March 22, 6:30pm and 11pm; Stage Saloon, 762 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

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**WANT TO “BUST LOOSE” FROM OLD PATTERNS?**

Come to this FREE lecture on Thursday, March 24th to find out how to break free from the “same old same old” effect.

Facilitated by: Rev. Roby Warren D.D.

Time: 7:00 PM

Host: (no need to pre-register)

Rev. Roby Warren D.D. is the Founding Minister of The Celebration Center for Spiritual Living. She is also a gifted psychic and medium.

The Celebration Center for Spiritual Living

5820 Oberlin Dr. #108 SD, CA 92121

www.thecelebrationcenter.org • Sunday Service 10:30am
Boëthius

"Wherefore I much marvel why these things are thus turned upside down, and the punishment of wickedness oppresses the good, while evil men obtain the rewards of the good. And I desire to know of thee what may seem to be the reason of so unjust confusion. For I would marvel less if I thought that all things were disorderd by casual events. Now God being the governor, my astonishment is increased. For since that he distribueth oftentimes that which is pleasant to the good, and that which is distasteful to the bad, and contrariwise adversity to the good and prosperity to the evil, unless we find out the cause herof, what difference may there seem to be betwixt this and accidental chance?" "It is no marvel," quote [Lady Philosophy], "if anything be thought temerarious and confused, when we know not the order it hath. But although thou best ignorant of the causes why things be so disposed, yet because the world hath a governor, doubt not but all things are well done." — from The Consolation of Philosophy, trans. Anton Pegis

Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (ca. 480-524) was a Christian writer born in Rome to a family that claimed emperors and noblemen in its pedigree. After being made consul of the kingdom of the Ostrogoths in 510, he was jailed and eventually executed by King Theodoric for his suspected role in a conspiracy against the throne. While awaiting his death, Boethius penned The Consolation of Philosophy, an attempt to find peace of mind through a philosophical examination of life and death. The book was one of the major influences on Medieval thought and helped to shape the Western approach to theology and Christian philosophy.

Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, (858) 320-0090

LA JOLLA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

LA JOLLA
627 Center Street (858) 454-9636

ROCK CHURCH Struggling with Sexual Purity? FMO (For Men Only) is a ministry for men that deals with sexual purity. Men are finding victory in this important area of their lives through accountability relationships, learning new life skills, and walking with the Holy Spirit. Mondays, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm. Tuesdays, 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm; Wednesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

POINT LOMA
2277 Rosecrans Street (858) 226-7625

CONGREGATION ADAM YSHURIN Maimonides Society Presents an Ethics Shabbat with Daniel Eisenberg, M.D. Friday and Saturday, Mar. 20 and 21.

LA JOLLA
8625 La Jolla Scenic Drive (858) 535-1196

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH Spirit and Truth Do you want to meet some other faith-filled young adults (18-39 yrs, married or single) while growing in your relationship with the Lord? Join us for worship and supper on Tuesday, March 22nd, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Live worship and worship music, a talk on Lent with Fr. Patrick Walmrighit (Miles Christi), adoration, and a social to follow.

POWAY
15546 Pomerado Rd. (858) 487-4755

GRACE POINT CHURCH Steven Ybarra CD Release “Best Days” Will benefit God’s Extended Hand Homeless Ministry. Ybarra is the 2009 winner of the San Diego “Best Acoustic” Music Award, a 3-time prior winner. He recently opened for Jeremy Camp, and has shared the stage with The Calling, Switchfoot, Hootie & the Blowfish, Jason Mraz, and Gavin DeGraw. Saturday, Mar. 26, 6:00 pm.

CARMEL VALLEY
13340 Hayford Way (858) 481-0424

UNIVERSITY CITY
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CARMEL VALLEY
13340 Hayford Way (858) 481-0424

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SAN DIEGuito
Emma’s Revolution
Also known as Pat Humphries and Sandy G., known for “Swimming to the Other Side,” “Peace, Salam, Shalom.” In concert Friday, March 25, 8:00pm.

SOLANA BEACH
1036 Solana Drive (858) 755-9225

FOOTHILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
The Covenant and the Kingdom
This 5-week class examines what the Bible has to say about being in covenant with God. Every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, March 16 through April 13.

LA JOLLA
(858) 442-7728

TEMPLE EMANU-EL
Shabbat Unplugged
A musical tribute to the memory of Debbie Friedman, Friday, Mar. 25, 7:00 pm.

GREATERT APOSTOLIC FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH
Seniors’ Resource Fair
Learn how to get free testing for high blood pressure and diabetes, free legal counseling, free telephones for the disabled, free house repairs and appliances. Saturday, Mar. 26, 9:00 am.

CHULA VISTA
2270 Olympic Parkway (619) 600-4160

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Two Plays
The Atom and Eve and Bury the Dead. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, March 25, 26, 27; April 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10.

POINT LOMA
3598 Talbot Street (619) 222-3193

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Doubting Thomas
Bible-based theatrical presentation by Mark Price. Tuesday, Mar. 29, 7:00 pm.

CORONADO
655 C Avenue (619) 435-3167

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
Judas Iscariot
Bible-based theatrical presentation by Mark Price. Monday, Mar. 28, 7:00 pm.

CORONADO
655 C Avenue (619) 435-3167

JESUS IS LORD CHURCH
Watch the Birdie! Badminton played daily. Call for times: 858-581-7100. Thursdays; Fridays; Saturdays; Sundays; Mondays; Tuesdays; Wednesdays; free.

NEWBREAK CHURCH
Festival of Trees
1725 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)
The following are entries from the Reader’s classical music blog, “Immortal Beauty.” Click to SDRreader.com/weblogs/immortal-beauty/ for more.

CARMEN KILLS HERSELF
March 3 was the anniversary of the debut of Bizet’s Carmen. It was so important that I was in rehearsal for Carmen on that day.

Carmen had its world premiere at the Opera Comique in Paris on March 3, 1875. It was an adaptation of an 1845 novel of the same title by Prosper Merimee.

Within a year, Wagner, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky had all become fans of Carmen, but Bizet had died of a heart attack three months after the premiere.

The audience at the Opera Comique was outraged by the plot.

In the opera, the tenor, Don José, is a mess. He falls for Carmen’s teasing routine in Act I and lets her escape after she’s been arrested for fighting.

In Act II he’s in prison for helping her and passes the days smelling a flower she threw to him as she escaped.

In Act III he’s involved in her smuggling ring and gets bested in a knife fight by her new beau Escamillo, the toreador. After being bested he tries to stab Escamillo in the back.

In Act IV he finally kills her. This last bit got the Opera Comique crowd worked up. The Opera Comique in Paris on March 3, 1875. It was an adaptation of an 1845 novel of the same title by Prosper Merimee.

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In Act IV he finally kills her. This last bit got the Opera Comique crowd worked up. The Opera Comique in Paris on March 3, 1875. It was an adaptation of an 1845 novel of the same title by Prosper Merimee.
Silvers Strings Concert Enjoy classical chamber music performed by Marilyn Thomas (violin), Janet Mathews (viola), Evelyn Mier (cello), and David Matthews (string bass). 6:19-682-3275. Saturday, March 20, 3pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

Smetana Piano Trio ArtPower series continues when trio performs Beethoven’s “Trio No. 4 in B flat major” (Gassenhauer), the Brahms “Piano Trio No. 3 in C minor” and Schumann’s “Piano Trio in G minor.” 8:53-544-8977. Saturday, March 19, 3pm; $5. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, 405 10th Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

The Secret Garden Duo EUphora performs sacred and secular music of early baroque from Ireland and England in “glory of springtime” for Concert Hour series. Duo includes soprano Amy White, Dominick Schaner on theorbo. 6:70-744-1150 2237. Thursday, March 17, 12:30pm; free. Palomar College Performing Arts Lab (room D-10), 1140 West Mission Road. (PALOMAR COLLEGE)

“2011 International UFO Conference in Review” UFOnaut researchers Wil Wakely and Rob Baldwin address MUONI (Mutual UFO Network) conference held last year in San Diego. 6:70-753-2456, Sunday, March 20, 6pm; free. Sizzler, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Coping with the Chaos in Our Lives” Community Alliance for Healthy Minds hosts fifth and final “Conversations” Dialogue breakup sessions. Keynote speaker Sara Gilman presents “Transforming Stress: Your Heart is the Answer.” Resource and Arts Fair includes over 30 organizations for mental health and suicide prevention, artisans displaying and selling their work, Suggested donation $20 per family (no one turned away for lack of funds). 8:58-395-3950. Saturday, March 19, 8:30am to 10 and 11am. Alvarado Community Center, 12540 Glen Oak Road. (PONVAY)

“Cyberliberties and New Social Movements” Patrick Burkart, Texas A&M University associate professor in Department of Mass Communication, examines emergent and convergent markets for communication that divulge personal information. 6:639-721-5951. Monday, March 21, 6pm; free. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Silver Strings Concert” Enjoy classical chamber music performed by Marilyn Thomas (violin), Janet Mathews (viola), Evelyn Mier (cello), and David Matthews (string bass). 6:19-682-3275. Saturday, March 20, 3pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

“Caring for Loved Ones with Dementia” Licensed marriage and family therapist Dawn Loebzatz leads series of five classes designed specifically for caregivers. Topics include neuropsychological and psychological perception of a caregiver, stress management, nutrition, more. Reservations: 8:50-727-4777. Thursday, March 17, 6pm; Saturday, March 19, 9am; Monday, March 21, 6pm; free. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 950 Alcalá Park. (LA JOLLA)

“Explore Your Inner Geek” Recovering English major-turned-science writer Jennifer Ouellette and Caltech theoretical physicist Sean Carroll discuss “the intersection of science, the media, and the public sphere” for San Diego Science Festival. 8:58-823-4470. Sunday, March 20, 2pm; free. Groovy Like a Movie, 5205 Kearny Villa Way. (KEARNY MESA)

“Is San Diego Ready for Climate Change?” What will it be like to live, work, play in San Diego region in 2050? Tijuana Estuary Speaker Series continues when David Engel of San Diego Foundation examines projected future of climate change, its chief causes, why and how much sea levels will rise, how sea level rise is likely to affect SD area and its marshes. 6:619-575-3613. Saturday, March 19, 10am; free. Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

“Pet Dental Issues” Your pet’s dental condition may affect its overall health. Learn about forms of oral disease from Dr. Brook Nietz. DVM during class for people only. Registration: 6:619-243-3424. Thursday, March 17, 6:30pm; $12. San Diego Humane Society and SPA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LA JOLLA)

“Music to Hear” Masterworks Chorale and Chamber Chorus perform chamber and choral music including the playful melodies of Mozart, the lush harmonies of Brahms, and contemporary settings of Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing” in Concert Hall building 2400. 760-795-6815. Saturday, March 19, 7:30pm; $8-$10. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

“Piano Four Hands” Selections by Beethoven, Bech, Barber, Piazzolla, Liszt performed by Ronald Morebello and Vera Rathke for Five Finger Keyboards concert series. Reception follows. Donations: 8:58-538-1858 Sunday, March 20, 2:30pm; Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Silver Screen Onstage” California Quartet joined by Benjamin Lalich (clarinet) to perform Korngold’s “Cello Concerto,” “Conversations” by Bruce Broughton, “Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind” by Osvaldo Golijov during Connections Chamber Music Series concert. 760-753-7176. Saturday, March 19, 2pm, $10. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

The Magic Flute Ensenada Chamber Orchestra and River- side Lyric Opera present concert version of Mozart’s opera. 011-52-664-149-0522. Friday, March 18, 8pm; $20-$30. Riviera del Pacifico, Boulevard Costero at Avenida Riviera. (Baja)

Andre Watts The celebrated pianist performs an all Liszt program for La Jolla Music Society. 8:58-459-3728. Friday, March 18, 8pm; $55-$75. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Organ Concert Steven Gray presents recital “ranging from the intricate counterpoint of Bach, the beautiful melodies of Mendelssohn, to the thrilling ‘Sonata Erosca’ of Joseph Jongen.” Recital includes some contemporary stylings of more recent organ music. 760-727-1369 Sunday, March 20, 4pm; San Marcos Lutheran Church, 3419 Grand Avenue. (SAN MARCOS)

Organ and Orchestra Concert Organist Robert Plimpton premieres Robert Eloeme’s “Concerto for Organ” with Grossmont Symphony. Plimpton will also perform organ works by Widor, Messe de Requiem. 6:619-297-4366. Friday, March 18, 7:30pm; free.$15. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Cami- no del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)
Yelp or Whisper

The frame became a spillway for the energy of forms painted on the panel.

I’m sitting on a bench in the San Diego Museum of Art, which has just opened an exhibition by the British painter Howard Hodgkin. Pretty quiet here, only four other warm bodies, one of them belonging to a guard. Quiet but for the colors thundering off the walls. I’m scrawling notes on what I’m seeing. It’s my process: to work up a body of notes on location then later sort and synthesize. A woman seems to be reorienting my bench and, finally, shyly, approaches to say she has a question, if I don’t mind. “Why does he always paint on wood?” A good and right question, I think. I’ll have to get around to that in my column, and I will.

The 1930s were auspicious years for British painting. Frank Auerbach, born in 1931, made meaty, thapsodic portraits and landscapes that were a thrilling alternative to the soiled fleshiness of the slightly senior Lucian Freud. Euan Uglow, whose pinched, dry, geometrically restrained figures in interiors restored the rigors of drawing to colorist wildness, was born in 1932, as was Howard Hodgkin, whose work of the past decade is rauschously on view in Balboa Park.

Raised in a cultured professional family — the lymphoma is named after the scientist brother of Howard’s great-great-grandfather — Hodgkin was a prodigy and decided to become an artist when he was just a child. He never finished high school but at age 17 made a wickedly astute painting of a square-jawed, vaguely lecherous psychiatrist and a recumbent female patient so comically long that her legs (they look like talons) hang over the arm of the analyst’s couch as if she’s already outgrowing her treatment. The flat and blocky magenta, ochre, and yellow color scheme suggests the creepy interpersonal dynamics of psychoanalytic intimacy.

In his 20s and 30s, Hodgkin established subjects he’d address throughout his career: personal and interpersonal dynamics of psychoanalytic intimacy. Through the 1980s there are often recognizable “things” in the pictures — human figures, flowers, landscapes, boats, architectures. By the 1990s he was working mostly in rhapsodic monochromatic wipes and nebular paintball-ish explosions and admitted that he restricted himself to only a few kinds of marks. As his work entered the 21st Century, he was still testifying that even his most apparently abstract works were “representational pictures of emotional situations.” The pictures gathered in SDMA’s Howard Hodgkin: Time and Place, 2001–2010 are proof of that remark.

But I have to answer the woman who approached me in the museum. From the beginning, Hodgkin has painted almost exclusively on wood, usually unprimed, which provides grain and warps that he uses as compositional elements: they give the surface a rhythm that the paint can dance with or against. Wood doesn’t absorb color as linen and canvas do. Depending on how he’s handling the pigment, Hodgkin can jack up or retard the action. Whatever his subject, wood can encourage suppleness or resistance, buttery pliancy or cautious stiffness.

Back in the 1970s Hodgkin discovered a way to enhance his pictures’ already boisterous energy. He mounted wood panels in a frame — often worm-eaten and funereal, sometimes just four wood slabs — and used the entirety as his surface. A Hodgkin picture became a “painting site,” a locale where uncontainability is teased out, where exhilaration and restraint play off each other. The frame became a spillway for the energy of forms painted on the panel: the entire entity was an enactment of unconditional curiosity. (Sometimes it’s a dead zone, when delimited, but it’s never the subject, wood can encourage suppleness or resistance, buttery pliancy or cautious stiffness.) Hodgkin can jack up or retard the action. Whatever his subject, wood can encourage suppleness or resistance, buttery pliancy or cautious stiffness.

The exhibition features Hodgkin’s dialogue with the body and the natural order. (Sample titles: Sky, Snake, Ozone.) His work has a knocked-about plasticity. The resistant wood support makes the forms look pushed into existence and gives the paint an animal restlessness. His attack makes the images seem always in a hurry to get somewhere. It’s not impatience but energy, a fury almost, to find after years of deliberation and repainting just the right surge of marks to express a fullness of feeling. Blood, for instance, is a picture about circulation, and its colors course from a pinkish froth of bubbles to the seared, black redness of dried blood.

For Hodgkin, abstraction is always about the thrilling pressures and presence of physical reality. His pictures of weathers, locales, and people restore to us the immediacy of the physical world, its interweavings and veilings, its risings and fallings. He uses broad brushes to achieve very different effects. Twisty swathes of pigment, cresting and folding back on themselves or running across the surface like shredded ribbons, can yelp or whisper. Leaf looks like one swift looping brushstroke of hot vernal green, a pure lyric of spring’s intense brevity. Saturday assays blue-ness, its frivolity and melancholy, its...
secretiveness and celestial expanse. Damp Autumn’s muddy, animal-scat browns make it the dreariest lovely painting I’ve seen in a long time: dingy sky and ragged clouds, a windblown downpour, a curtain of drizzle falling on decayed leaves — an oppressive image, for sure, but in the startling clarity of its recognition of the grimmer end of seasonality, it wakens our attention. “If I could ever really succeed,” Hodgkin said in the 1970s, “I would paint pictures that were so direct, and in which the subject was so displayed, that each would be like a piece of fruit being handed to you on a plate.” Yellow Sky (2010) is like that. It depicts sunlight as a force rolling like a sea swell under an encroaching, obliterating darkness. The tail-ends of every rushing brush stroke dip or curl or fray like the uncertain continuities of weather patterns. You don’t have to represent the natural world figuratively in order to express its mutability.

The oddest pictures in the show, and the largest Hodgkin has ever made — he usually works on a small scale, but these measure nearly seven by nine feet — are four panels titled after verses from “Home, Home, on the Range.” (During the World War II, Hodgkin was sent to live in America for three years.) They’re witty, grand, and moody, each pitched to a particular visual effect. In the concluding panel, “And the Skies Are Not Cloudy All Day,” plump commas and streaming mini-comets, protozoic squirmers and darters, all green, amass in the picture’s upper half then separate and rain down into a diluted, liberating space that, thanks to the exposed wood grain, has its own streaked, plunging energies. Its nostalgic sobriety accommodates the actuality of the West’s open range spaces. I don’t know if Hodgkin has ever actually visited the American West, but that hardly matters. The imagining of the picture is Hodgkin’s most intimate encounter with his subject.

**Blood (1983)** is a picture about circulation, its colors course from a pinkish froth of bubbles to the seared, black redness of dried blood.

He takes a corny sentiment and urges it toward sublimity.

### GALLERIES

**“Art on the Hill”** Opening night for exhibit with 15 artists ushering in a full moon spring equinox. See art from Women’s Museum of California, Flying Panther Tattoo, Dennis Covey Gallery, Vicki Leon Glass Design. Music by DJ DJiDuck. 619-237-8098. Friday, March 18, 7pm; free. Art Union Building, 2323 Broadway, (GOLDEN HILL)

**“Inflorescence”** Reception for Rachel Byer’s senior exhibit, on view through Friday, March 25. 619-849-2200. Tuesday, March 22, 5pm; free. Keller Gallery at Point Loma Nazarene University, 3000 Lomaland Drive, (POINT LOMA)

**“Raw Sugar”** Opening reception for exhibition of work by Berenice Badillo, Stephanie Bedwell, Nuvia Cresol Guerra, Shanna Matuszak, Yajaira Villagomez, Nicole Wazak curated by San Diego Mesa College museum studies class. Closing reception: April 8. 619-299-4278. Saturday, March 19, 6pm; free. San Diego Art Department, 3830 Bay Street, (NORTH PARK)

**Juried Exhibition** Opening reception for exhibit of works in all media selected by jurors Steven Nossan, Michael Tulchin and Julie Weaverling of Front Porch Gallery, View exhibition through Sunday, May 8. 760-795-6120. Saturday, March 19, 12pm; free. Front Porch Gallery, 2903 Carlsbad Boulevard, (CARLSBAD)

### LECTURES


**“Who Is Benjamin Kyle?”** Forensic scientist, genealogist Colleen Fitzgerald plans “an update on the latest developments in the search for, and maybe discovery of, the identity of the amnesiac Benjamin Kyle” for North San Diego Genealogy Society. 858-509-4937. Tuesday, March 22, 10am; free. Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, (CARLSBAD)

**Your Trip Home to Ireland: Prepare to Meet Your Ancestors** Mary Cooper speaks for British Isles Group sponsored by San Diego Genealogical Society. Enjoy photographs, learn about “steps taken to meet the ancestors.” Visitors welcome. 760-476-9289. Thursday, March 17, 10:30am; free. LDS Family History Center, 1415 Camino del Rio South, (MISSION VALLEY)

### DECIDEDLY FUN

**Aquaponically Speaking** Water plant specialist Sue Spray considers “her successes in introducing aquaponics on a South Pacific Island” for MiraCosta College Horticulture Club meeting in student center building 3200. 760-904-2158. Saturday, March 19, 12:45pm; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive, (OCEANSIDE)


**Central Asia Travelogue** La Jolla Photographic Club gathers for slide program by Faye Gish on her independent trip to Central Asia in 2010. 858-456-2981. Monday, March 21, 7:30pm; free. Wesley Palms meeting hall, 2404 Loring Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Clicker for Cats** Teach your cat “some fun new behaviors” — like “sit” or “wave bye-bye” — during class. Imagine “an effective way to keep your cat off the kitchen counter.” Class for people only. Registration: 619-299-7012 x2247. Friday, March 25, 6pm; $30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)


### BOOK SIGNED

**Résumés and Cover Letters** Bring your résumé on a USB drive or in an e-mail for review, improvement by instructor. 858-573-1396. Friday, March 18, 1pm; free. 18 and up. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive, (KEARNY MESA)

**Seating Book Semiinars** Learn about safe boating from San Luis Rey Sail and Power Squadron. Different topics each week: “How to Read a Chart,” GPS, VHF, “On-Board Weather.” Nominal fee for each seminar. 760-729-6034. Tuesday, March 22, 6:30pm; $20-$30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

**See, Touch, Smell** Drought-tolerant plants such as salvias, California natives shine when landscape designer Doug Kalak showcases “30 Great Drought-Tolerant Plants for Your Garden.” 619-200-7066. Saturday, March 19, 11am; free. Bonita-Sunnyside Library, 4375 Bonita Road, (BONITA)

**Touch Some Natives** Landscape designer Doug Kalak focuses on “Thirty Great Drought-Tolerant Plants for Your Garden,” including California and Australian natives. 619-200-7066. Tuesday, March 22, 6pm; free. Tierrasanta Library, 4985 La Cuenta Drive. (TIERRASANTA)
Taco vs. Sandwich
Bentleys, Caddies, Hummers, trophy wives...you feel like you’re in a front-row seat of a show.

It’s amazing what you find when you’re cruisin’, jes’ cruisin’. Actually, I’m threading my way up through the Gaslamp toward the bus stop at Third and Broadway. But I may be open to a snack or a snack on the way. Sun’s setting, evening crowds starting to fill the streets. Don’t feel like leaving the buzz quite yet. Also, kind of curious as to what I can pick up that’s not going to rip the throat out of my wallet. I turn down K, heading west. Opposite the Hilton Gaslamp, I spot that big old brick building where the Rockin’ Baja Lobster is. Farther along a ramp that kind of goes aerial, a sign says “Ciné Café.” Oh, right. That used to be a movie-themed coffee lounge.

I head in. Guess the name stuck, though it now seems to be a place where cooks from the Hilton can come across and get themselves smokes or a sandwich. But not just cooks. Even now, hours since the lunch rush, the place is crowded. At least half seem to be buying sandwiches. Others, condo-foists, I’d say, are getting stuff like butter and A.1. Steak Sauce and shaving cream. Makes the place feel like a country store in the middle of town.

They have only two people working here—the sandwich-maker and the gal at the counter, Jasmine. She looks at me. I look at the menu boards up above. Lordy. Huge list. ‘Course, the sandwich I want most is the triple-decker, with three meats and three cheeses, for $8.50. But this is supposed to be a snack, right? They have double-deckers and club sandwiches for $7.50, from beef to pastrami, with lots of frills like double-deckers and club sandwiches for $7.50, three meats and three cheeses, for $8.50. But the sandwich I want most is the triple-decker, with three meats and three cheeses, for $8.50. But

When he brings it up to the counter from his sandwich-making board near the kitchen, he winks. “I gave you a whole one, to make up for the no wheat bread,” he says. Wow. A full. That’s above and beyond. I’m impressed.

I’m even more impressed when I take it and a small coffee ($1.50) to the deck outside. It’s slightly elevated here, where K Street drops down a little. They have tables, chairs, and a long, varnished plank you can put your drinks or elbows on. It is so cool to be able to look down at the goings-on of the Hilton’s valet parking guys below. How the other half lives. Bentleys, Caddies, Hummers, older guys, trophy wives. Up on the deck, you feel like you’re in a front-row seat of a show.

The guy at the next table also has a chicken-salad sandwich, but in a pita bread. “Wish I’d waited in line now,” he says, eying mine. Aha... he picked him from the ready-made sandwich cabinet. He’s right; I probably got the fresher deal. And I’m glad I got the rye bread. Adds tang. The chicken and salad are lush, but the salad doesn’t totally kill the vigorous flavors. Plenty of chicken, mayo, and some red onion to sting them along.

“This is really excellent,” I tell the guy, John. He’s just riddled down from North Park on his bike, for exercise. Twenty minutes. He couldn’t resist refueling before the long grind back up. He nods. “Where else can you get these prices in the Gaslamp?”

Well, maybe there are places: ten minutes later I’m back on the street, heading up Fifth, when I hear a voice straight out of a Charles Dickens novel, except, you know, not set in London. “Tacos! Tacos! Tacos three for five bucks. Tacos!”

I can’t resist heading over toward where this guy’s bouncing around a big arrow sign. Name’s Ernesto. “I used to be a punk rocker in the Bay Area,” he says. “Now, this sign is my guitar. I can say or sing anything here on the avenue. People like it. It brings them out of themselves for a moment or two.”

“But it is for real?” I ask him. “Three tacos for five bucks?”

“Right there,” he says, pointing up Island. The place is behind Cesar’s Cigar and Coffee Lounge. It has seating under a canopy, and an opening directly to the kitchen from the street. “Broken Border Bar & Grill,” reads the sign above. “We’re trying to celebrate our mixed culture here in San Diego,” says this big guy Bruce.

“We want to be a neighborhood place. That’s why we’ve kept the prices down. Most dishes are under ten bucks.”

What the heck? I take a seat, order one carne asada asada taco and a Coke (I’d take a beer but gotta work tonight). Two bucks per taco or, yes, three for $5. Corn tortilla. Pile of meat with onions, cilantro, and a good brown salsa. All on a solid plate. No polystyrene. Plus, there’s a whole menu, burritos to BBQ, $7–$10 range. Could even dine out with Carla at this rate. But for me, tonight, it’s four bucks total. In the Gaslamp, that’s no way bad.

So, huh. Two cheap Gaslamp choices within two blocks. Who would’ve believed it?

“Told you it was good,” says Ernesto when I return to his corner. “You coming back?”

“Sure,” I say. “But taco here versus sandwich on K? I see a lotta street-corner arguments ahead.”

The Place: Cîné Café, 412-420 K Street, downtown, 619-595-1929
Type of Food: American
Prices: Sandwiches from $4.50 (for peanut butter and jelly) to $5.50 for half standard sandwiches, to $6.50 for full standard sandwich (e.g. BLT), to $7.50 for specialty sandwiches (e.g. Philly cheese steak or meatball); soup and half sandwich, $6.50; double-decker sandwich (with turkey breast, honey ham), $7.50; triple-decker (with turkey breast, honey ham, roast beef), $8.50; goat cheese salad, $6 (with chicken breast slices, $7); Julian apple pie slice, $3.50
Hours: 6:00 a.m.–midnight (till 2:00 a.m., Friday–Saturday)
Buses: 3, 11, 901
Nearest Bus Stop: 6th and Market (3, 11), 10th and Park (901)
Trolley: Orange Line
Nearest Trolley Stop: Gaslamp

The Place: Broken Border Bar & Grill, 524 Island, downtown, 619-544-1524
Type of Food: Mexican
Prices: Tacos, $2.3 for $5; most items, including burritos, $8–$10
Hours: 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m., Sunday–Thursday; 10:00 a.m.–2:00 a.m., Friday–Saturday

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$5.50, she sighs.
I notice a guy ahead of me walking off with a decadent-looking, overstuffed sandwich. “What’s that?” I ask.
“Chicken salad,” Jasmine says.
“I’ll take it, but a half.”
Trung, the sandwich-maker, doesn’t have the wheat bread I asked for, so I settle for rye.

When he brings it up to the counter from his sandwich-making board near the kitchen, he winks. “I gave you a whole one, to make up for the no wheat bread,” he says.
Baja
From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.
Café Français La Belle Claude
7th Street #105, Tijuana. Best food stall in the marketplace? Maybe. Ask for carne de puerco (pork), chiles rellenos, bistec ranchero, or higado al gusto (liver), all around $3. Inexpensive.

Banker’s Hill
Banker’s Hill 2202 Fourth Ave., Banker’s Hill, 619-231-0222. Chief Carl Schroeder (of Market in Del Mar) ventures into a neighborhood restaurant — still “farm to fork” but simpler, with less-costly ingredients, less originality. The cosmopolitan comfort food meets an unexpectedly trendy ambiance — tables crowded cheek-to-jowl, hard chairs, a near din. Moderate.

Cardiff
Besta-Wan Pizza House 148 Aberdeen Dr., Cardiff, 760-753-8707. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Check for the big puzzle spaghetti or lasagna specials if you want to fill up. Inexpensive.

Carlsbad
Knockout Pizza 2595 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-434-4466. It’s New York pizza here. They make the pies with thin, crisp crusts and toppings like meatball or garlic. Maybe their best is the Bronx Special: pepperoni, sausage, onions, olives, mushrooms, pepper, and garlic. Inexpensive.

Coronado
Clayton’s Coffee Shop 979 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-5425. The food is all American: steak and eggs, veggie omelets, old-fashioned waffles, sandwiches both hot and cold. Dinner specials include pork chops and homemade meat loaf with gravy. Inexpensive.

Mistral 4000 Coronado Bay Rd., Coronado, 619-424-4000. French hotshot chef Patrick Ponsaty (El Biszoczo, Bernardo’s) is top toque at dreamy, view-endowed Mistral, creating beautiful dishes incorporating organic produce from the on-site gardens. Go for nightly specials, superb desserts. Fine service. Slightly expensive.

Peoche’s 1201 First St., Coronado, 619-437-4474. Fabulous seaside venue, silly with Hawaiian decor, featuring steaks and seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, sazzy Frangelico-touched macadamia beurre blanc. Expensive.

Del Mar
American 1436 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Casual breakfast/lunch, serious dinners, with flavors of the American melting pot and summer veggie from the chef’s home garden. Breakfast and lunch inexpen-
Khyber Pass 523 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-294-7579. Fascinating Afghan cuisine. Don’t miss the outstanding moshul (spring onion ravioli) and mantu (ground-meat ravioli) — both with lovely yogurt sauces — and samardal shad, a spicy lamb-and-spinach stew. Moderate.

Yakitori Yakudori 3739 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-692-4189. Yakitori are Japan’s little skewers of grilled or fried goodies, each marinated and/or garnished to flatter its nature — great for grazing. Chicken skin salad, fried tofu, skewered pork with shiso, chicken heart, and octopus fritters are among the standouts. Inexpensive to moderate.

Imperial Beach

Big Kahuna’s 800 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-5224. A mini chain, but with true Hawaiian roots. Go for the baseball-mitt size Big Kahuna Burger or the Killer KaHii pork sandwich — the pork comes straight out of the imu, the traditional Hawaiian underground oven. Inexpensive to moderate.

Kearny Mesa

Vietnamese Buffet Lunch (11-3) or dinner (5-9)

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Any one menu entrée of $6 or more. Limit 4 persons per coupon. Must present coupon at time of order. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Dine-in only through 3/31/11

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San Diego 92111
858-268-0068
See our coupon in this section.

Crab Hut 4646 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1678. A local Vietnamese family runs this friendly, bare-bones eatery, specializing in Louisiana-oid fried seafood and boiled seasoned shrimp, crabs, and crawfish. Inexpensive to moderate.

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Dr., Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. Argentine specialties feature healthy, grass-fed, grilled beef, including an Americanized version (minus organ meats) of the gauchos’ great parrillada mixta (mixed grill). Good beef empanada, potatoes. Moderate.

Sunrise Super Buffet 3860 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-716-1608. Apart from all the meats, fish, shellfish, lobster (on Sundays), and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, and dragon rolls, raw oysters in their shells are a big draw. Beverages included in price. Inexpensive.

Kensington-Talmadge


Sip & Savor: Shrimp Pairing Menu

Available nightly from 5 to 10 p.m.

Indulge in a three-course tasting menu featuring perfectly paired wines. In March, enjoy a Shrimp tasting menu. April brings a three-course Salmon menu.

Six for $6 Happy Hour

Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wind down your day with our Six for $6 Happy Hour! Choose from six appetizers and six drink specials — each only $6. Menu highlights include Steamed Black Mussels, Baja Fish Tacos, a Zesty Blood Orange Martini and the Margarita of the Day.

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Wednesdays, from 5 to 10 p.m.

Celebrate female winemakers with our special Divas that Drink night. Enjoy 50% off select bottles of wine from female winemakers every Wednesday night!

Sunday à la Carte Brunch

Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

La Jolla

The Cookie Lady Café and Bakery 7536 Fay Ave., La Jolla, 858-456-1840. It’s soup-and-sandwich land, and good in both departments. A half-and-half of turkey sandwich (with real house-roasted turkey) and Italian wedding soup will feed you all day for nearly nothing. Inexpensive.

Georges at the Cove — California Modern 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-444-4224. The California Modern dining room continues to serve Chef Trey Foshee’s ambitious California cuisine based on seasonal ingredients and emphasizing wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. Very expensive.

The Steakhouse at Azul 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-9614. The Briggslane chain’s upscale branch offers surf n’ turf with a sea view. Big, tender steaks, reliably well-treated seafood. Very expensive.

La Mesa
Antica Trattoria 5634 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, 866-463-9919. Exuberant Italian food in family-friendly atmosphere. NY erats will rejoice at cooking and hospitality to equal Manhattan favorites. Moderate (pastas) to slightly expensive.

GIO Bistro & Wine Bar 838- La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa, 866-462-9100. The vast garden patio is the main draw, however, this is just a wiry patio chairs. The hit-or-miss menu of eclectic Cal-Ita-Asian fusion offers “something for everyone” — but there’s no “there” there. High-moderate.

Lemon Grove

Logan Heights
Sister Pee Wee’s Soul Food 2971-1/2 Imperial Ave., Logan Heights, 619-236-0470. The menu depends on what Sister Pee Wee feels like cooking. You might find big pork ribs with soulful sides or fried chicken or catfish fillet with trimmings or chitlins (her specialty). Inexpensive.

Taste of Polynesia 6937 Federal Blvd., Lemon Grove, 619-466-6199. It’s Samoan here, not Hawaiian, so be prepared for new stuff, like muff pipi (roasted turkey tail), oki (raw cubes of yellowtail with coconut milk), and corned beef with taro. Inexpensive.

Fat City Steakhouse 2137 Pacific Hwy., Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco pink palace at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky flavor. Inexpensive to moderate.

Indigo Grill 1536 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-8802. Deborah Scott expands her original Native-American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spiced. Inexpensive to moderate, dinner moderate to expensive.

Pete’s Quality Meats 1742-1/2 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-1684. A flavor of line up for Italian-sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches, and especially filet — they rolled around cheeses, onions, tomatoes, pine nuts, currants, parsley, prosciutto, and bread crumbs. Inexpensive.

Puerto la Boca 2060 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-1684. Aflonadors line up for Italian-sausage sandwiches, steak sandwiches, and especially filet — they rolled around cheeses, onions, tomatoes, pine nuts, currants, parsley, prosciutto, and bread crumbs. Inexpensive.

Mira Mesa
Buo di Beppo 10749 Westview Parkway, Mira Mesa, 858-536-2822. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Downtown. Try penne arrabbiata with its spicy sausage or the chicken parmesan. Standard stuff to vast family-friendly quantities, but you’re having fun. Inexpensive to moderate.

Mission Beach

Mission Hills
Lucha Libre Gourmet Taco Shop 1810 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-296-8226. Wonderful shrine to Mexican wrestling, plus really excellent tacos. It’s a taco joint, but definitely go here. You will find some weird dishes. A must. Bosh 24 hours ahead and you can be seated in the Champions’ Booth, treated like a Rey.
What the Chef Eats by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

ARROZ CALDO
RECIPE BY CHEF EVAN CRUZ
Executive Chef, Pacifica Del Mar

For me, it’s a funny story. I was going to become a chiropractor. But when I was going to chiropractic school, I got into a car accident. I was stalked by chiropractors afterward. It didn’t seem to be medicine as much as business and I became disillusioned.

I wanted to be something where people would love to come visit me. One of the pleasures of being a chef is that when someone comes to the restaurant, I get to make sure they are happy. I get to nurture them.

Before my accident

I worked in a kitchen of a small hotel as a prep cook and I really liked it. So I decided to try out culinary school. I saved enough to go to the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and worked there in a restaurant.

When my mom got sick, I came back to San Diego to be closer to her and my family. Roy’s in La Jolla opened soon after and I was a line cook there, and after eight months, I became the executive chef. I stayed there for seven years. I left to become a private chef for a few years, and then Chris Iden [former executive chef, Pacifica] contacted me because he wanted to become general manager and needed a chef to replace him. Pacifica was the perfect fit for me.

When I’m not working, I cook for my girlfriend. Sometimes Paul McCabe [executive chef, L’Auberge] and I get together to BBQ and we talk about food. You know how doctors are the worst patients? Well, chefs are the worst eaters. We make carcasa asada or cheeseburgers. Sometimes we try to make something healthy. Once we tried to make our own tortillas. Sometimes we do a chefs’ potluck where everyone who comes brings a dish. We have posole. Or we’ll make arroz caldo. It’s a nice Filipino soup.

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4–6

4 fresh eggs
2 cups Japanese sticky white rice (can substitute short-grain Calrose rice)
1 whole free-range chicken, cut into eight pieces
4 cloves garlic (cut into slivers)

Method

1. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
2. Add eggs to a pot. Cover and let sit until the eggs are cooked.
3. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
4. Chop the eggs and place them into a serving bowl.

Sauce

1. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
2. Add eggs to a pot. Cover and let sit until the eggs are cooked.
3. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
4. Chop the eggs and place them into a serving bowl.

To serve

1. Serve the eggs over rice in a bowl.
2. Garnish with green onions, cilantro, and lime juice.
3. Serve with hot sauce on the side.

Challenge

1. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
2. Add eggs to a pot. Cover and let sit until the eggs are cooked.
3. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
4. Chop the eggs and place them into a serving bowl.

Winning

1. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
2. Add eggs to a pot. Cover and let sit until the eggs are cooked.
3. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
4. Chop the eggs and place them into a serving bowl.

Conclusion

1. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
2. Add eggs to a pot. Cover and let sit until the eggs are cooked.
3. Bring to a boil. When the water starts to boil, remove from heat.
4. Chop the eggs and place them into a serving bowl.

And the challenge of omelet #27. Inexpensive.

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

The Hungry Wolf 2211 Pacific Beach Drive (in Campion on the Bay), Pacific Beach, 858-581-4220. People seem to be happier here, at this town’s least-recognized vacation getaway. Big terrace, outside BBQ. Actually serves decent Texas ribs, plus fish and chips, salmon burgers, ice cream. JRDN 723 Felspar St, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5736. Beachfront champagne room and patio, with dishes covering the waterfront, ranging from mac ‘n cheese to die for to asexy, fried gnocchi to swoon over. Chic, relaxed.
What the Chef Eats

let sit for about 12 minutes. Rinse the eggs under cold water and peel off shells. Soak rice in water for 5 minutes, strain, and rinse rice until water runs clear and starch is completely out. Set washed rice aside. Wash chicken and pat dry. Cut into eight pieces: 2 thighs, 2 wings, 2 breasts, and 2 drumsticks. Reserve the carcass for stock or discard.

In a large pot on low heat, add sliced garlic and canola oil. Stir garlic until light brown. Be careful not to burn the garlic. Remove garlic from oil and dry on a paper towel. Add ginger and sauté until fragrant: about 30 seconds. Remove ginger and set aside. Brown chicken lightly in infused oil on both sides. Add extra oil if needed. Remove and set aside. Add shallots and rice to the remaining oil. Stir and sauté until rice is coated and lightly translucent.

Add chicken stock and saffron to the rice. Add ginger and chicken back to the pot.

Bring to a boil, then turn down to a simmer. Simmer until rice is cooked through and sticky. You might need to add a little more chicken stock to bring the soup to a desired consistency. Season with salt and pepper.

To finish: garnish with quartered egg, fried garlic, and finely chopped scallions.

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

San Marcos

Fish House Vera Cruz 361 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Also 417 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-434-8777. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu. The Manhattan chowder is tasty, as is their “krab” salad. Moderate.

Santa Ysabel

The Hideout Steakhouse and Saloon 27413 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, 760-782-3366. Colorful historic roadhouse draws Harley-riding weekend day-trippers. Cheesburgers are the default dish. Available are a “Texas-sized baked potato,” salad, and squash bread. Inexpensive to moderate.

Solana Beach

Beach Grass Café 159 S. Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0652. Also 1476 Encinitas Bl., Encinitas, 760-942-2741. Imaginative breakfasts are the specialty (reservations vital on weekends). Lunches and dinners feature uneven multilingual “coastal cuisine” with good veggies. Moderate to slightly expensive.

Tony’s Jacal 621 Valley Ave., Solana Beach, 858-735-2274. Try the La Colonia combination: just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big here, and the (real) crab quesadilla is delicious. Inexpensive.

Santa Ysabel

El Bizcocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8550. This deluxe resort restaurant features cutting-edge French and Asian (but not exactly fusion) dishes made with fresh, superb local ingredients, plus sweet potato and garlic fries. Inexpensive.

Rancho Santa Fe

Rancho Valencia 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, the French…actually, anyone with taste buds. Enjoy an entrée of Prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, or chicken. Very expensive.

San Diego

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

Latin Chef 1142 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-8810. Peruvian and Chinese-Persian cuisine cooked by a friendly native, including cœurtoasted corn kernels) to nibble instead of bread. Outstanding antuchos (heart kebabs) and refreshing ceviches.

Friendly owner gladly explains the food. Inexpensive.

Pine Valley

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

Rancho Bernardo

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Tierrasanta

Bud’s Louisiana Café 4320 Via Verano Drive, Tierrasanta, 858-579-2837. Authentic NOLA favorites cooked by a friendly native, including good okra gumbo and fine roast beef po boys — to eat in or to go. The white-chocolate bread pudding is a masterpiece. No reservations; no tables for more than six. Low moderate.

South Park

Mazara Pizza and Italian Deli 17650 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-8055. Mazara also has one of the biggest international beer selections in town. Good sandwiches in liquor store; comfy old-school trattoria dining next door. Moderate.

Station Tavern & Burgers 2204 Fern St., South Park, 858-355-8677. Uniquely family- and cool-cat-friendly place built on site of old Snippy’s Tavern. With inside and outside bar, long plank tables, giant sandpit for kids, dogs. Micro-beers are good, burgers excellent. Can’t miss with the (vegetarian) spicy black-bean burger plus sweet potato and garlic fries. Inexpensive.

Zinc Café & Market 132 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. Vegetarian menu offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant “pizzette” (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger are tasty, too. Inexpensive.
Critical Mass. "I know he recently reinvented himself by dropping the 'Young' and just going by 'Mass,'" says 40oz Chris of the San Diego rapper formerly known as Young Mass. Mass was recently arrested near Las Vegas for the second time in ten months. The 24-year-old was detained on January 27 for first-degree kidnapping, one count of using coercion and/or force, and a domestic violence charge of battery. All charges are pending investigation. The arrest stems from an incident involving a woman about "a million dollars" and "fighting like Rottweilers," while accepting an envelope stuffed with money. Lyrics include Mass rap-ping, "Had that ass screaming like I whipped it with a pistol, she hit me with the info, text me, 'Baby, I'm a nympho."

Mass — real name Derrick Lee Stanton, Jr. — was previously arrested in Las Vegas in early 2010, reportedly on a domestic issue and for giving false information to police. His current Nevada attorney, David Negrete, did not reply to requests for additional information. At this writing, Mass is being held at the Clark County Detention Center (where O.J. Simpson was booked in 2007) with a court date set for March 30. "We're all worried about this," says Chris. "He says he's innocent and is taking this case to trial."

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Weird Geometry**  "Build a quality studio, fill the place with outstanding musicians, and the market will come to you." This formula, hopes Jim Austin, will spell success for a new business venture he owns with Buckfast Superbee guitarist Timothy Joseph. The two entrepreneurs have put the finishing touches on a Mission Gorge–area recording studio they call Phaser Control. Phaser Control is part of Studio 350, a complex of 17 band practice rooms that opened last year. Able to comfortably house a five- or six-piece band, the main studio is an exercise in weird geometry. The ceiling curves up, and the walls meet at funhouse angles. It smells like new wood. The heavy studio doors feel like airlocks on a space craft. Inside, the very atmosphere is different. The studio cost a small fortune to build, but Austin, who owns a guest ranch in Pioneertown and plays upright bass in Big Blue Tractor and Brawley, won't say how much.

"The numbers didn't scare me," he says, "as long as it was gonna be done right."

To that end, he and Joseph hired Rod Gervais, a Connecticut-based audio designer and the author of Home Recording Studio: Build it Like the Pros. Gervais, says Austin, was a hard-ass about details. But, how the room would actually sound at the end of the six-month build was anybody's guess. "Gervais said you can't really tell if the room is going to work until you hear the first recording," says Joseph. So, does it work? Roland Ware thinks yes.

"I'mamped at the tones we were able to find in there." Ware is a veteran record producer, owns Rdub Recordings, and was the first to record a complete project at Phaser Control. For now Phaser Control is direct to digital. But first, vintage microphones funnel tones through the 1974 electronic in the console, says Joseph, enhance the raw sound.

For now, most of the paid recording business is filtering into the studio via the musicians who rent the practice rooms. Joseph says they get half off when they book recording time. Although he doesn't want to drop names, he says major music-business players who have seen Phaser Control have also shown interest in booking. But is it profitable? No, not yet. Joseph calls it a labor of love for now. We don't have to have the studio pumping all the time as a part of our business model," says Jim Austin. "The rentals pay the bills."

— Dave Good

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**A Round and Around.** Podunk Nowhere duo Heather and Johnny Janiga found out about Songwriters Acoustic Nights at a Gregory Page show. The Janigas were promptly invited to take seats at the monthly musicians’ gathering, which features the “Writers Round” format at Hedberg Hall in Hillcrest. The entertainment producer regales performers with “preshow patter” in the green room at the Swedenborgian Church, which is “dedicated to supporting spiritual growth through the arts, education, fellowship and service.”

Originally from Brooklyn,

(continued on page 82)
HOLLYWOOD LEGENDS AT HARRAH’S

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Mitch Feingold “auditions” potential performers online.

New York, Feingold says he discovered the “round” format in Nashville and cites organization of “14 hours of music for the La Jolla Art and Wine Festival in 2009 and 2010.”

When did you start Songwriters Acoustic Nights? “November of 2008. I’ve produced 40 of these shows, along with 12 Saturday concerts.”

How did you choose performers for the first few Songwriters Acoustic Nights? “I literally started by ‘auditioning’ performers online. I contacted the ones that I was interested in showcasing. Once I got it going, I added performers based on referrals from others that I thought were talented. They would send a link and I would audition them online. At this point, I have people handing me their CDs at events. I always listen to their music before I make a decision as to whether or not I book them.”

You use themes for some shows. What are some of them? “Generations, Women of Song, and Christmas — being Jewish, it was a natural for me.”

How does the writers’ round structure work? “There are three performers onstage. Each does one song per round. Other performers may harmonize or back up the one whose turn it is. We do four rounds per set and two sets per show. Typically it ends up being six performers doing a total of 24 songs.”

March 20, Songwriters Acoustic Nights at Swedenborg Hall — the Duet Show — will feature Amber Topo with Brad Carter, Rusty Jones with Tori Janaya, Sven-Erik Seablom with Brooke MacKintosh, and Podunk Nowhere.

— Mary Leary

Border City Soundtrack. In April 2009, film directors José Luis Figueroa and Sebastián Díaz asked singer-bassist Phil Beaumont of Little White Teeth to compose a score for Tijuaneados Anonymus: A Teardrop, A Smile. The documentary profiles a group of Tijuana residents meeting once a week to share personal experiences and challenges of living in the border city.

Shortly after the film’s release, Beaumont, drummer Yoko Sugiyama, violinist Matt Resovich, and guitarist Dmitri Dziensuwski played the score live during a screening at the Ambulante Film Festival in Tijuana.

“The performance was very successful,” writes Diaz, the film’s codirector and a member of visual arts collective Galatea Productions, in a March 7 email. “The Tijuana audience really enjoyed it, so we proposed the same for this year’s San Diego Latino Film Festival.” The band agreed, and on March 20, Little White Teeth, along with cello-player Kate MacWilliamson (Kill Me Tomorrow, Tender Buttons), will perform the score live during a screening at 3:30 p.m. at Hazard Center in Mission Valley. Performing the movie’s soundtrack to an audience does present some challenges, says Beaumont. “We had to set up a computer with a time code to let us know when to start and what scene is coming up next.”

Díaz and Figueroa have more plans for Little White Teeth. In January, the band wrote three songs for the soundtrack of Galatea’s newest documentary, Tierra Brillante (Brilliant Soil), a filmchroniclingthe dangers of lead poisoning in traditional Mexican pottery and one woman’s attempt at changing the tradition.

“[Beaumont’s] music evokes those feelings that we are looking for,” writes Diaz. “We like how [the band] is able to capture the emotions of the characters and transform it to music.”

— Dorian Hargrove

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San Diego Reader, March 17, 2011 83
Thursday 17

Break Free Your Mind, Aussie psych-rock act Matt Sonic & the High Times will shred through Soda Bar with Joy... Sonic et al. are on their first-ever U.S. tour and bring a down-and-dirty desert-rock aesthetic that describes “the missing link between Hawkwind and Queens of the Stone Age.” Space Nature is also on the bill... A block and a half to the left, “Cool Bus” stop eleven will kick off its inaugural Whiskey Weekend... uncorking some damn fine rocket fuels. You can swill some back with Irish punks the Downs Family and country-fried rockers Mark Stuart & the Bastard Sons... There’s more country skrunks getting drunk down at Casbah as Bastard Sons and country-fried rockers... and that crazy-uber-ska-quintet Ghettoblaster... for a four-way flipout of Watusis, ex-Atoms the Jungle Fever, and the Ronnie Strychnine DJs spinning “round sets. Never heard/heard of the Amandas, but there’s a real who’s who of players and personali- ties in this 60’s styled “soulful R&B” band. Check it: sandiegoreader.com/bands/amandas/... Eddie Money (nee Mahoney) cashes in his two tickets to paradise at Ramona Mainstage. The 80’s radio staple wrote some keepers (“Shakin’,” “Think I’m in Love,” and the Ronnie Spector-backed “Take Me Home Tonight”) and is enjoying some of that decade’s resurgence. I heard “Two Tickets” backing my kid’s skate video and thought, That actually works...

Friday 18

Hardcore returns to Ché Cafe... Betrayed, Praise, and Fell to Low. Betrayed is a sorta resemblance of Seattle straight-edge crew Champion, featuring the Champs’ singer-guitarist Aram Arslanian and Todd Prebowski on drums. Their Equal Vision full-length Substance smacks of 80’s forebear Minor Threat and Dag Nasty. If you need localcore... Improv! You like your noodling al dente? Technical sextet Umphrey’s McGee will visit House of Blues Friday night. The Chicago troupe is touring in support of last year’s SCI Fidelity release Mud不满... Dizzy’s downtown does In Motion Trio +2 for those of you who like to boogaloo. IMTPF are kids on the cutting edge of jazz-funk alchemy, doling dub chops for all ages. Take a taste from The Barefoot Race for a primer (myspace.com/inmotiontrio) and then dust off your dance kicks... Want some watery domestics? Joey Harris and the Mentals escape to Bar Pink with Spare Parts for Broken Heart.

Saturday 19

They’re coming to surf our beaches and pet our dogs, Sacto bad boys Boats! dock at Tin Can Ale House Saturday night behind Miss Liss Piss and her Lumps, ex-Atoms the Watusis, and that crazy-making Jungle Fever for a four-way flipout of punk & power-pop... “Underground Railroad to Candyland” spends much of their time sleying orcs and goblins in the L.A. basin and along the 110 and 5 Freeways. The San Pedro garage-pop four-piece pulls into Tower Bar for an early set Saturday (4p). Their debut Bird Rounds is still stuck in the truck’s carousel. Then stick around Tower because later on it’ll be Tower Prom with the Amandas, Thee Nottinghams, with Thee Styrchnine DJs spinning “round sets. Never heard/heard of the Amandas, but there’s a real who’s who of players and personali- ties in this 60’s styled “soulful R&B” band. Check it: sandiegoreader.com/bands/amandas/... Eddie Money (nee Mahoney) cashes in his two tickets to paradise at Ramona Mainstage. The 80’s radio staple wrote some keepers (“Shakin’,” “Think I’m in Love,” and the Ronnie Spector-backed “Take Me Home Tonight”) and is enjoying some of that decade’s resurgence. I heard “Two Tickets” backing my kid’s skate video and thought, That actually works...

Sunday 20

Devo is not part of the 80’s resurgence. Devo is, was, and always will be the geekiest, cheesiest synthrock outfit out there. And do I mean “out there.” If you or someone you love needs a primer, jack ‘em into last year’s “radi-cal remedies” Something for Everybody. See you on the dance floor when the Akin quartet takes the stage at Bell Up with Austin-based tourmates and Devo devotees the Octopus Project. Btw: $555... Chi-town all-pop act the Smoking Potes put up a sweet comp last year called It’s Been A Long Day (1991-1998). (My college years.) The four-piece will preview brand-spanking-new stuff from this year’s This Is Only A Test at Casbah with Santa Rosa’s New Trust... Else: the Joshua White Quartet will explore the music of Monk at Dizzy’s Underground Railroad for a four-way flipout of Watusis, ex-Atoms the Jungle Fever, and the Ronnie Strychnine DJs spinning “round sets. Never heard/heard of the Amandas, but there’s a real who’s who of players and personali- ties in this 60’s styled “soulful R&B” band. Check it: sandiegoreader.com/bands/amandas/... Eddie Money (nee Mahoney) cashes in his two tickets to paradise at Ramona Mainstage. The 80’s radio staple wrote some keepers (“Shakin’,” “Think I’m in Love,” and the Ronnie Spector-backed “Take Me Home Tonight”) and is enjoying some of that decade’s resurgence. I heard “Two Tickets” backing my kid’s skate video and thought, That actually works...

Tuesday 22

Some stages Girl Talk Tuesday night with Junk Culture and Max Tundra. Girl Talk is Pittsburgh native Gregg Michael Gillis, a producer known for his mashups and digi samples of other artists’ songs. Him and his laptop are touring in support of All Day, out now on — huh — Illegal Art records.... Folk-rock duo Wye Oak will visit their new one, Civilian, on Casbah. The Baltimore band’s name is a reference to the unofficial state tree of Maryland, the largest white oak tree in the U.S., which grew and grew and grew in the town of Wye Mills. Nobody knows where it is now... Ed Kowalczyk (the bald dude from the band Live) will play Anthro- pology. He’s got a solo record out on Sony called Alive... From Seattle, psych-pop quartet Black Whales drift into Ruby Room. I’ve been rocking their stuff as I type: myspace.com/blackwhales. Like-minded locals Primitive Noyes will set the Hillcrest stage.

Wednesday 23

Young blood. Austin, Texans the Strange Boys will play the set to get to this week at Bar Pink. These kids ride a wide berth from 60’s folk rambles to psychedelic country grooves. Pick up last year’s Rough Trade debut Be Brave and get Strange.

News 16

Ramshackle Nashville trio Natural Child and local faves the Kabbas will set it all up with greasy slabs of garage punk... Best of the rest has uke virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro at Anthology... post-rock five-piece Appleseed Cast at Casbah... and Soda Bar cracks some Dom. Dom is from my hometown of Worcester, Mass. He writes hockey stadium anthems about his cat, Chowdahead.

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Weekend Rock Stars

“They were closing up while we were playing ‘You Shook Me All Night Long.’”

Riff tide is a Chula Vista–based classic-rock cover band. The members met on Facebook and formed the band in March of 2010. Their day jobs include construction manager and brewmaster. Plus one stay-at-home mom.

Jill Harvey is Riff tide’s singer. Dave Inumerable sings and plays keyboards and guitar. Joe Loera is the drummer, Paul Segura plays lead and rhythm guitar, and the bassist is Blake Scott.

The band has regular engagements at the Brewhouse at Eastlake, the Galley at the Marina in Chula Vista, and Tio Leo’s in Linda Vista (where they perform Friday, April 1). Jill passed along the band’s collective answers to our questions.

DOES THE DANCE FLOOR DICTATE WHAT MATERIAL A COVER BAND CAN PERFORM?

“It is really cool when people are up dancing in front of us and singing along to the songs as we’re playing them. We feed off that energy. However, that doesn’t really dictate what we play.”

WHAT IS ONE FAIL-SAFE SONG IN YOUR ARSENAL THAT GETS PEOPLE DANCING EVERY TIME?

“A few songs meet the criteria: ‘Brown Eyed Girl,’ ‘La Bamba,’ ‘Twist and Shout,’ and ‘Oye Como Va.’”

ANY SONGS THAT WILL CLEAR A DANCE FLOOR?

“There are, and we drop them from our set list accordingly. Sometimes it’s a little sad, because a great song is not always a great dance song. Elvis Costello’s ‘Alison’ is a perfect example.”

IS IT FRUSTRATING NOT PLAYING ORIGINALS?

“We’re having such a good time that it really isn’t an issue. A couple of us write, and we have one or two songs we’ll probably start working on soon to add to the set list. We’ll get there, but it’s not really why people come to party with us.”

EVERY SUBURBAN COVER BAND WITNESSES ITS SHARE OF CRAZINESS. ANY STORIES?

“Let’s just say that some people lose inhibition when they get some drinks in them, and the mood is right. We only ask that people be safe driving home. And that they not hold us responsible for who they might wake up next to in the morning.”

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT A RIFF TIDE GIG?

“We had a successful marriage proposal during one of our shows.”

DID THEY ASK YOU TO PLAY AT THEIR WEDDING?

“Now that you mention it, no!”

FAVORITE MUSICAL ERA?

“Although we play some pretty recent stuff like Pink, Garbage, Lady Antebellum, and Amy Winehouse, it’s probably safe to say that our era is the ’80s. But we really don’t let that define us. We play party songs from the ’60s through today.”

WHAT MATERIAL A COVER BAND CAN PERFORM?

“Every one of our shows.”

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF JUGGLING A JOB AND A FAMILY WITH PLAYING OUT LATE IN A WEEKEND CLUB BAND?

“Our first rule is that family always comes first. Fortunately for most of us, our kids are a little older and don’t want to be around us anymore. This affords us the time to be weekend rock stars.”

FIVE CDS EVERYONE SHOULD OWN?

1. The Beatles 1
2. Santana, Abraxas
3. AC/DC, Back in Black
4. Madonna, Immaculate Collection
5. Eric Clapton, Crossroads

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**APR 14**

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**MAY 12**

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By William Crain

My uncle Thad lives in a small town in western Kentucky. A few years ago, he was looking for videos online and came across what was then the most popular clip on YouTube: a rendition of George Harrison’s “While My Guitar Gently Weeps,” performed on solo ukulele. At first, Thad thought this must be a joke, but he watched the video and was awestruck. He sent me an e-mail telling me to watch the clip. “Your life will be forever changed for the better...any thoughts you might have tiptoeing through the tulips will be forever dissipated, and you will have newfound ability...”

Thursday — Downs Family and Mark Stuart & the Bastard Sons. Irish punk & country-fried rock.


Friday — The Irving Street Band. Bluegrass. $20.


Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891. Thursday, 7:30pm — Kevin Mahogany. Jazz vocalist.

Tuesday — Mindi Abair. Jazz based jazz. $12.


Friday, 8:30pm — A Scribe Amidst the Lions. Alternative/ experimental/rock.

Saturday, 8:30pm — The Creepy Creeps. Garage/surf/punk. Sunday, 8:30pm — The Appleseed Cast. Emo/rock. $10-$12.

Café: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311. Friday — Betrayed, Praise, and Fell to Low. Hardcore.

Dizzy’s: Second Avenue & J St., Downtown, 858-270-7467. Friday, 8pm — In Motion Trio +2. Afro beat/hip-hop/jazz. $10.

Saturday, 8pm — The Irving Flores Latin Jazz Quartet. Brazilian jazz quartet. $10-$15.


Fell to Low. Hardcore.


The Untouchables. Motown/dance. $12.

Friday — Ristband. Blues/blues/rock. $20.

Irish punk & country-fried rock.

Johnny Cash tribute band. $15.

Monday — Snoop Dogg. Pop/rock. $5.

Wednesday — Ristband. Blues/ soul/rock. $5.


San Diego Reader March 17, 2011
FEATURED ARTISTS

3/17
Jazz Vocalist
Kevin Mahogany

3/18
Blues Rock
Jimmy Thackery &
The Drivers

3/19
Jazz Saxophonist
Mindi Abair

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3/22
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Live’s
Ed Kowalczyk

$10 General Admission TIX
TIX GOING FAST

3/24, 25
Latin Jazz
Poncho Sanchez

3/26, 27
Soul/R&B
Ashford &
Simpson

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3/20
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OneNote

BY DAVE GOOD

If there were a rock-and-roll Hall of Fame for locals only, Joey Harris would be in it. The Beat Farmers is as good a place to begin the story. The band was founded in the ’80s by Jerry Raney, Rollie Love, Buddy Blue, and Country Dick Montana, and when Blue dropped out, Harris stepped in. His writing and singing catalyzed the group and helped nudge them into the national spotlight. They had a long, successful run and would likely still be around today had Country Dick not died suddenly. “After the Beat Farmers, I wanted to get right back into it,” says Harris. He calls 1995 to 2000 his low years. “I tried to keep the party going, and I burned bridges all over the place.” He’s okay now. “I’m very sober — not completely sober, but very sober, which is pretty damned sober. Especially for me.”

These days Harris keeps busy with a rockabilly-ish side project with Mudsharks’ Scottie Blinn and Tom Essa called Slim & the Crowbars. He also makes guest appearances onstage and in the studio with area bands like alt-country Tomado Magnets. And there is his main group, Joey Harris & the Mentals, with Mighty Joe Longa, Jef Kmak, and Josh Mader.

The Mentals are the core membership of the long-gone Powerthud, a post-Beat Farmers band that at one time featured the twin-guitar magic of Harris and Raney. “I have deep respect for him,” Harris says of Raney. After Powerthud, Harris went on to a concept band he called the Joey Show before starting the Mentals. “The more time passes, the more I appreciate good, solid, crazy rock and roll. And that’s what this is. It’s more fun now than it has ever been.”

SPARE PARTS FOR BROKEN HEARTS ALSO PERFORMS.

JOEY HARRIS & THE MENTALS: Bar Pink, Friday, March 18, 10 p.m. 619-664-7194.
EVERYONE’S A CRITIC

Critical Beatdown at Kava Lounge
By Quan Vu
Walking into Kava Lounge for Critical Beatdown, a new monthly series dedicated to the burgeoning beat scene, you immediately notice two things out of place. First, it’s packed, which doesn’t happen in San Diego for anything hip-hop-ish. But that night, shifting your weight the wrong way could have had you brushing up against the cardigan of a cute college girl. Which is the second thing: the crowd looks like college students instead of the dudes in hoodies that usually dominate at hip-hop shows. It makes you wonder how many audience members are here because this L.A.-born beat scene is “it” among the college crowd these days.

Whatever. It’s packed and that’s good. You can feel the energy of the crowd bumping you around. SD’s DJ Pound breaks down records into glitchy grooves. Deep Rooted’s Mr. Brady oozes bass through speakers like saliva through fangs. Mike Gao mixes a set through his self-made iPad program. And the crowd gets down.

When Tokimonsta enters, she possesses the energy, kick, and technical trickery of Pound, Brady, and Gao. But she glues it together with enough soul to bring you to the brink of tears. Plus she has the savvy to know when to drop classics like “Shimmy Shimmy Ya.” The audience cheers at her every blip, beep, blend, bend, and breath. The beat scene might turn out to be a fad, but the excitement has me hoping it’s not.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Kiss Each Other Clean
Iron & Wine
By Brett Uddenberg
Sam Beam, the heavily bearded indie virtuoso better known as Iron & Wine, has mastered the craft of the beautiful sad song. His folky songs tell withered tales of loss and longing. Carrying these songs out of the misery on Beam’s most eclectic album to date, Kiss Each Other Clean, is his haunting, pristine wall, reminiscent of My Morning Jacket’s Jim James.

When lead single “Walking Far From Home” was released in November of last year as part of Record Store Day, it became clear that Beam was after something sonically new (for him) with this release. The second single “Tree by the River” imbues a warm melancholy on the listener with its gentle acoustic riffs and dry cadence. Beam employs the thumb piano on psychedelic epic “Rabbit Will Run.” And jazz and funk show up to the party on “Big Burned Hand.”

There’s not a weak song in the collection, a ten-track testament to Iron & Wine’s growth into one of this generation’s finest singer-songwriters.

Up to $100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic

Kava Lounge
9pm • Motown & Dance

Critical Beatdown
9pm • hip-hop & electronic

April 30 — Iration
May 5 — The Skatalites and the B-Side Players
May 6 — The Robert Cray Band
May 7 — Raveonettes
May 8 — The B-52s
May 9 — Midnite
May 11 — Mogwai
May 14 — Thunder Road
May 16 — Black Angels
May 17 — Citizen Cope
May 19 — Gipsy Kings
May 22 — Les Nubians

Excludes holidays and concert nights.

www.humphreysbackstage.com
Matt Parker: “The first thing I thought of was a haunted mansion.”

More information about these establishments can be found online at SDReader.com/dinks.

Emilianos Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select wines, $4 domestic & Mexican pints, $5 domestic beer bottles & wells.

ALPINE
Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.75 wells, house wine, $4.75 calls.

BAY PARK
Offshore: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic beers, $3 sangria, well and micro imports, $5 Tommy Bahama mojitos.

BELLEFLUE: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, happy hour wine, well highballs.

CARMEL VALLEY
Arterra: Daily, 4-8pm: $3 macks, $10 grilled calamari, $5 premium drafts, $6 Arterra wines, $7 specialty signature collection.

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas & well drinks.

Diamond Jim’s: Monday, Wednesday, all night: $3 lager shots, $4 lager blasters, $5 margaritas. Tuesday, 8pm-close: Tequila Tuesday: $5 Cabo Wabo shots, $3 Hornitos shots and well drinks, $2 Cuervo shots and domestic pints. Thursday-Saturday, all night: $5 margaritas. Sunday, all night: $2 Cuervo shots, $3 Hornitos shots, $5 margaritas.

Clark Bar, 4246 University Ave.

Built in 1927 as San Diego’s second Bank of America, the building at the corner of University and Van Dyke in City Heights changed over from Nancy’s Pub to Black Cat Bar last month. High ceilings and tall windows evince the structure’s origins. The vault now functions as a storage room.

The Black Cat shares its name with an old San Francisco hangout once popular with the gay community, bohemians, and beatniks, but owner Matt Parker says his inspiration came from the name of the Pinewood Derby car he made with his grandpa as a Boy Scout, his penchant for spooky decor, and a café in a W.C. Fields film.

“My girlfriend and I are really into Halloween and Disney,” says the Lancaster native, who spent a café in a W.C. Fields film.

The intimate drinking hole was a haunted mansion.”

nancy’s Pub to

Achiote Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one drinks.

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

Black Angus: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

Blue Haven: Monday, 2pm-close: $2 domestic beer bottles & wells.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm: $2.50 domestic bottles, $2.75 wells (short), $3.25 wells (tall).

Oggi’s Pizza & Brewing Co.: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm, 9-11pm: $1 beer, mixed drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

CITY HEIGHTS
The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

CAHOO VISTA
Achiote Restaurant: Daily, 4-7pm: Two-for-one drinks.

Anthony’s Fish Grotto: Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

Black Angus: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, house wine, margaritas, appetizers.

Blue Haven: Daily, 2pm-close: $2 domestic beer bottles & wells.

CLAREMON
Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, Bud draft.
Happy Hour

Lotus Thai

Daily, 5-7pm: $3 all drafts, $5 select wines, large Singhya beer, all Han Soju cocktails. $5 traditional Thai appetizers.

Phi Bistro

Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $5 domestic beer bottles, wells, select wines. Sunday, all day: $4 bloody marys, mimosas, tequila shots.

El Cajon

Blarney Stone Pub

EL CAJON

Saturday

Main Tap Tavern

5-8pm: $4 domestic bottle beers, wells, $2 beef & rib bones. Wine steals: $3 sangria. Doggy happy hour: 3-5pm: $2.50 domestic pints.

Mafia Brothers Ent.

All Han Soju cocktails.

La Jolla

Bangkok Thai Bistro

$2 domestic bottles.

Main Tap Tavern

Thursday, 11am-7pm: $3 big-ass domestic pints. 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar menu.

Tio Leo’s

4pm: $1 tacos.

La Jolla Brew House

Monday-Friday, Sunday, 11am-7pm: $2 all domestic drafts & drafts; $3 domestic bottles.

The Shores Restaurant

Monday-Friday, Saturday-Sunday, 10am-6pm: $2.50 wells, drafts, domestic pints. $5 imported drafts.

The Wilson St Public House

Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 grilled chicken, domestic pints. 4-8pm: $1 off 16-oz. drafts, $2 off pitchers, $3 calls. $5 nachos.

The Broken Piñata

Tuesday-Friday, 4pm-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wells. $1 off wine by the glass.

The Caliph

Daily, noon-7pm: $4 wells, $3 domestic bottles.

Lotus Thai

Daily, 5-7pm: $3 all drafts, $5 select wines, large Singhya beer, all Han Soju cocktails. $5 traditional Thai appetizers.

Ruby Room

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7-8pm: $1 wells. Thursday, 7-8pm: $1 drafts. Friday-Sunday, 6-9pm: $3 wells.

Bull and Bar Bear and Grill

Monday-Friday, 4pm: $2 Bud/Bud Light; $3.50 wells, Bull & Bear wine.

Clay’s La Jolla

Daily, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 sangria, $6 house wine.

Extreme Pizza

Daily, 6-3pm: $3 premium beers.

Jose’s La Jolla

Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 margaritas, $2 off appetizers.

Kraft Brewing Company

Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beer.

La Jolla Brew House

Monday-Friday, 3pm: $3 wells, house drafts. $4 house wine. $5 premiums.

Lupi Italian Restaurant

Monday-Friday, Sunday, 11am-7pm: $3-$5 martinis, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.

The Melting Pot

Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off cheese fondue, salads, chocolate fondue.

Roppungi

Daily, 3-6pm: 1/2-off Asian tapas & sushi rolls.

The Kensington Club

Daily, 10am-6pm: $2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

Kensington Vine

Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 off domestic drafts & drafts. Saturday, 4-6pm: 5 for $5 Happy Hour menu, $5 appetizers & $5 drinks for $5 each.

La Mesa

Charcoal House

Daily, 11-7pm: $7.50 off all drinks, $1 off all appetizers.

Chico Club

Daily, all day: $3 bag & beer ($3.25).

Hoff’s Cigar Bar

Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm: $2 off all beer, $1 off wine. Sunday, 1-7pm: $2 off all beer, $1 off wine.

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery

Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off wine by the glass.

Lakeside

Coo Coo Club

Monday-Friday, 6-8pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

Lemon Grove

Dirk’s Nightclub

Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $3.50 off $4 drinks, $0.50 off domestic drafts & drafts. Sunday, 4-6pm: $1 off bloody marys.

Leucadia

Bar Leucadian

Daily, 4-7pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 beer of the month, shot special.

Linda Vista

Brick by Brick

Daily, 3-6pm: 2/$5 beer, $1/2-off.

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OCEANSIDE  
Hana Japanese Restaurant:  Daily, 11am-2am  
$3.00 appetizers, $4.00 draft beer.

Hoe's Pacific Pub:  Daily, 11am-2am  
$3.00 appetizers, $4.00 draft beer.

Ensenada Bar and Grill:  Daily, 11am-2am  
$3.00 appetizers, $4.00 draft beer.

PACIFIC BEACH  
710 Beach Club:  Daily, 11am-2am  
$2.00 domestic drafts, $3.00 craft drafts.

PB's Best Happy Hour!  
4 pm-8 pm Daily  
$1 Sliders Wednesdays  
$2 Shots/Drinks  
$2 Hookahs and 10 Refills  
$3 Domestic & House Wine  
$5 Street Tacos and a Draft Beer for 5!  

Happy Hour Monday 11am-2pm  
3 Domestic Pints

Tentative Closing Date:  March 17, 2011
The scenic design, lighting design, make-up/hair, A student directed the show (Ryan Barrales), and haven’t repeated a show once. “In those 20 years, we’ve done three or four shows per year and haven’t repeated a show once.”

Ms. Payne has been at Torrey Pines for 20 years. “In those 20 years, we’ve done three or four shows per year and haven’t repeated a show once.”

So, how was the show? It was about what I expected, which is to say inconsistent. done by students.

The limelight was a mechanism that highlighted the stars of a show in much the same way modern spotlights do. What’s interesting about the limelight is that it is the result of a chemical reaction. The reaction occurs when oxygen and hydrogen are ignited together and the flame is aimed at a cylinder of quicklime. The technical name for quicklime is calcium oxide. Calcium oxide can be heated to over 2000 degrees centigrade before it stars to melt. When heated, it gives off an intense light.

The limelight was first used at Covent Garden Theatre in London in 1837. But by the 1890s, electric lighting was taking over theater, and the limelight shone no more.

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GREEN ROOM
The green room is the room that performers wait in before going onstage. The question is, Why green?

Theories abound, but the one that I find most plausible has to do with the Covent Garden Theatre, which used green liberally throughout the theater. The main curtain was green, along with the ushers’ jackets and the seats.

The room where the actors waited to go onstage was carpeted in green. I think this makes the most sense. Covent Garden housed the Theatre Royal starting in 1732 and is currently the home of the Royal Opera.

Were standards interesting?
Former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden wanted his star player, Bill Walton, to get a haircut. Walton resisted it, and Wooden said that he and the rest of the team would miss him. Walton showed up to practice with his hair cut. At the time, Walton was the best college basketball player in the country, but Wooden had a standard, and it was nonnegotiable. He was willing to let his best player quit if he wasn’t willing to bear the standard that was required.

Many of us have a sliding standard and hold different theaters to different standards. We aren’t going to hold students to the same standard to which we hold adult actors. However, just getting up there never indicates a success. If we hold students to a higher standard, they’ll rise to it.

STICK FLY
When I saw what Stick Fly was about, I rolled my eyes and wondered how long this type of show is going to be around. A prestigious black family visits their home in Martha’s Vineyard and one of the two sons is dating a white woman. Here we go again.

I was wrong. Playwright Lydia R. Diamond’s characters are complicated and human and representatives of a litany of ideas and philosophies. I thought that at some point in the show one of the characters would preach to us, but it never happened.

Stick Fly is in previews until March 4 and officially opens on March 5 at Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company. The show is presented at the 10th Avenue Theatre downtown.

The limelight. Where does this phrase come from?
It comes from 19th-century theater. The limelight was a mechanism that highlighted the stars of a show in much the same way modern spotlights do. What’s interesting about the limelight is that it is the result of a chemical reaction. The reaction occurs when oxygen and hydrogen are ignited together and the flame is aimed at a cylinder of quicklime. The technical name for quicklime is calcium oxide. Calcium oxide can be heated to over 2000 degrees centigrade before it starts to melt. When heated, it gives off an intense light.

The limelight was first used at Covent Garden Theatre in London in 1837. But by the 1890s, electric lighting was taking over theater, and the limelight shone no more.

**THEATER LISTINGS**

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

**Crimes of the Heart**
Scirpps Ranch Theatre presents Beth Henley’s Pulitzer Prize winning “tragic comedy” about the Magrath sisters, who hang in there even when the world goes splooey. Katie Rodda directed.

**Eurydice**
SDSU Department of Theatre stages Sarah Ruhl’s reimagining of the Orpheus myth, as seen through the eyes of his beloved.

**Last of the Red Hot Lovers**
OnStage Playhouse presents Neil Simon’s comedy about Barney Cashman, a “married nebbish who wants to join the Up to HALF OFF on theater/arts tickets—plus $1 OFF tickets
Go to sdartstix.com, click on the performance or event you want, and enter promo code “Reader” to save $1 per ticket when making purchase. Or visit Arts Tix at Horton Plaza or call 858-381-5955.

Some restrictions apply. Details at www.sdartstix.com/reader.htm

**EURYDICE**
SDSU CAMPUS: SCHOOL OF THEATRE, TELEVISION & FILM SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 11-13,16-20 Various Times. See website for more information.

**HAMLET**
STAGEHOUSE THEATRE EL CAJON, CA Dates: March 16-19 Various Times. See website for more information.

**THE LIEUTENANT OF IRISHMORE**
BLKBOX @ 6TH & PENN SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 18-19, 25-26 Various Times. See website for more information.

**FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY**
ROAR THEATRE SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 11, 18, 25 April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8pm

**MISTERY CAFE**
IMPERIAL HOUSE RESTAURANT SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 18-19, 25-26 April 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 8pm

**When They Speak of Rita**
APOLLOAD THEATRE SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 18-20 Various Times. See website for more information.

**miXtape**
HORTON GRAND THEATRE SAN DIEGO, CA Dates: March 17-18, 20, 24-25, 27, 31 April 1, 3, 7-9, 10, 14-15, 17, 21-22 Various Times. See website for more information.

**Richard II**
ROUNDBOUGHT THEATRE ENCINITAS, CA Dates: March 18-20 Various Times. See website for more information.
Super-charged
New York, a glassy maze of success and threat, becomes his feedback loop of narcissism.

Not every week brings us New York ambition mania, a new Jane Eyre, an alien invasion, and a smart vehicle for Matt McConaughey.

Limitless
“I took my first pill,” wrote Aldous Huxley in The Doors of Perception. “An hour and a half later...I was seeing what Adam had seen on the morning of his creation — the miracle, moment by moment, of naked existence.” What mescaline did for Huxley, seeking (under close supervision) a new vision of reality, would be only a fuzzy warm-up for ambitious Eddie Morra in Limitless.

Using mystery pills given him by a desperate, untrustworthy man, Eddie (Bradley Cooper) overcomes his writer’s block to create a brilliant book, masters classical piano in days, picks up foreign languages as if by osmosis, and profitably games the stock market. This attracts the grasping attention of tycoon Carl Van Loon, played as a gray barracuda by Robert De Niro.

Though he doesn’t have the Milk Duds-chomping fun of billionaire Marlon Brando in The Formula, De Niro is a class accessory for the story. Another is Abbie Cornish as Eddie’s love, though she often seems packaged as the return of Sharon Stone. Andrew Howard, rising up from movies named Pig and Isle of Dogs, is a truly frightening villain, and he has a moment involving blood that puts most vampire films to shame.

Limitless, an addiction movie, is fairly addictive. Its real drug is ego, super-charged by Eddie’s amazing rise as the Man With the Golden Brain. New York, a glassy maze of success and threat, becomes his feedback loop of narcissism. Cooper plays a hustler almost as compulsively as Christian Bale did in American Psycho. It is a smart, full performance, though the character (written by Leslie Dixon from Alan Glynn’s novel The Dark Fields) is something of a plastic symbol, a “winner” victim of the American system of high-stakes ambition. Always hungry for more, Eddie is like a sexed-up Bernie Madoff.

Neil Burger (The Illusionist) directed with fierce energy and braids the taut, flashy strands of plot. Sharply photographed by Jo Willems, the trippy devices include speed-zoom editing, computer graphics, an X ray of Eddie’s throat as he takes the first pill, etc. With the human bonus of Anna Friel’s excellent small turn as Eddie’s former wife, Limitless delivers on its go-for-broke premise.

★★★

Jane Eyre
Do we need another Jane Eyre? There was a 2006 mini-series, and 15 years ago brought Franco Zeffirelli’s version with Charlotte Gainsbourg and William Hurt. Susannah York and George C. Scott did it on TV, and in 1943 there was Robert Stevenson’s edition, starring Joan Fontaine. In that one, Orson Welles was an emotional storm front as Rochester. It’s too bad that Christian McKay doesn’t star in the new film of Charlotte Brontë’s story, since McKay is bold and English and was a bravura Orson in Me and Orson Welles.

Cary Fukunaga directed in the BBC/PBS tradition of perfect cos-
tumes, grand homes rich in ancestry, and dialogue such as, “On these distant horizons you will find all manner of men.” There is an attempt to be faithful to a classic novel that is also flamboyant melodrama (if you love Jane Eyre, you probably love soap opera). Fukunaga and adapter Moira Buffini are like grad students cramming for finals. They structure the story so that Jane’s dismal youth, her time at Rochester’s gloomy Thornfield Hall (actually Haddon Hall in Derbyshire), and the scenes when she finds uneasy solace from a young minister tend to jam and elbow each other rather clumsily.

Michael Fassbender broods with a haggard hauteur as Edward Rochester, the rich, glum squire with too much time on his hands and a Gothic skeleton in his closet. He sizes up Jane as his rescuer, and romantic suspense builds in coy increments as mean weather agitates their mood swings. With Judi Dench as a devoted housekeeper, Jamie Bell as the snippy minister, Sally Hawkins as a nasty piece of work, and little Romy Settbon Moore as the story’s French-speaking mascot, our attention is credibly assured.

The hard sell is Mia Wasikowska. Fine in Alice in Wonderland and The Kids Are All Right, Wasikowska is often simply unathomable as plain-prettily Jane. She survives, without evident neurosis, a girlhood that might have caused psychosis. Primly fitted into tight, homely outfits, she could almost be starring in Little House on the Moors. Jane is such a totem of saintly, virginal endurance that her growing interest in Rochester comes off like a challenge project at a tough finishing school. The truth is, she’s a little dull.

**

Battle: Los Angeles

Maybe Hollywood has a death wish for Santa Monica. It slid into the sea in 2012 and almost melted in Volcano. Now the beach community is ravaged by alien invaders in Battle: Los Angeles. Most of the filming was not in L.A. but LA (Louisiana), though trashing New Orleans would be too painfully redundant even for this demolition derby. As Santa Monica burns, a Marines platoon under veteran sergeant Mike Nantz (Aaron Eckhart) opts to escape hell by driving away in an orange city bus. Maybe the aliens are stupid (maybe they worked on this script, “directed” by Jonathan Liebesman).

The aliens are squishy beneath their metal armor, and in the squirmiest scene, a captured alien is probed and pulled apart while still alive. Humans die mostly like road kill, though a heroic civilian grabs a gun and becomes an honorary Marine, setting the example for his kid who is, we surmise, a future Marine. Nantz not only ties the boy’s shoelaces but calls him “the bravest Marine I’ve ever seen,” not long after delivering a speech saluting the young Marines he lost in past (Iraq?) action. The kid scenes echo the worst bits of The Green Berets, John Wayne’s oafish endorsement of our engagement in Vietnam.

This is a combat video game (“They’re going down like bowling pins!”) wrapped in a Marine Corps recruiting poster. Troops at Camp Pendleton helped train the actors, though surely little training was needed by Michelle Rodriguez, the Girlfight and Avatar icon of kickbutt feminism. We get the jarhead mantras “Hoorah” and “Retreat! Hell!” A mention of Wayne (1907–1979) triggers a nod to modern demographics when a recruit says, “Who the hell is John Wayne?” At least in Wayne’s era, “action film” had not become synonymous with “shameless.”

The Lincoln Lawyer

The good new L.A. movie is The Lincoln Lawyer, in which Matthew McConaughey comes up for career air after drivel like Fool’s Gold and Surfer, Dude. His Mick Haller is a slick, dressy but not upscale lawyer whose office seems to be his Lincoln (a very L.A. touch). He defends a rich pretty-boy (Ryan Phillippe, in a career peak) charged with the vicious beating of a prostitute. That snakes back to a murder case, and even in the courtroom there is a sense of street rot rising to the top of the pile.

Brad Furman forcefully directed John Romano’s adaptation of a novel by Michael Connelly, a disciple of the urban potency of Chandler and Ross Macdonald, with sharp lines and plot turns handled by McCo-
naughty in ace form, along with Marisa Tomei (as his remarkably
available ex-wife), William H. Macy, Josh Lucas, Frances Fisher, and John
Leguizamo. There is nothing about Abe Lincoln, though he might have
enjoyed the lawyering.

★★★

Reviewed in this week’s movie cap-
sules: I Am and I Saw the Devil.

— David Elliott

MOVIE LISTINGS
All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew
Lickona, John Babko, and 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 alphabeti-
cally, by year of release, and by rating are
available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

The Adjustment Bureau — Matt Da-
emon and Emily Blunt are Beautiful People
in Love who just want to be together,
Barney and Emily Blunt are Beautiful People
available ex-wife), William H. Macy,
Leguizamo. There is nothing about
Josh Lucas, Frances Fisher, and John

Beautly — Kyle (Alex Pettyfer) is a
haughty, hunky narcissist at a fancy New
York school, until the campus witch (Mary-
Kate Olsen) makes him ugly. He looks
vandalized by a varicoze veins tagger, but
with the help of a cool chick (Vanessa Hud-
gens) and a blind sage (Neil Patrick Harris)
he learns that real beauty is not cosmetic.
Weekly amplying Beauty and the Beast,
director Daniel Barnz directs as if redis-
ning The Elephant Man for dreamy gawkers.
The shots designed for impact will lose little
on the small screen. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Battle: Los Angeles — Reviewed this
issue.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10;
ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER
HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON
PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY
20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE
MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12;
PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18;
PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Barney’s Version — On his pot gut and
sagging shoulders, Paul Giamatti carries
this wry, baggy treatment of Mordecai
Richler’s last novel. A Montreal TV hustler,
drinker, hockey gambler, and womanizer,
Barney is a Jewish rebel devoid of cause
or much excuse. But Giamatti doses the
story in his caustic charm, even as wife No.
1 (Minnie Driver) turns into a bulldozer
wobbles away from him. There is some
obscure plot filler, and Richard J. Lewis
directed as if still filming episodes of CSI,
but Giamatti fans can savor Barney and his
touching, ktxv cheesy movie. 2011. — D.E.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Black Swan — Ballet hokum becomes a
head trip of pop-goth stylization as director
Darren Aronofsky falls off his raw, real
form of The Wrestler. Natalie Portman
worked hard as the traumatized ballerina
but spins around in a blur of bad danc-
ing, one-note acting, and demented plot.
Helping to creep it up are Winona Ryder,
Barbara Hershey, and Vincent Cassel as a
Svengali (he’s like a bad joke about Anton
Walbrook in The Red Shoes). This thing is
so hammy and passe that the film’s positive
reviews are like goofy extensions of the
script. 2010. — D.E.

★★ (HILLCREST; LA PALOMA; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Jane Eyre — The truth is, she’s a little dull

Blue Valentine — Derek Cianfrance’s
first feature is about a bohy ex-con (Ryan
Gosling) who lacks ambition. His more
focused wife (Michelle Williams), a nurse,
tires of his limitatons as drink, temper, dus-
tiful sex, and parenting corrode the remains
of romance. Williams is excellent, Gosling
ragged. In a way that recalls John Cassa-
vette’s films, there are heartfelt truths, and
the frank sex is hardly provoking. In 1970,
such decline-of-love material was treated
with a more adult grip in Irvin Kershner’s

I SAW THE DEVIL — David Ellin's John
Slattery) to keep the lovers apart. Happily,
our lovers have love on their side — also
chance, water, and a short brim fedora that
lets them warp space and time. Dime-
store philosophy abounds. 2011. — M.L.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10;
FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSS-
MONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA
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MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12;
PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14;
POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Big Mommas: Like Father, Like
Son — An FBI man, a.k.a. Big Momma
(Martin Lawrence), and his stepson (Bran-
don T. Jackson) go to a performing-arts
school for women to sleuth a murder in this
comedy ripe with prosthetic fat.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10;
FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14;
MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION
MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROM-
ENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10)

I Am — Reviewed this
issue.

★★ (GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

I Am That Woman — Reviewed this
issue.

★★★★ (HILLCREST; LA PALOMA; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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Jane Eyre — The truth is, she’s a little dull

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touching, ktxv cheesy movie. 2011. — D.E.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Battle: Los Angeles — Reviewed this
issue.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10;
ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER
HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON
PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA
MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY
HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE
MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12;
PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18;
PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL
REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VIL-
LAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN 9;
TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

 ★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)
Cedar Rapids — Like a Christopher Guest (Bad Santa less gagged for pat satire, Miguel Arteta’s film is about a naïve insurance salesman (Ed Helms) who goes to a convention in Iowa and learns from a sly roommate (Isiah Whitlock Jr.) and an amiable vulgarian (John C. Reilly) how to grow up in a somewhat raunchy but engaging way. The type-cut women (Sigourney Weaver, Alia Shawkat, Anne Heche) are not just doodles, the Midwest-san botheries are affordably rendered, and the elements click into place. Mainly, it’s funny. 2011. — D.E.

Drive Angry — Nicolas Cage, frying down highways to avenge his daughter and recover his grandchild from a satanic cult preacher (Billy Burke), joins with a kick-ass waitress (Amber Heard) and is pursued by Heff’s sullen, deadly emissary (William Fichtner). The violence, nudity, crashes, trash talk, and hocus-pocus could make you yawn for the simple, honest pulp of Robert Mitchum’s old drive-in hit Thunder Road. Cage has the force of a good actor slamming, but so what? 2011. — D.E.

Even the Rain — Honorable simplification. In Icare Bollain’s film, Gael Garcia Bernal is the idealistic director and Luis Tosar the tough producer of a film being made in the Bolivian Andes. Modern villagers play the Carib Indians subjugated by Columbus, and as politics invade the production, themes arrive on tracks of editorial cinema: the artists echo the troubled priests of old, modern exploiters are the new Spaniards, water has replaced gold, etc. priests of old, modern exploiters are the new Spaniards, water has replaced gold, etc. and there is the remarkable newcomer Juan Carlos Avendano as a Che-like radical with piercing eyes. 2011. — D.E.

The Fighter — Not so much a movie about boxing as a movie about fighting, about the act of conflict. Mark Wahlberg plays Micky Ward, the real-life road worker who is mentally about 20. His wife (Jenna Fischer), tired of his frisky acts, pursues a fugitive teen to Earth, a crisis that accelerates his raunchy flippancy with his gambling and makes this benign tract using clips and interviews (the famous include Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn). It’s against material consumerism, aggressive competition, and dumb conformity. It’s for nature, holistic synergy, and universal cooperation. It is hopeful about New Age science (“particle entanglement,” etc.) and vague about cultural and political obstacles. The likeable Shadyc, having simplified his life, seems happy. 2011. — D.E.

I Am — Tom Shadyc, director of such comedy hits as Ace Ventura: Pet Detective and Liar, Liar, did not find laughter the glazed oomph of a worn-down 1990s sitcom. Wit includes “eye bumping” and “I need to poo,” and there is nothing to make us think that any kind of sex could possibly mean anything to anyone. 2011. — D.E.

I Am Number Four — Brutal aliens pursue a fugitive teen to Earth, a crisis that rouses his special powers. Directed by D.J. Caruso (Disturbia) from a popular young-adult novel, it has conceptual traces of Superman, the Twilight saga, and TV’s The Fugitive. It offers cute bodies, ugly creeps, a dog, high school clichés, dewy love, okay effects, and the likelihood of a sequel. The solid cast, mostly young and aspiring, includes Alex Pettyfer, Callan McAuliffe, Teresa Palmer, Dianna Agron, Timothy Olyphant. 2011. — D.E.
Jane Eyre — Reviewed this issue ★★★ (HILLCREST, FROM 3/18)

Just Go with It — Adam Sandler is a plastic surgeon whose cute lies lead to consequences in this romantic comedy. With Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never — The boyish singer gloses his already spangled rep in this scan of his 2010 concert tour. With Miley Cyrus, Ludacris, Usher, Jaden Smith. (LA JOLLA 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The King’s Speech — As masters of speech, British actors stutter superbly (think of Derek Jacobi in I, Claudius). This lovably intricate, humane film from Tom Hooper and writer David Seidler dramatizes how the unexpected king, George VI, overcame his handicap in uneasy 1936. There is wonderful acting rapport between Colin Firth’s stiff, shy, decent monarch and the Aussie speech therapist played with tact and humor by Geoffrey Rush. Plus ace period touches, Michael Gambon, Timothy Spall, Helena Bonham Carter, and (too sharp as Edward VIII) Guy Pearce. Musical help from Mozart, Beethoven, Gershwin. 2010. — D.E. ★★★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA 12; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Lincoln Lawyer — The good new L.A. movie

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES
70s John Candy and Steve Martin star as mismatched Thanksgiving travel companions in another John Hughes comedy. That’s not a pillow! Wednesday, March 30, 8 p.m.

FILM FORUM
San Diego Central Library
820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5800

Pushing the Elephant 2010. Drama set against the 1996 conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo chronicles life of Rose Mapendo, who survived atrocities and eventually settling in Phoenix, only reunited with her daughter after 12 years of separation. In English, Kinyarwanda and Swahili with English subtitles. Monday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

FILM FESTIVALS
MOBILE HOME MOVIES
Museum of Making Music
5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad • 760-438-5996
The Wrecking Crew 2008. Denny Tedesco’s documentary chronicles a group of 1960s Los Angeles studio musicians who played on hits for the Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, the Monkees, and many others. Tedesco, the son of session guitarist Tommy Tedesco, will be on hand with keyboardist Don Randi. Friday, March 25, 7 p.m.

SILENT FILM NIGHT
Copley Symphony Hall
750 B Street, Downtown • 619-235-0804
Peter Pan 1924. The San Diego Symphony provides a live soundtrack for the silent classic, illuminated by “rare Fox Theatre carbon-arc film projectors” for Winter Pops series. Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.

DIVE IN THEATRE
Pearl Hotel
1410 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma • 619-226-6100
The Breakfast Club 1985. Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson, Anthony Michael Hall, and Ally Sheedy star in this teen drama written and directed by John Hughes. Wednesday, March 23, 8 p.m.
12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, Mon - Thu 9:30, 8:15, The Little Engine That Could (G) Sat & Sun: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, Sun: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, The Lincoln Lawyer (R) Fri & Sat: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45, Sun - Thu 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, The Little Engine That Could (G) Sat & Sun: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, Sun: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40

POWAY

UltraStar Poway
13475 Poway Road (888-666-9425)

The Lincoln Lawyer (R) Fri & Sat: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45, Sun - Thu 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:15 AM, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30, Sun - Thu 11:15 AM, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:30 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:15, 10:15, Sun - Thu 11:30 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:15, The King’s Speech (R) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
477 South Coast Highway 101 (760-456-7469)

Black Swan (R) Fri - Sat: 6:00p.m.; True Grit (PG-13) Fri: 8:25p.m. Sat: (3:35) 8:25

LA COSTA

UltraStar La Costa
6941 El Camino Real (at Avra/Age)

The Lincoln Lawyer (R) Fri & Sat: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45, Sun - Thu 11:45 AM, 2:00, 5:15, 8:00, Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30, Sun - Thu 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, The King’s Speech (R) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15


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MISSION BEACH, $2350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house with 3-car garage in Sunset Cliffs. Panoramic ocean view! Small pets OK. Available 3/30. 1116 Avalon Avenue, Block Valdez. Call 619-222-3914.

MISSION BEACH, $2450. 11102 Caminito Alvarez, San Diego, CA 92109. 858-488-1193.


MISSION BEACH, $2700. 1BD+1BA upstairs, large, remodeled, front unit. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, coin laundry, parking. Close to cliffs. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 1358 Reed Street. Call Rosemarie for information at 619-224-8779.


MISSION BEACH, $2825. 2BD+1BA, 1352 13th Avenue. 858-860-9494. pet friendly. 3 blocks to bay and Cliffs. 212-6933.


MISSION BEACH, $3000. 3BD+2BA, large, well maintained. No pets. Available now. 619-279-6724.

MISSION BEACH, $3000. 2BD+1BA apartment, 1352 13th Avenue. 858-860-9494.

MISSION BEACH, $3050. 1BD+1BA apartment. Large, 1650 sqft, fenced yard, lush landscaping, great location. 1813 Bacon St. 858-483-3534 ext 18. www.cal-prop.com.


MISSION BEACH, $3250. 1BD+1BA, 509 sqft apartment. Two blocks to bay, the Beach and Point Loma Avenue. 619-222-6835. www.torrevillas.com. 858-699-3851.


MISSION BEACH, $3350. 1BD+1BA apartment. Large, 1650 sqft, fenced yard, lush landscaping, great location. 1813 Bacon St. 858-483-3534 ext 18. www.cal-prop.com.


MISSION BEACH, $3500. 2BD+2BA great Crown Point location. Two blocks to bay, the Beach and Point Loma Avenue. 619-222-6835. www.torrevillas.com. 858-699-3851.


MISSION BEACH, $3750. 1BD+1BA apartment. Large, 1650 sqft, fenced yard, lush landscaping, great location. 1813 Bacon St. 858-483-3534 ext 18. www.cal-prop.com.


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THE READER PUZZLE:

THE SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME:

1) Submit your completed puzzle to Reader each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online each week at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 5 p.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 entries.

3) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader, 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 puzzle@sandiegoreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in PDF format. 900 x 900 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

5) 10 Reader baseball caps are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly. And now for the really small print:

1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

2) Late entries will not be considered.

3) One entry per person per week or your entry will be disqualified.

4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across
1. Apt device for watching TV any time, anywhere
2. Dr. Who’s companion
3. Auv
4. Osso buco meats
5. Sushi bar staple
7. Increase

Down
1. “Come again!”
2. Half of MCI
3. Auv
4. Soccer shots
5. Lead the way
6. Olympic gymnast Kerri
7. Marvel Comics group

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

1. QTE
2. 35-Across
3. 51-Across
4. “I kissed thee...”
5. 40-Across
6. 65-Across
7. 45-Across
8. 33-Across
9. 19-Across
10. 24-Across
11. 27-Across
12. 23-Across
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71. 27-Across
72. 23-Across
73. 19-Across

SOLVED BY: Jim Odell, Vista, 11.

Happy birthday, Mits!

My wife is queen of the dessert.

Go Aztecs! Sweet 16 babe!

Jim Odell, Vista, 11.

1. The Queen of Olympus
2. Queen of the Desert
3. Queen (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers)

Weekly winners are featured in this section.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

1. QTE
2. 35-Across
3. 51-Across
4. "I kissed thee..."
5. 40-Across
6. 65-Across
7. 45-Across
8. 33-Across
9. 19-Across
10. 27-Across
11. 23-Across
12. 19-Across
13. 27-Across
14. 23-Across
15. 19-Across
16. 27-Across
17. 23-Across
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66. 19-Across
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70. 27-Across
71. 23-Across
72. 19-Across
73. 19-Across

Rocky is a free at last!

1. Your friends & become famous!

2. 27-Across
3. 23-Across
4. 19-Across
5. 27-Across
6. 23-Across
7. 19-Across

With your completed puzzle, you will be entered into our weekly contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online each week at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 5 p.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 entries.

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4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader, 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 puzzle@sandiegoreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in PDF format. 900 x 900 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

5) 10 Reader baseball caps are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly. And now for the really small print:

1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

2) Late entries will not be considered.

3) One entry per person per week or your entry will be disqualified.

4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
This week’s contenders continued:

Lucy Gomez Santoyo, San Diego, 7. Or build.
Sheri Stockdale, Vista, 7. Or save.
John Pertle, Clairemont, 6. Or buy.
Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, 6. Or party.
Dominick Williams, San Diego, 6. Or spend.
Norman Williams, San Diego, 6. Or find.
Kaye D. Benten, San Diego, 5. Or maybe.
Vincent Cusco, San Marcos, 4. Or build.
Sherril Howes, Mesa, La, 3. Or plan.

Balu Appliance, San Diego, 3. Or order.


DOWNTOWN, $1495-1500. 1BD+1BA, 1 parking space, $1500. 619-236-3809.

PARKING, $1450. Large, 1BD+1BA, $1450. 619-532-3588.

DOWNTOWN, $1425. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Tons of closets. furnace, washer. $1425. 619-620-0230.

DOWNTOWN, $1400. 1BD+1BA, Large downstairs studio, $1400. 619-239-1639.

GOLDEN HILL, $1195. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $1195. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $1195. 1BD+1BA, Large. $1195. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $1175. 1BD+1BA, Large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $1175. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $1150. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $1150. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $1125. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $1125. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $950. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $950. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $900. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $900. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $750. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $750. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $725. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $725. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $645. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $645. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $600. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $600. 619-239-1639.


DOWNTOWN, $500. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $500. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $450. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $450. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $400. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $400. 619-239-1639.


DOWNTOWN, $300. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $300. 619-239-1639.

DOWNTOWN, $250. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $250. 619-239-1639.


DOWNTOWN, $150. Studio, extra large. 1/2 off 1st! Large closets. washer. $150. 619-239-1639.
Another Chance for Fame and Glory!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit one complete 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 (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. 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 Puzzles, 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: Suduko@sdf.org. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format; 800 x 1000 pixels, maximum file size of 20 KB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be considered.
5) 10 Reader baseball caps are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly.
6) All entries 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.
10) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

EASY:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

MEDIUM:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

HARD:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

EVIL:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

9 8 4 3 7 2 5 1 6
5 6 1 3 8 9 2 7 4
2 1 6 8 9 3 5 7 4
7 4 8 1 3 2 9 6 5
9 5 7 6 2 1 3 4 8
1 2 5 9 7 6 4 8 3
8 3 6 5 2 4 1 7 9
6 9 2 8 4 1 7 3 5
3 7 5 1 9 8 6 2 4

MEDIUM:

3 8 5 9 4 1 2 6 7
8 5 2 4 1 3 6 7 9
7 6 3 5 2 4 8 9 1
6 9 7 2 8 3 4 1 5
5 7 4 9 6 1 8 2 3
4 1 8 3 7 5 9 6 2
2 3 6 7 5 8 1 9 4
1 2 7 9 6 4 3 8 5
9 4 1 6 8 2 5 3 7

HARD:

2 4 6 1 3 9 7 5 8
3 8 1 6 7 4 5 9 2
1 5 2 3 8 9 4 7 6
7 9 8 5 1 4 3 2 6
4 2 5 3 1 9 6 7 8
9 3 7 4 6 8 5 2 1
1 4 2 8 6 5 9 7 3
2 6 9 1 7 3 4 8 5
5 7 8 2 9 2 3 4 1

EVIL:

6 3 4 7 2 5 9 1 8
4 7 5 9 3 8 6 2 1
7 8 1 6 2 9 5 3 4
5 2 9 8 4 1 3 7 6
3 6 2 7 4 5 1 9 8
9 1 8 5 7 3 4 6 2
2 5 4 3 1 6 9 8 7
8 4 3 1 5 7 9 2 6
1 9 6 2 8 4 7 5 3

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:

EASY:

Ken Hanson, Clairemont, 11. Go Aztecs!
Pauline O’Malley, Point Loma, 10. Happy St. Patrick’s Day.
Linda Bible, El Cajon, 10. The weather is perfect! No snow!
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 11.

MEDIUM:

Harry Chiou, Mira Mesa, 10. on old leaf in the new season.
Melquiades B. Rivera, Spring Valley, 7. Thanks for keeping up the good work.
Bill Cardwood, Clairemont, 5. Go NO! Self-admiration now.
Antonio G. Guillon, Spring Valley, 4. Mom. You are going to get better.
Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 1. I love my puppies. Hannah and Chenie.

HARD:

Marta Awdziewicz, Clairemont, 11. Getting ready for St. Patrick’s day.
Bill Plemmons, Coronado, 12. Thank you for the kind words.
Rebekah Mathieu, San Diego, 9. Happy 21st birthday, Morgan!
Sunshine, Arizona, 10. America’s 400 Penasquitos, 11.

EVIL:

Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 11. America’s 400 riches equals 155 million of rest of us.
Anita Aragon, Rancho Bernardo, 11. Happy 21st birthday, Morgan!
Bear Beose, La Jolla, 1. Good luck in Tucson.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Neighborhood: ______________________
City: __________________________________
State:________________ Zip Code:______
Personal Message: ___________________

For more information on this contest, visit sandiegoreader.com/puzzle.


**La Mesa, $850.** 1BD+1BA apartment. Attractive, well-equipped. Lots of cabinets, wall-to-wall closets, A/C. Pets negotiable. 619-466-6149.

**Lakeside, $797 & UP.** 1BD+1BA, 1-car garage. Large fenced yard! 1800 sqft house. All appliances, patio, fenced yard. 619-203-5247, 858-505-1300.

**Lakeside, $850.** 1BD+1BA, 1-car garage. Large fenced yard! 1800 sqft house. All appliances, patio, fenced yard. 619-203-5247, 858-505-1300.


**Tompkins, $900.** 2BD+1BA, 1-car garage. Large fenced yard! 1800 sqft house. All appliances, patio, fenced yard. 619-203-5247, 858-505-1300.
Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

Dated

When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration asked manufacturers to date their products for shelf life and wholesomeness, they never said anything about code. After all, who would want to deceive you?

Manufacturers have used a variety of formats:
- year/day of year — Y/D (or DD or DDD)
- day of year/year — D (or DD or DDD)/Y
- day of month/month/year — DD/M (or MM)/Y

Using your deductive reasoning abilities as a guide (and your fear of botulism as an incentive), try to match each of the numbers on this can with a date below:

- July 21, 2012
- June 22, 2012
- August 4, 2002
- July 21, 2002
- July 30, 2012

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
Neighborhood: ____________ City: ________________
State: ______________________ Zip Code: __________
Personal Message: __________________________________________________

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Sew what?

All of the patterns were genuine.

1 wedding gown 6 clown’s pants
2 dress and sash 7 collie’s coat
3 a plain, old skirt 8 Bruce Wayne’s costume
4 stuffed bunny 9 chef’s hat
5 stuffed cabbage 10 witch’s hat
6 stuffed eggplant 11 wallet
7 mom’s bathing suit 12 doughnut
8 a bikini 13 a jumbo hot dog with mustard and a side of fries
9 apron 14 Santa’s hat
10 Chef’s hat 15 coolie’s hat
11 apron 16 wallet
12 collie’s coat 17 doughnut
13 Bruce Wayne’s costume 18 a jumbo hot dog with mustard and a side of fries
14 coolie’s hat 19 stuffed eggplant
15 wallet 20 mom’s bathing suit

BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 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.

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@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

5) 5 Reader baseball caps 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:

Miyuki Passchier, Clairemont, 11.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.

Conway Redding, La Mesa, 11.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.

Tom Somich, Clairemont, 10.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.

Martha Awdziewicz, Clairemont, 9.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.

Tom Somich, Clairemont, 10.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.

Martha Awdziewicz, Clairemont, 9.
“arthy one, /hope I can make it.
Bay Park, $995-1300. 1BD+1BA and 2BD+1.5BA apartments. View of valley and bay. 2 blocks from 1BD+1BA and 2BD+1.5BA apartments. BAY PARK, $995-1200. 296-6699, www.centrecity.net.

View of valley and bay. 2 blocks from 1BD+1BA and 2BD+1.5BA apartments. BAY PARK, $995-1200. 296-6699, www.centrecity.net.

One get heard, not just the majority. Just one person's take on every- thing. Instead of just one person, just one person's thought. I like majority rule. If I was an ant, but when it comes to govern- ment, I think it should be a collec- tive, what everyone agrees on, not just one person's take on everything. Instead of just one person, everyone should have a say.

We're in America, and I think majority rights are impor- tant, but when it comes to govern- ment I like majority rule. If I was an elected official and the majority of my constituents wanted me to do something, I would feel obligated to do that because that's what they voted on.

Clairemont, $2400. 4BD+2.5BA 2-story house. 1900 sqft. fenced yard with patio, garage with driveway. stove, refrigerator, washer/ dryer included. Landlord paid. Close to shopping center and freeways. 858-296-7052.


Clairemont, $385-1175. Studio, 1BD+1BA, and 2BD+2BA apartments. Walk to SDSU, 55+ or Disabled building. Well kept. 3BD+2BA apartment. refrigerator, stove, newly renovated kitchen, nearby shopping. COLLEGE AREA, $850. 6699. www.centrecity.net.

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Clairemont, $885. 1BD+1BA apartments. Gated community minutes from SDSU. Refrigerator, stove, newly renovated kitchen, nearby shopping. COLLEGE AREA, $995. 619-296-7724.


Clairemont, $1470. 1BD+1BA. Pool, laundry on site. Close to SDSU on College Avenue. Lunch 1 bedrooms available at $1750. Call Emily at 619-287-8380.


CATS AND KITTENS. East County Animal Rescue has many available for adoption. Shown here is Rumple. Some cats available daily at Petco in El Cajon, 549 North Second St. Adoption event at El Cajon Petco every Saturday and Sunday. 12 noon to 5pm. Go to facebook: www.facebook.com/eastcountyanimalrescue. Click on “Photos” (on the left) and then click on “Adoptable! We Are Looking for Homes.” Phone: 619-742-5280 or 619-442-3884.


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, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins $10 a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winnings limited to $300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92118; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

LINDA VISTA, 92155. 619-552-0400.


SAN DIEGO COUNTY DRAUGHT DOGS. 619-270-4277.

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

To view these rentals and more go to: www.rentalsandlease.com.

CARDOFF, 6237. 3BD house with garage, fenced backyard, family room with fireplace. 1667 Kings Cross Drive. Leasing Limited. Lic#00763656, 760-455-4696.


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Free Estimates! Full range of repairs and construction work. 20+ years experience! (Lic#804151). Complete remodeling 265-9294.

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Affordable Electrical
LISTEN TO WHEN DRIVING! XM/Sirius Classical Pops station or KYY.

CELL PHONE? Sometimes if I don’t see any cops, I also have a hands-free thing.

HITCHHIKERS? No way! I’m not stupid!

SPEDDING TICKETS? About five years ago, on I-5 and the El Camino. I was doing 80 like everybody else but I was the winner of Officer Somebody’s last ticket given out during his shift that day.

ACCIDENTS? I was rear-ended in 1967 in Long Beach. I was 20 and a teenage girl driving his girlfriend’s friend’s brand-new Chevy Malibu hit the back of my 1963 Mustang. Needleless to say, I ended up the winner of that one!


MOST CHANGED STREETS? I guess I would say the most changed street I can think of is Mission Gorge Road going through Santee. Anyone who has been away for 25–30 years would never recognize it!

FAVORITE DRIVE? To Julian on a sunny weekend with very little traffic.
By Isabel Moreno

seven for cats and dogs either lost or ready for adoption and one for an “educated aborting dad & fulltime mom” seeking to adopt a baby.

The “For Sale” subheading had 16 ads; these included 6 ads for lots and acreage, 1 for houses, 1 for commercial property, 6 for manufactured homes. Two want ads also ran in this section. One read, “I want to buy a 2BR house or MH [manufactured home] or lot in outskirts of Alice.” The other read, “wanted 50-500 acres.”

Classified ads for “Employment” advertised 50 open positions, including a termite and pest-control technician, an oilfield trucking dispatcher, a math instructional coach, a slickline operator (they work on oil-drilling projects), a diesel mechanic, nurses, cashiers, and a “yard person.” Companies hiring included Seafood Shack, La Hacienda Nursing Home, and Winch Truck & Pole.

The “Wheels” section ran 86 ads; these included 3 campers, 3 vans, 41 cars, 14 SUVs, 20 trucks, and 5 motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.

Of the 13 “Legal Notices,” 4 pertain to Duval County. One “Notice of Disposition” reads, “The Railroad Commission of Texas has disposed of equipment and/or hydrocarbons in Duval County pursuant to Section 80.085 of the Texas Natural Resources Code.” Another notice states that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality “has confirmed that Freer Water Control and Improvement District is exceeding our Elevated Storage Capacity due to the new RV Parks.” A third, repeated twice, claims, “The City of San Diego is soliciting sealed bids for the Right of Way Easements of the 800 Block of N. Perez St.”

Other subheadings for classified ads include “Merchandise” (65 ads), “Pets” (1 ad), and “For Rent” (7 ads).

NORMAL HEIGHTS, 92107.

NORTH PARK, 92106.

NORTH PARK, 92106.

OLD TOWN, 92107.

OLD TOWN, 92107.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

OLD TOWN, 92107.
Studio+1BA. Low $1100 deposit. Fully furnished studio, all in mint condition. In excellent hillsdale location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy St. 619-296-8802.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.
2BD+1BA apartment. Nice, quiet, well maintained building. New windows. Very close to bus stop. 4325 Texas St. 619-804-1044.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.
2BD+1BA spacious apartment with washer/dryer in unit. New kitchen, new bathroom, garage, large enclosed patio. $550 deposit. Call 619-265-7160. email georgiapalms@cgpinc.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.
2BD+1BA apartment, immaculate unit. Beautifully remodeled with stainless appliances, stone counter tops, and designer paint. Parking, on-site additional lot, one block off Addison Ave. Cat OK if additional deposit. Open house Saturday, 4676 Hamilton St. Call today TTPM. 619-296-8802. www.towneyapns.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 92110.
... by Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY
In January, Saudi officials detained a vulture from Tel Aviv University (part of endangered-species research), calling it a spy and alarming its Israeli handlers that the bird might face a gruesome execution as an espionage agent. Then, a day later, Iran reportedly detained an Arab-American woman crossing its border from Armenia after discovering a “spy microphone” in her teeth. (A week later, she was allowed to travel to Turkey.) In December, according to a December Los Angeles Times report. As the client squats on an open-seated toilet, vapors of herbs such as wormwood supposedly fight stress, infections, hemorrhoids, infertility, and irregular menstrual periods. Thirty minutes’ treatment runs $23, and according to a prominent Beverly Hills gynecologist, the procedure could be beneficial.

China’s dynamic economy has created Western-style insecurities, including young women’s anxieties about beauty and self-improvement as they search for employment. Consequently, China has become the world’s third-largest consumer of plastic surgery services — with demand that perhaps challenges the supply of skilled surgeons. Women typically want wider eyes, “diced” eyelids, narrower noses and jaws, and smaller chins, and both men and women seek height by attempting the painful (and usually unsuccessful) “heel implant” procedure. (A currently popular, less invasive remedy for immediate body streamlining — as when preparing for a job interview — involves ingesting eggs of the ringworm, so that the worm devours food before the stomach can digest it.)

— Every December 24 in Sweden, at 3 p.m., a third to a half of all Swedes sit down to watch at least some traditional television procedure has marked Christmas for the past 50 years: a lineup of historic Donald Duck cartoons. According to a December report on Slate.com, the show is insinuated in the national psyche because it was the first big holiday program when Sweden began to acquire television sets in 1959. Entire families still watch together, choosing their favorite lines.

News That Sounds Like a Joke

(1) When longtime Orange County, Calif., inmate Malcolm King demanded kosher meals — or, at least, halal meat instead — he went to court. Judge Derek Johnson asked King if he demanded religion-based food, and King said yes — citing “Festivus” (a joke religion popularized on the Seinfeld TV show). According to a December Orange County Register report, Judge Johnson approved King’s demands.

(2) A 2010 Chicago Tribune public-records examination of suburban Chicago traffic-stop drug searches found that sniffer dogs are usually — which was 56 percent of all “positive” signals by dogs yielded no contraband (73 percent failure if the driver was Hispanic).

Least Competent Criminals

A wanted man on an arrest warrant has a powerful incentive to lie about his ID if subsequently stopped by police, and sometimes blushing with a bogus name works. However, twice in January, in Dallas and in Great Falls, Montana, perps gave other names, only to learn that people with those names were in as much trouble as they were. Mario Marmontes, 22, wanted for parole violation, told an officer in Dallas that he was his cousin, without knowing that the cousin was wanted for sex abuse of a minor. Jonathan Gonzalez told police in Great Falls that he was really Timothy Koop Jr., but Koop was also a wanted man.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85830, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com
LITTLE ITALY: $10 off your 1-hour massage with mention of this ad. Couples massages also available! Open 7 days! Walk-in service available. 7610 Union Street. 619-685-1111.

LUXURIOUS EUROPEAN Massage. 1 hour, $35. 1½ hours, $65. Spa: Miami, 619-694-9167.

LUXURY HANDS BY DESTINY! Best fingertip and deep-tissue Swedish massage with warmth. Call for available, MTP. 760-765-4628.


MATERNITY MASSAGE. Swedish, 1 hour, $70. 90 minutes, $80. Lic# 590192. 619-273-4100.

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NEW TAI CHI & QIGONG Classes. First class is free! Taos Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92103. 619-892-1155 or www.taossanctuary.org.

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NOTICE TO READERS: The advertisers in this section include licensed mental health providers, covered counselors, and support groups.


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LEATHER JACKETS, 7,321-1315.
LIBRARY LIGHTING, $65.
LIMOUSINE ENGINES. My private collection of 20 years. 22 assorted. 3-4 horsepower. $84. All good, some as new, many free extras. $340. 75-732-1795.
LEATHER JACKETS, 2, black, size XL. One 27” king, bought for $300, sells $159. Other 33” long, heavy leather. $159. 619-858-0506.
PRESTO STACKER- LIFT, $30.
MARINA BAY SHORES. For-you.com.
TOYOTA CAMRY, 1990, automatic, power window, power locks, CD player, new tires, new plate #3H9B7004. Private party. $350. 760-543-2593.
WANTED: 1995 corolla, auto, 4-cylinder, low to average miles, from the 2nd owner owners. I only am not a dealer. Reasonably priced. 619-305-1090.

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One per person.

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- Convenient freeway close location
- Walk-ins welcome!
We are open Tuesday 10am to 6pm, and Thursday 12pm to 7pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm.

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**FLOWERS • EDIBLES • THC MED STRIPS**
CONCENTRATES & CLONES
FREE 1/8th for NEW members with $40 donation or 20% off!!!
Quality Medicine at every members donation level!!!
No double discounts. Some restrictions apply.

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**MEDICAL MARIJUANA EVALUATIONS**
YOUR FREEDOM IS OUR PRIORITY
NEW PATIENTS $40 RENEWALS $30
For qualified patients in strict compliance with Health & Safety Code 11362.5 SB 420

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**Quality Medical Marijuana Evaluations**
for DISCOUNT PRICES

- 5 gram 1/8th min $50 Donation
- FREE Top shelf gram w/ $80 Donation
- 2 grams of any strain for $30
- Flat rate! No extra fees!
- 619-255-6726
- Open Daily from 10 am to Midnight
- Free joint with 10 donation
- FREE Eighths for all first time clients with $50 minimum donation.

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**Discount Quality Evaluations**
New Patients $40

- $5 off Gram of concentrate
- Buy 1/2 get an 1/8th FREE of designated strains min $50 donation
- 5 gram 1/8th min $50 Donation
- FREE Top shelf gram w/ $80 Donation
- 2 grams of any strain for $30
- Flat rate! No extra fees!
- 619-255-6726 Green Zion
- 2160 Las Lomas, Ocean Beach

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**MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARDS**
OPEN 7 DAYS • WALK-INS • 24/7 VERIFICATION
Statewide approved certificate & ID card • Cultivation license

- Call TODAY (888) 554-4404
- New Patients $60
- Renewals $40
- 420cc Cards
- www.420cc.org 3780 Hancock G, San Diego (Sports Arena Area)
**NOW OPEN IN LAKESIDE**

**JUST OFF HWY. 67**

**FREE 1/8!**

When you purchase 1/8.

With minimum $60 donation

Expires 3/31/11.

**$10 Grams**

10 different strains to choose from.

Expires 3/31/11.

**$10**

St. Patty’s Weekend Special

Gram Concentrate

With this coupon. Offer good 3/17/11 - 3/20/11.

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**Smokin’ Specials**

Bring in your Latino Film Festival Ticket and get a FREE PIPE!

**Smoke Shop Illusions**

San Diego’s Hottest Water Pipe Super Store

CHECK OUT OUR COMMERCIAL

**Short Film Competition**

Submit a short film/commercial (30 – 5 minutes)

Upload it to Facebook: Smokeshop Illusions

Email smokeshopillusions@yahoo.com for questions

$1000 worth of Prizes

**Offers good with this ad!**

- Submit a short film/commercial (30 – 5 minutes)
- Upload it to Facebook: Smokeshop Illusions
- Email smokeshopillusions@yahoo.com for questions
- $1000 worth of Prizes

**Smoke Shop Illusions**

5525 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
West of the 805, just South of North County & Just North of Mission Valley
858.751.0100

**American Chief Collective**

10149 Channel Rd. #E, Lakeside 92040 • 619-937-5673

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Safe, discreet and confidential delivery to your door

**FRE E GIFT for new members**

**Green Planet Collective**

Free Joint with $25 donation

Free Gram with $50 donation

**FREE gram for 1st time patient • FREE edible Fridays • 4 gram Saturdays • FREE Joint Sundays • Gift for referrals**

(Offers can’t be combined. $25 minimum donation for all offers)

858-689-9098 • mmwellnesscenter@yahoo.com
9446 Miramar Rd. #D, San Diego 92126
Easy to find – close to the I-15!

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**Frosty Farms Coupon**

5.0 Gram 8th for new members

Free Joint with $25 donation

Free 1/8 gram with $50 donation

**Gifts for referrals**

(Offers can’t be combined. $25 minimum donation for all offers)

858-689-9098 • mmwellnesscenter@yahoo.com
9446 Miramar Rd. #D, San Diego 92126
Easy to find – close to the I-15!

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**North County’s only non-profit Medical Cannabis Cooperative**

**Offer: 4 Gram 1/8!**

Free limited membership

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In strict accordance with prop 215, SB 420 and H&S 11362.5

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**Smoke Shop Illusions**

Check out Modeling Contest & Enter to Win!

www.SmokeShopIllusions.com

**Short Film Competition**

$1000 worth of Prizes

**Offers good with this ad!**

- Submit a short film/commercial (30 – 5 minutes)
- Upload it to Facebook: Smokeshop Illusions
- Email smokeshopillusions@yahoo.com for questions
- $1000 worth of Prizes

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ON ALL GREEN DOOR PRODUCTS

Super Soul Diesel
OG Kush
Candy Jack
Silverback

FLOWERS

THC 17.03
CBD 0.07 • CBN 0.35

THC 22.15
CBD 0.24 • CBN 0.06

THC 22.17
CBD 0.27 • CBN 0.09

THC 18.48
CBD 0.53 • CBN 0.09

Purp
Pineapple Melt
Ganesh Wafer
Blueberry Cross
with Blue Dream

CONCENTRATES

THC 61.86
CBD 1.59 • CBN 0.61

THC 50.82
CBD 0.91 • CBN 0.96

THC 55.00
CBD 1.53 • CBN 1.55

THC 55.15
CBD 35.44 • CBN 0.88

Medical Cannabis Collective

FREE COMPASSION!
Thurs: 12-2pm

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA DOCTOR

- New Patients & Renewals
- Walk-Ins Welcome
- 24/7 Phone & Online Verification
- Get Your Meds Next Door

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  Harvard 1978, UCLA 1982, UCSD 1983 has been
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-Dawn, San Diego Patient

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