I eat my lawn

Grass is pointless.
Brown grass is really pointless.
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UNDER THE RADAR

Marines ripped off A new audit by the Pentagon’s Office of Inspector General has found that military brass here didn’t do enough to halt illegal life insurance sales practices on San Diego County Marine Corps bases, thereby threatening the “financial stability” of junior enlistees.

“Sales of unsuitable life insurance products sold by insurance agents for two companies continued on or near five of the six military installations we visited,” according to the August 23 report that investigated insurance sales to junior enlisted service members on military bases, both in the United States and Asia. According to the audit, “Certain life insurance products offered to members of the Armed Forces were improperly marketed as investment products, providing minimal death benefits in exchange for excessive premiums that are front-loaded in the first few years, making them inappropriate for most military personnel.”

Sales pitches on base are supposed to be closely regulated to protect service members from unethical agents and bad policies, but auditors discovered that hadn’t happened in the case of 11 leathernecks interviewed at Camp Pendleton. “Before our visit in June 2010, we provided a list of 265 individuals we wanted to interview and have complete questionnaires. The Camp Pendleton Legal Assistance Office was able to locate only 11 of those Marines… They said their first contact with the insurance agents was during a sales presentation at a personal finance class sponsored by their battalion, from March 2009 through June 2009. The insurance agent’s sales presentation and the base personnel responsible for the presentation’s approval were in violation of [Defense Department] Instruction 1344.07. As a result of our review, the 11 Marines filed complaints through their Legal Assistance Office to the insurance company and obtained a refund for their premiums paid.”

At Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, “A Service member complained that a life insurance agent solicited insurance sales and passed out business cards after a mandatory financial class in September 2009… The Marine said that the agent contacted him several times, which eventually resulted in his purchase of unsuitable life insurance. He then related his unfavorable experience to a financial counselor, who forwarded the information to the command for investigation, which resulted in Marine Corps officials refusing to renew the agent’s pass. Additionally, the Marine received a refund of premiums paid after he filed a complaint with the insurance company.”

Multiple violations of Pentagon policy and regulations were found during the investigation, including solicitations by insurance agents to Military Service-sponsored education or orientation programs and “using oral or written representations to suggest or give the appearance that the [Defense Department] sponsors or endorses any particular company, its agents, or the goods, services, and commodities it sells.” The report calls for better tracking of state insurance regulatory records of agents and their companies before they issue base passes. It adds that as a result of the investigation’s findings the Marine Corps has taken “corrective actions” regarding “enforcement of existing commercial solicitation activities and practices on base Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Camps in Okinawa, Japan.”

Juiced up If nothing else, the timing is interesting. On Thursday, September 8, the great blackout of 2011 swept San Diego County and beyond.

The day after the blackout, county officials issued a request for portable emergency generators. Services issued a timely “request for quotation” regarding a few pieces of new equipment: one “portable 35kva emergency generator, or, county approved equal” and two “portable 240kva emergency generators, or, county approved equal”… San Diego city councilman Todd Gloria had a

Work Is Wonderful. Really?

By Don Bauder

Two San Diego authors have recently written books. One tsks risk-taking and the other celebrates it. Yet you can agree with both premises.

La Jolla’s Alfred Rappaport, professor emeritus at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, has written Saving Capitalism from Short-Termism, published by McGraw-Hill, with a foreword by John C. Bogle, founder and retired chief executive of Vanguard Group, the world’s largest no-load (no sales commission) mutual fund group.

Rappaport argues that the 2007–2009 crash wasn’t caused only by excessive debt and speculation, combined with a mortgage bubble. Financial management’s obsession with short-term performance is also to blame.

Companies think only about next quarter’s earnings, and that’s all that securities analysts, institutional investors, rating agencies, appraisers, mortgage lenders, and banks are concerned with.

An essential cause of the epic collapse was a collection of perverse, short-term financial incentives,” writes Rappaport. “These faulty incentives drove a chain of private sector accomplices to take reckless risks with other people’s money.” Such risk-taking led to the collapse of financial institutions such as Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, and the insurance behemoth AIG.

But this short-termism doesn’t only affect Wall Street; it’s a disease among almost all companies. Indeed, writes Rappaport, “With the possible exception of Berkshire Hathaway [the corporation led by Warren Buffett], no company today is

Neal Obermeyer
One Night, El Cajon Felt Like Baghdad

By Bill Manson

Look. Look! They took our money! Ten thousand dollars, from some. They came in with their shotguns raised. ‘Down on the ground!’ They cuffed me, hands behind my back, threw me on my face on the ground. Hit me twice on the shoulder. Made me lie there for two hours. I’m an old man. I have diabetes. Where is the respect? They were kicking people. Yelled at me to shut up! Is this the kind of humanitarian freedom the U.S. stands for? It was like Baghdad!”

It’s nine o’clock at night. George Kharat is mad. He and a dozen other Chaldeans, mostly older, crowd around me in the parking lot outside the Chaldean social club at 811 East Main El Cajon. We’re outside the club entrance, in a narrow parking lot that tees off Main Street and runs the length of the building. A gate allows access to the alley behind. This is the club that SWAT teams raided recently, looking for guns, money, drugs, evidence of gambling.

Local police, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other authorities believed the club was a hub of illegal activity, including illegal liquor sales, firearms sales, drug sales, gambling, even attempted murder.

That night, Wednesday, August 17, as part of Operation Shadowbox, it seemed as if everyone, from the El Cajon police to federal drug agents to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives descended on 811 East Main and stormed into the parking lot, shotguns raised, yelling at the groups of men smoking and chatting outside to get inside the club and lie down. They cuffed over 100 people with their hands behind their backs, made them lie on the floor or on the ground outside, while SWAT teams spent a couple of hours, allegedly seizing a ledger and more than $16,000 in cash in their search for evidence of illegal gambling.

But the real search was for bigger fish: evidence that club members were shipping narcotics, acquired from the Sinaloa drug cartel, to the Chaldean organized crime syndicate in Detroit.

Authorities claim their arrests in Operation Shadowbox, which began in January, has netted over 4 pounds of ecstasy, 13 pounds of methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, crack cocaine, heroin, cocaine, 3500 pounds of marijuana, $630,000 in cash, 3 luxury cars, 34 firearms, and 4 IEDs, improvised explosive devices.

And the club? Allegedly, it sold liquor illegally (Christian Chaldeans, unlike Muslims, are allowed to drink alcohol) and was the go-to place to get your drugs, if you went late enough at night.

These are heavy charges, so I’ve come to see what Chaldeans think about them.

And, yes, it’s a touchy subject.

“Guess I’ll have to pass on that,” says a guy down the street, at Ali-Baba Restaurant. “I am Muslim Iraqi,” says the old guy I meet out front of the restaurant, crossing Main at Avocado. “You should go to one of the Chaldean coffee shops.”

Kamal Odeesh received this receipt for $10,207 confiscated by Department of Justice agents.
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Dig It!
Mucho kudos to Thomas Larson and to the Reader for this comprehensive piece on babies born here to Mexican mothers (“On Sixth Avenue…” Feature Story, September 22). I don’t think I’ve seen anything in print on this subject that so thoroughly covers all the aspects of this thorny issue. I especially liked the wrap-up with Maria, the clinic worker, who became a U.S. citizen eventually, after seeing the issue firsthand from different viewpoints.

This is the kind of reporting that makes the Reader worth a few more centavos than its newsstand price and which prompts me to continue to pick it up each week when I’m in the area.

Too bad there isn’t one single clue on the cover that such important writing lies inside. I, of course, realize that the Reader must have a flashy and lowbrow cover to induce the masses to pick it up and thus patronize its advertisers. But the Reader deserves its readers by not at least indicating up front that there is, in fact, good reading inside. I’m not criticizing the choice of putting John, the Swami, on the cover at all. We dig him a lot.

I also dig that the Reader spoofs its readers with “SD on the QT.” I can’t believe that so many bite!

Tom Summers
via email

Tromped By Bullies
Re Thomas Larson’s “Is He a Citizen?” (September 22, titled “On Sixth Avenue…” in the print version of the paper).

As long as organizations like the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR), William Gheens’s Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (ALIPAC), and Jeff Schwill’s San Diego Minutemen (SDMM) are involved in the illegal immigration issue, there will never be a respectable solution to the problem.

These hooligans of political activism have so tarnished the image of immigration law enforcement advocates that it has become extremely difficult to get serious and committed attention to the issue by our nation’s political governors.

It is no wonder that the Obama administration has seized the opportunity to take advantage of the disarray of so-called immigration law enforcement activists by announcing its planned “delay” (aka amnesty) in court proceedings for the millions of illegal aliens currently occupying U.S. territory.

Although there are many sincere and well-meaning persons involved in the movement advocating enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, they have continued on page 48
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An Unwilling Gardener

Suburbia can suck it. Clans isolated in their castles, moated by lawns, concrete, and cars; no decent food joint or watering hole within walking distance. It works for kids, who can frolic carefree in protected cul-de-sacs — I loved my suburban childhood. My sisters and our gangs of kids from neighboring houses owned the streets — each yard was a new territory for us to discover and conquer. But as an adult, with no kids of my own to watch over? BORING.

I like to be where things are happening, to see the world hustle. I’m a city girl. It’s in my blood. Both of my parents were born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where the only playground was the busy street in front of rows of tenement housing and apartment buildings. My father, who currently lives in Mission Hills, is known to set up his lawn chair on the sidewalk in front of his building and read a book or enjoy a cigar while watching the activity in his ‘hood.

But, despite my city living, I admit there are aspects of suburbia that I miss. Namely, all things green. Not that a lot of grass is (or should be) happening in a drought-cursed city like San Diego, but all of the residential kingdoms my sisters inhabit contain well-manicured gardens, grass, trees, green.

Having a fondness for plants doesn’t keep them alive, and though I wanted a lush garden on our new patio, I knew that in my hands the green would be brown within a week. David, unwilling to become my gardener but understanding my need for green, came up with a solution: fake grass. He researched and found a company called NewGrass, which made realistic looking and feeling turf, and then he ordered enough to cover our terrace.

Now I have my own little slice of suburbia in the heart of the city. I can enjoy coffee on my “lawn” and still be able to walk a short distance to the nearest sushi bar.

**Drama Queen**

I used to ignore David when he said my family was drama, chanting it up to his family’s comparative monotony. “You’re mistaking exciting and entertaining for drama,” I’d say. That’s what I believed. But, since I’ve been medicated (I just reached the one-year mark for taking a daily anti-anxiety drug), I’m starting to see where David’s coming from.

I thought my man’s teasing had become excessive when, a few days ago, in response to seeing my sister’s name appear on my ringing phone, David said, “What’s Jane’s drama now?” “Why does it have to be drama? Maybe it’s just a simple phone call for a simple reason.” He rolled his eyes and gave me his Yeah, right expression. I shot him a Watch it look and answered the phone. “Yo.”

My sister’s voice had that familiar ring of urgency. “I just talked to Mom and she said she was coming to see your place today,” Jane said. “I thought we were getting our nails done.” “Yeah, no big, I’m capable of doing both. It’s a slow day and Mom’s probably not coming over till later, so don’t worry,” I said. Jane breathed a sigh of relief, not for herself, but for me. I realized she’d been stressing on my behalf — she knew I’d wanted to get a pedicure for over a month, and she’d been planning for a while to take me. When it seemed I might have inadvertently double-booked, she panicked.

When the phone call had finished, I looked at David with satisfaction. “See? No drama. Just a simple question and a simple answer.”

“No drama for you doesn’t mean no drama for Jane,” David said. “Everything is a production for her. It doesn’t matter how trivial a thing is, she expends far more energy than is required. Like yesterday, with the coconut.”

I couldn’t help but laugh. Jane’s new go-to lunch is Saffron’s tofu salad rolls and a coconut, the top of which is cut off so that one can drink the coconut water with a straw. Sometimes she picks up her lunch and brings it over to our place. The last time she did this, about a week ago, Jane was spattering about her latest incident before she had the front door open all the way. “You will not believe what just happened to me,” she said.

“Did you have picking-up-your-lunch continued on page 49
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**LONG STORY SHORT**

**Thirty Years Ago**

Tribune editor Neil Morgan will put an end to a “very strange and uncomfortable” situation next week when he turns loose his protégé Tom Blair to write a column of his own. Blair has researched and co-authored the Morgan column for more than seven years; this year, after unsuccessfully trying to sell himself as a daily columnist to the neighboring San Diego Union, Blair began writing three times weekly under the Morgan picture and masthead.

Neither was happy with the arrangement.

— **City Lights:** “No More Nihilism,”
Paul Kruger, October 1, 1981

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**


— **Harvey Hamilton, Machinist**

When you pull off the road to make a phone call and the motel section or movie section is ripped out of the phone book.

— **Tom Pratt, College Pastor**

**Twenty Years Ago**

Intrepid coastal travelers are usually more than a little astonished to see those top-heavy, rickety-looking seafood delivery trucks rocking and swaying over the nonroads that service Baja’s remote fishing camps. They go in filled with ice and come out brimming with shark, abalone, squid, crabs, and lobster. I took a ride across Baja in the back of a pickup one time. It is not an experience I would ever want to repeat, even if I were dead and filleted.

— **“ENSENADA SEAFOOD FIESTA,” Neal Matthews, October 3, 1991**

**Fifteen Years Ago**

I was born and raised in San Diego and have seen many changes. One thing that has remained constant until recently has been the Stadium Way/Friars Road overpass drummer. I remember as a child seeing a man who set up an entire drum kit under said overpass, facing away from traffic, just pounding away. He always assumed he was there for acoustics, but come on, there’s got to be a better place. Is it some sort of tradition, or is he a troll with extremely good rhythm?

— **Leamus B.**

**Ten Years Ago**

The oft-heard remark that the attack on the World Trade Center was “like a movie” is true enough, I guess, as far as it goes. It goes a little farther, however, than a few seconds of “action news” footage, after which you begin to count the way in which it is not like a movie: no Bruce Willis to take charge of the situation, no British-accented archfiend, no two-hour resolution, no emotional insulation, etc.

It’s a reasonable surmise, then, that the postponement of a number of movies as well as television shows on the upcoming schedule — the Arnold Schwarzenegger anti-terrorist adventure, Collateral Damage, the bomb-on-a-plane comedy, Big Trouble, and others — is no more out of respect for the victims than out of abasement at their own inadequacy to the subject, a tacit admission of their mediocrity.

— **MOVIE REVIEW: “ONE CENT’S WORTH,” Duncan Shepherd, September 27, 2001**

**Five Years Ago**

If you had any doubts about the power of emotion or whether there is such a thing as a home-field advantage in professional football, they were taken care of Monday night. New Orleans played eight or nine emotion or whether there is such a thing as a home-field advantage in professional football, they were taken care of Monday night. New Orleans played eight or nine anti-terrorist adventure, Collateral Damage, the bomb-on-a-plane comedy, Big Trouble, and others — is no more out of respect for the victims than out of abasement at their own inadequacy to the subject, a tacit admission of their mediocrity.

— **SPORTING BOX: “WHAT’S UP DOWN THERE,” Patrick Daugherty, September 28, 2006**

**BACK WHEN in the Reader**

**San Diego Reader, October 1, 1981**

**SPORTING BOX:** “WHAT’S UP DOWN THERE,”
Patrick Daugherty, September 28, 2006

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*San Diego County cases not set for trial*
Accused Sex Crimes Detective Responds to Sexual Harassment Allegations

SDPD detective Edward Fletes, accused by fellow detective Deborah Burger of creating an “intimidating and hostile work environment charged with offensive sexual comments, slurs, innuendos, emails, [and] photos,” has shown a lack of empathy and respect for his colleagues.

Reading over the complaint, I find myself wondering if Detective Burger has ever seen an episode of CSI: Miami. At the opening of nearly every single damn episode, David Caruso makes a joke that is tasteless at best and deeply offensive at worst, often regarding a murder victim. Case in point: “She came down here to drink mojitos and catch some sun,” says a cop at the murder scene of a lovely young girl, and Caruso puts on his sunglasses and replies, “Well, it looks like something young girl, and Caruso puts on his sunglasses and replies, “Well, it looks like something caught her.”

But it’s okay, and you know why? Because the man deals with murder victims on a daily basis, which is a horrific way to live. Does it mean that he doesn’t care about murder victims? Hell, no. He spends his life hunting down the killers. Rather, it’s a defense mechanism, a way to stay sane in the face of insane horror. Further, no less a student of the gallows humor like Caruso’s serves a crucial psychological purpose: “By making our victims, we achieve in a roundabout way the enjoyment of overcoming him.”

So when I post a photo of a teenager “with her legs spread open and pointing to her genital area with a caption that reads: ‘EXHIBIT A’ — ‘The proof that she was asking for it, your Honour,’ am I suggesting that rape is okay? Absolutely not. I am suggesting — nay, asserting — exactly the opposite. I am making my enemy — the sexual offender — “small, inferior, despicable, or comic,” manifesting the nightmarish absurdity of his mindset. I work in a sex-crimes unit. Trust me, you do not want to know the nasty shit I have to deal with on a daily basis. Shit that I will never be able to unsee. Is some of the humor I use to deal with it also nasty? You bet your ass, it is. I make no apologies, except to the public that has to hear about all this. If you’re not in the thick of it, of course it’s going to sound horrible.

Now, as for the “Man Test” email. Granted, it was stupid — but, hell, so is Real Housewives of New Jersey, and no one is suing the ad wizards behind that one. Supposedly, it “specifically targeted gays and used epithets such as ‘fag,’ ‘FLAMING homo,’ ‘queer,’ ‘Gaylord,’ ‘ass-rape,’ ‘dying to tune a meat whistle,’ ‘pole smoker,’ and ‘keep that gay shit to yourself!’”

Okay, let’s hash this out:

Fag — Free-Agent Gay, as in, unattached and ready to party. You could look it up.

FLAMING homo — Horner Simpson once said, “I like my beer cold, my TV loud, and my homosexuals flaming.” Yeah, real offensive.

Queer — is this even a thing anymore? I thought the gays had taken this one back.

Caruso’s character in Meet the Parents? He can make a joke out of it, so can I.

Ass-rape — again, you could look it up: it’s a fetish, like leather daddies, or bears, or furries. There are whole parties where everyone dresses like Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean. How do I know this? It’s my job.

As for the blowjob comments — um, it’s about gays. That’s no more offensive than saying a horny straight guy is dying to...well, you can probably imagine it.

I’m not even going to explain “keep that gay shit to yourself.” Nobody needs that mental picture.

In conclusion, I guess Christopher Hitchens was right. Women just aren’t that funny. It’s a pity, because Detective Burger has an awesome rack.

Good Press Going to Philip Rivers Head?

Head coach-provocateur Norv Türner: “Look, I know Peter King picked Philip as this year’s MVP. But the bling helmet is a bit much, I think. For one thing, it makes his noggin into a sparkly target. For another, it’s a poor substitute for a Super Bowl ring. Though I do have to confess a certain admiration for the jewel-work on the face guard. That’s the kind of attention to detail that has always endeared Philip to me.”

Chargers’ Türner: “I’m the only trickster god this team needs, thank you very much.”

During the press conference following his team’s devastating, turnover-rich loss to the New England Patriots, San Diego Chargers coach-provocateur Norv Türner took time to say that “in retrospect, backup punter and wannabe-prankster Mike Scifres’s decision to grease Philip Rivers’s hand towel with I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter was at best regrettable and at worst simply unfunny. Yes, there’s an obvious gag in saying ‘I can’t believe it’s not catchable’ about this or that mishadowed pass. But two interceptions and a fumble from our big star? Some jokes have a shorter shelf life than others.”

Dressed Down

Entire Charger Girls Squad Hit with One-Game Suspension for Wearing Practice Uniforms to Opening Day Game

“T-Shirts? The fans can get that at home.”

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Christie went to a blackout party on Thursday night that stretched far enough into Friday that she lost track of what day it was and told everyone to be sure to bring their Saturday scrimmage outfits. By the time Starkesha figured out what was what, God bless her, it was too late. They tried to pretend it was a throwback thing, but nobody was buying.

Malarky took a sip of his carrot juice and asked the girl working the stage to throw a couple of high kicks. “Don’t forget to imagine you’re holding pom-poms, sweetie,” he advised, tucking a couple of singles into her g-string. “Sheesh, I’ve been in the clubs ever since the post-game, and I swear, I’ve got cramps in my bill-tucking fingers. I told Norv this was no way to blow through his petty cash fund, but he was adamant. Sunday is his day to orchestrate, and when someone pulls something like this — well, imagine if the gladiators in Gladiator had showed up in jogging suits. So, the girls are sitting the next one out, and I’ve got to put a temporary squad together, pronto.”

He sighed. “I bet this sort of thing never happens in Dallas.”
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**Sports Poetry Issue**

**Summary:**

The problem is, most overweight people are unable to find a simple, easy to follow system to reduce their fat and then keep it off. Even their coordination, daily movement and attractiveness are destroyed with this weight gain. That will all change when you start using this system.

**Here is what I can do for you.** CALL the office NOW! You won’t have to make any radical changes in your lifestyle with this program, ... have surgery, or take any harmful drugs.

Your treatments are private and you will start to lose 1-2 pounds per day, depending on your size, age, condition of your body and follow through.

You will consult with me personally on a weekly basis for follow up and questions. Once you’ve reached your desired weight, you’ll have your shape back, have more energy, and you’ll have your self-esteem back.

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**Reserve your spot today!** Call the office now to have access to this amazing weight loss technology. (10 spots available!)

---

**Sports Poetry Issue**

** Commissioner David Stern cares about the upcoming NBA season, assuming there is one.**

**Thanks to Jim Behrie who writes “Football Picks Haikus” for theawl.com. Follows are two of his NFL Week 3 haikus:**

At Cincinnati -2.5 San Francisco
*Bengals aren’t door mats*
The 49ers play tough
*But I still won’t watch*

At Cleveland -2.5 Miami
*Bush is a dud*
You can’t gain 100 yards
*eating bad pizza*

Folks, this is poetry a man can read in public.
So, in the spirit of cultural enhancement and poetic manliness, the Box offers a long-form NFL Week 4 haiku.

At San Diego -8.5 Miami
*1st and goal*
Chargers run up the middle
*Charge!*

*2nd and goal*
Chargers run off left tackle
*Charge!*

*3rd and goal*
Chargers run off right tackle
*Charge!*

*4th and goal*
Chargers take a huddle
*Timeout*

In other sports news, no doubt you’ve noticed that nobody cares if there is an NBA season? Last Friday, the NBA indefinitely postponed training camps and canceled 43 preseason games. Nobody looked up from their Facebook page.

Camps were scheduled to open October 3. Did you know camps were scheduled to open on October 3? No one else did, either. The regular season is scheduled to begin on November 1. Did you know the regular season was scheduled to begin on November 1? I’ll give five to one you didn’t.

Nobody follows the NBA season until the playoffs begin in late April. That’s seven months from now. Check back with us then.


Over in NBA World, the owners and players met on September 22. No new talks are scheduled, at least publicly. Honey, while you’re up, will you grab me a beer from the fridge? Has anybody got an Aztecs score?

Nobody cares what the issues are between owners and players. Quick, name the top three issues that keep owners and players from signing off on a new collective-bargaining agreement? Okay, name the top two issues. One issue?

Under the old agreement, players were guaranteed 57 percent of revenues. Currently, the NBA has a soft salary cap; in fact, it’s a soft, yummy salary cap with enough loopholes in it that actually being under the salary cap is optional. The players have offered to take 53 percent of a bigger pie; 51 percent, if the soft salary cap is retained. Nobody cares.

The last NBA lockout ran from July 1, 1998, to January 20, 1999, lasted 204 days. The season began on February 5. Each team’s schedule was shortened by 32 games. No big deal, the playoffs proceeded as usual.

Here’s the take-away: on October 6, 1998, the NBA canceled all of its preseason games. Using this math, the league has ten days, give or take, before the 2011 preseason is dropped. NBA commissioner David Stern announced that because of the this and the that, it will take two weeks to get everything up and running after an agreement is signed. Therefore, the parties have until October 17 to agree on a deal in order to get the 2010–2011 season started on time.

So, what’s going to happen? Since the public doesn’t care, it comes down to who’s got the most juice. Owners will win because they hold the money. The median length of an NBA player’s career is one-half of one dog year. Owners are presidents for life. When it gets serious, the players will fold, no matter that the NBA is becoming the new NHL.

In the meantime, the Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions are 3-0. Now, that’s interesting.
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FULL SET $217
QUEEN SET $267
KING SET $337

CLOUD 9 PLUSH PILLOWTOP
13" Thick-Plush Euro top Design
TWIN SET $297
FULL SET $357
QUEEN SET $397
KING SET $597

SLEEP THERAPY SERENITY
11" Thick-Tri Zone Firm Support, Eco-Based Foam & Natural Fabric
TWIN SET $367
FULL SET $467
QUEEN SET $527
KING SET $777

CHRISTELLE LATEX PILLOWTOP
14" Thick-Individual Pocket Coil Construction, Latex Memory Foam & Natural Organic Fabric
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QUEEN SET $647
KING SET $887

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Poway quarterback Conor Flanagan surveys the San Pasqual defense. Santa Fe Christian running back Jarrod Watson-Lewis leaves a trail of Palo Verde Valley defenders in his wake.

Game of the Week: #9 San Pasqual at #4 Poway

Poway — San Pasqual and Poway began Friday night undefeated — and both ended that way. San Pasqual kicker Eric Olivares made a 39-yard field goal as time expired, and the ninth-ranked Golden Eagles erased a ten-point fourth-quarter deficit to tie fourth-ranked Poway 17-17.

“We wanted this more than anything in the world,” Olivares said.

Olivares split the uprights to cap a San Pasqual (3-0-1(4,7),(996,994)) drive that started on its own 25-yard line with 1:14 left in the game. Though the Golden Eagles ran the option, they were able to move the ball through the air against Poway (3-0-1) on the game-tying drive.

“Our offensive line gave me time, and our receivers made great plays,” said San Pasqual quarterback Tyler Tony. “We [throw] every day in practice but the way our offense is designed, we’d rather do it on the ground.”

As time ticked away and San Pasqual marched down the field, Olivares had a feeling the game would come down to him. “There was a lot of adrenaline going through my body. I was definitely nervous,” Olivares said.

The game appeared to be in Poway’s control midway through the fourth quarter, after quarterback Connor Flanagan scored on a one-yard keeper to give the Titans a 17-7 lead.

San Pasqual responded with a touchdown on the ensuing drive to make it a three-point game with 2:42 remaining. The Golden Eagles unsuccessfully attempted an onside kick but were able to stop Poway and get the ball back with just more than a minute left.

Santa Fe Christian Dominates Palo Verde Valley

Solana Beach — For the second straight week, Santa Fe Christian sent an opponent crashing from the unbeaten ranks. The Eagles scored six touchdowns in the first half and crushed

visiting Palo Verde Valley 48-0 on Saturday afternoon.

“We prepared better this week than we had previously, so I actually thought it was going to be a blowout,” said Santa Fe Christian senior Connor Moore.

In the first quarter, Moore found the end zone on both offense and defense. At defensive back, Moore intercepted a Ryan Galvan pass and returned it 48 yards for a score, the first of two interceptions for scores on consecutive Palo Verde Valley (2-1) drives.

“Coach [Dan] Egan had the scout team running those plays all week, so I read that pretty well and he threw the ball right to me,” Moore said.

Late in the first quarter, Moore scored on a two-yard quarterback keeper that put Santa Fe Christian (3-1) ahead 21-0. The Eagles turned a fast start into a blowout in the second quarter with touchdowns from running backs Jarrod Watson-Lewis (50 yards) and Tony Miro (23 yards) on the ground, and Moore finding Watson-Lewis for a 23-yard score just before halftime for a decisive 42-0 lead.

Santa Fe Christian defensive backs Hakon Bream (top) and Grant Lucier break up a pass intended for Palo Verde Valley receiver Corey Smith.

The Red Zone can be found at SDReader.com/football
BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

A pig’s orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

Growing up in the Midwest, in or around Chicago, I would hear the phrase “Indian Summer” annually and about this time of year. As a kid, I approved. After all, the word Indian was just half of the phrase “cowboys and Indians,” an occasional area of concern of mine in the imaginative sense. Somehow Indian Summer evoked war paint and translated into any foliage that might be changing hue, early as it would be for that phenomenon.

The term was also closely associated with the beginning of the school year. One would have been back at school for a few weeks, maybe, long enough so that all of it would no longer be a novelty — the teacher, new classmates, maybe new girls if you weren’t in Catholic school, and, oh yes, new subjects to study. At this point in the school year it was time to get started with some serious diversion during dull subjects like, say, economics. Shortly after taking in the words “supply” and “demand,” I tuned out and would pass notes to Tracy Cunningham, a tomboy with a prole sense of humor; Justin Cleveland, a class clown with an inaccessible (to me) sense of humor; and maybe one or two others. The contents of these folded or crumpled notes, which would be for that phenomenon.

What brought much of this to mind today in early September as I swelter, yes, veritably swelter in 97-degree heat and unusually high humidity, was an email I received from Thailand. This electronic mail would have received the highest of unofficial/bac-of-the-class marks from Tracy, Justin, myself, others, a kind of Pulitzer in the category of eighth grade or unofficial/back-of-the-class marks from Tracy, Justin, myself, others, a kind of Pulitzer in the category of eighth grade or

"If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would out of the body to squirt blood 30 feet.

"A pig’s orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

"A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

"Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour (O.M.G.)!"

"A pig’s orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

"If you farted consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

"(Now that’s more like it!)

"The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out of the body to squirt blood 30 feet.

"(O.M.G.)"

"A pig’s orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

"(In my next life, I want to be a pig.)

"A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

"(Creepy.) (I’m still not over the pig.)

"Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour (Don’t try this at home, maybe at work.)

"The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male’s head off. (Honey, I’m home. What the…?)

"The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It’s like a human jumping the length of a football field. (30 minutes. Lucky pig! Can you imagine?)

"The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds. (What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)

"Some lions mate over 50 times a day."

(I still want to be a pig in my next life...quality over quantity!)

Butterflies taste with their feet.

(Something I always wanted to know.)

"The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue. (HmmmHmmmmm,...)

"Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people. (If you’re ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)

"Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump. (Okay, so that would be a good thing)

"A cat’s urine glows under a black light. (I wonder how much the government paid to figure that out.)

"An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain. (I know some people like that.)

"Starfish have no brains (I know some people like that, too.)

"Polar bears are left-handed. (If they switch, they’ll live a lot longer.)

"Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure. (What about that pig! Do the dolphins know about the pig?)

(I know some people like that.)

See more stories by John Brizzolara at SDReader.com/brizzolara
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See Page 126

PIG
Squiggie, ID#A1431290. Female. 8 months old. Super friendly, walks on leash, loves dogs and people, doesn’t know she’s a pig. County of San Diego Department of Animal Services, Southern Region Shelter, 5821 Sweetwater Road, Bonita 91902. 619-498-2311. See website for animals at this shelter and their 2 other locations: www.sddac.com.

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Now Open! Pacific Beach Tuesday Market
October! Oktoberfest! Time for a party!

Karl Strauss was my first local beer, way back when I first moved to town, so I put in a call to the brewery’s PR manager, Melody Daversa (858-273-2739, karlstrauss.com). “We have our Karl Strauss Oktoberfest. It’s a beer that gets lagered, so it takes a little bit longer to make than an ale. Lagering means that it’s fermented at a cooler temperature, with a different kind of yeast. You get a very clean, crisp beer with not a lot of fruity flavors. More toasted and nutty....”

“We start making it six to eight weeks before we release it. We have it on tap here at the restaurant — 16-ounce pints are $4 during happy hour [4:30–6 p.m.], and $5.95 at all other times. We sell at retail accounts like BevMo and Costco [suggested retail for six-pack, $8.99]. And places like the Kensington Grill and PB Bar & Grill have bought kegs from us to offer it on tap.”

On the food front, Karl Strauss restaurants (multiple San Diego locations) suggest pairing Oktoberfest with its Forest Mushroom Flatbread topped with smoked Gouda, various mushrooms, truffle oil, beer onions, roasted red peppers, basil and arugula ($9.95).

“Dr.” Bill Sysak, beverage supervisor at Stone Brewing Co. in Escondido (760-471-4999, stonebrew.com), explained that Oktoberfest beers are made in the style of a German Märzen — “an amber lager with a malty mouthfeel and a dry finish. The roasted malt character pairs perfectly with grilled, roasted, or smoked dishes. Things like the bratwurst, roast oxen, and smoked fish that are traditionally served in Munich during the Oktoberfest. Even though Stone Brewing Co. doesn’t make a Märzen-style beer, several of our fine ales — especially Stone Smoked Porter and Arrogant Bastard Ale — have similar roasted malt characteristics.” Prices at the Stone Company Stores in Escondido and South Park: Stone Smoked Porter, $4 for 22-ounce bottle, $9 for two-liter growler fill. Arrogant Bastard Ale, $4.25 for 22-ounce bottle, $10 for growler fill.

Jason Stockberger has been the brewmaster at Rock Bottom downtown (619-231-7000, rockbottom.com) for eight years now. “We make our beer here in-house,” he said, “and we just tapped our Rocktoberfest. It took me about five weeks to brew. It’s a Märzen lager, and it’s malty and sweet and toasty. The flavors come from the different types of roasted grains that I use, as well as the blend of hops and the different sorts of yeasts. I get all of them from all over the world.... We have it on tap: a half-liter is $5.50, and I have a monstrous one-liter mug for $11. I also have a 64-oz. growler for $14, and kegs to go for $40.”

Stockberger assured me that his Rocktoberfest “also complements the foods we’re rolling out for Oktoberfest. We have a platter with three kinds of sausage plus sauerkraut mashed potatoes [$15.95]. We have schnitzel [$13.95]. And we have a Rocktoberfest sampler combo: a pretzel with three different kinds of homemade mustard, a knackwurst corn dog, and corned beef Reuben rolls ($13.95).”

Over at Lost Abbey in Escondido (800-918-6816), Sage Osterfeld was getting ready for High Tide — the brewery’s wet-hopped IPA. “We go to Yakima, Washington on the day of the hop harvest there, harvest the hops, drive them down to California, and then spend three continuous days brewing with those fresh-picked hops. Because it’s wet-hopped, it’s much fruitier and bolder than a beer made with the pellet-sized stuff. It’s a natural balance to spicy sausage like kielbasa or Munich-style wiens. But it’s only available for a very limited time; it’ll be gone by mid-October. We’re distributed by Stone Brewing Co., so you can get our beers anywhere you get Stone beers, and you can buy from our tasting room in San Marcos: $6.99 for a 22-ounce bottle, five-gallon kegs for $80, half-barrels for $180.”

Finally, down at San Diego Brewing Co. in Mission Valley (619-284-2739, sandiegobrewing.com), Karen assured me that she would have at least one domestic Oktoberfest beer, “like a Sam Adams or a Karl Strauss,” and at least one imported, “maybe a Spaten Munich.” Our house beers are ales, as opposed to lagers or pilsners. Domestics will start at $4.75 and go as high as $6.”
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“For my 50th birthday, I bought myself a gutter,” quips Janet Lancaster of Clairemont. She’s talking about a rain gutter, that is — the one that Lancaster and her husband Kelly installed on their roof to collect rainwater they use for irrigation. But not a drop goes to watering the front lawn because, for the past two years, the Lancasters haven’t grown a blade of grass in front of their house on Boxford Drive. As it turns out, they’re part of a local trend: locals who willfully kill lawns and replace them with edibles.

In San Diego, as in most parts of the country, an emerald-green lawn — uniform, lush, free from crabgrass, dandelions, brown patches, and other meddlesome irregularities — has long been deemed a marker of suburban success, or at least middle-class conformity. But a certain number of locals have decided to uproot their lawns in favor of food gardens, replacing the real estate salesman’s vision with a more agrarian and utilitarian one.

The Lancasters’ first foray into the world of “food not lawns” occurred in May 2009, when Janet took a course called “Goodbye Grass” (or, as she jokes, “How to Kill Your Lawn”), the first in a series of six weekend classes taught at the (then) Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. As she recalls: “I’d followed the Victory Gardens San Diego website for...”
Janet and Kelly Lancaster, surrounded by their tomato plants and 20-foot-long passion fruit hedge

a while, and Kelly and I had talked about it.” Kelly adds, “Around the time the city [of San Diego] announced all the water restrictions, we thought we could pitch in.”

Like many in the lawn-to-food set, the Lancasters have tapped into a loosely knit network of local not-for-profit groups whose emphasis centers around the notion of small-scale food production. Spearheading things locally are San Diego Food Not Lawns and Victory Gardens San Diego, both of which are sponsored in part by the San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project, a grant-funded mélange of private and public sector actors. Started in 2006, Food Not Lawns describes itself as a “food justice organization committed to enlightening people about the problems with our food system and working to address those problems with creative solutions.” I asked one of the organization’s board members, Phillip Dunn: “What the heck is ‘food justice?’” He replied, “It has to do with providing wider access to good, healthy food, and advocating that grocery stores locate in low-income areas. It’s also pushing to streamline the neighborhood garden permit process.”

Notwithstanding lofty ambitions to effectuate “justice,” many San Diegans with whom I spoke are motivated not only by environmental concerns, but by the desire to cut water bills; access to cheap, ultra-fresh, organic produce is also high on the list, as is the simple pleasure of watching things grow, and the old lawn-to-food folks, environmentally gentle methods preferred by the lawn-to-food folks, turned out to be more labor-intensive and time-consuming than they initially thought.

“I guess you could call me a tree-hugger. I’m concerned about the planet.”

The Lancasters had planned to remove the grass in time for a fall “build,” Victory Gardens argot for prepping a plot prior to planting. However, killing a lawn, in the environmentally gentle method preferred by the lawn-to-food folks, turned out to be more labor-intensive and time-consuming than they initially thought.

shiny, smooth, dappled-green fruit roughly the size and shape of avocados on diets. In a couple of months, they’ll turn black and wrinkled; Kelly says, “When they drop to the ground, they’re ripe.”

Passion fruit in San Diego? Isn’t that the expensive Hawaiian import rarely seen around these parts except at places like Whole Foods? Well, the Lancasters have an entire specialty-produce section of them: the hedge abutting the street is 20 feet long, five feet high, and filled with trendy produce, including passion fruit.

Whatever drives one to uproot a perfectly healthy patch of lawn in favor of bushes, vines, hedges, or small trees, it doesn’t hurt to have a green thumb or two. According to Bob Greenamyer, director of Victory Gardens, one to uproot a perfectly healthy patch of lawn in favor of bushes, vines, hedges, or small trees, it doesn’t hurt to have a green thumb or two.

The Lancasters had planned to remove the grass in time for a fall “build,” Victory Gardens argot for prepping a plot prior to planting.
“First, we starved it of water for three weeks,” Janet said. “Then, Kelly scalped it, mowed it as short as he could.” At that juncture, they were joined by a band of fellow turf-busters who helped them gather cardboard bicycle boxes they’d found behind stores in Pacific Beach. “We flattened out the boxes, took off all the tape and staples, spread them over the grass, and sprayed them with ten gallons of plain white vinegar.” Waiting in the wings was a 14-cubic-yard truckload of mulch, free from a local nursery, $100 to truck to the yard. This yielded a layer six inches deep over the 900-square-foot yard, which they again soaked with water. To allow the cardboard to break down sufficiently, they would need to give it more time and rain. “We spoke to a ‘master composter,’ who said we’d have to let it overwinter.”

By May 2009, the fescue was doomed, and the second part of the build was on. As they had the prior spring, a group of Victory Gardens volunteers converged. It was now time to build a raised bed, to turn the soil, remove the last vestiges of intact cardboard, and amend the growing medium with gypsum. Using handmade, rectangular screens fashioned from old lumber and chicken wire, they removed rocks and roots. By the end of the day, arugula, carrots, chives, green rhubarb, lime beans, radishes, snap peas, squash, and tomatoes luxuriated where grass had once gulped water. It’s the voracious thirst of turf that sets off those who uproot grass in favor of grub. The anti-grass gospel centers around the inefficiency of cultivating an inedible crop — turf — in a climate that can’t support it year-round without irrigation. Janet Lancaster, who claims significant water savings since removing the front lawn, quips, “Grass is pointless. Brown grass is really pointless.”

By the time I visited the house on Boxford, the Lancasters were celebrating their second summer of harvests. As he showed me around the yard, Kelly referred to a succession of plants as “volunteers.” I didn’t understand at first. Pointing at a sprawling tomato bush as tall as my head, he explained, “We didn’t plant that and grew on their own.” Volunteer or conscript, he’s not perturbed by the imminent bumper crop. “I could eat tomatoes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.”

Perhaps the most striking aspects of the Lancasters’ lawn conversion aren’t the edible, but the accoutrements and methodologies in place. Take worm castings, for example; not only do these folks buy and propagate earthworms for their garden, but they harvest the invertebrates’ feces by collecting waste after it falls through the holes in the plastic worm boxes. “We make worm tea. It’s great for controlling pests. We take the castings, put them in a balled-up pantyhose and soak it in water. Then we spray

Bob Greenamyer’s 1000-gallon water tank fills up from his roof gutters after a total of four inches of rain has fallen.

“Grass is pointless.
Brown grass is really pointless.”

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The Lancasters also go to great lengths to conserve and recycle water. Kelly shows me a hand-printed roster of units and dollars expended via their bi-monthly water bill from the City of San Diego. It shows a 30 percent or so reduction from summer’s peak-season usage in 2008 to 2010 (numbers from 2011 are pending).

To increase water savings, they’ve harvested rainwater and recycled gray water. Here’s where the rain gutters (“the good ones, $1000 — seamless,” says Janet) come in, feeding six 55-gallon polyethylene drums that sit below. The drums, four at each corner of the house, are brick-red numbers inscribed in Greek and Italian. Vaguely amphora-shaped, they’re European, imported via the internet at $110 a pop. Between each gutter-spout and the drum is an old tube sock that serves as a filter. Kelly says the water, which they use to irrigate their edible crops, is good enough to drink, better than San Diego tap water, at any rate. Gray water, on the other hand, water recycled from their washing machine via a hole drilled in the wall, is used for ornamentals and for flushing toilets. It’s low tech: the water splashes into a big plastic trash can, and from there, it’s poured into smaller buckets that once held kitty litter for their cat Boots.

I visited Bob Greenamyer’s personal victory garden on a mild, sun-splashed afternoon in May. At first glance, there’s nothing about his front yard that stands out, nothing that says, “I’m an anomaly in Scripps Ranch.” It’s subtle, perhaps even elegant, in an understated fashion, with lavender in bloom, miniature citrus trees and drought-resistant shrubs; there’s also a...
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“Every bite of food we eat has traveled an average of 1000 miles.”

Cadre of blue-green artichoke plants, some with nascent, spiky globes. But what’s radical, at least for this neck of San Diego’s woods, is what’s not here — grass. Greenamyer (with a name like that, he quips, his avocation “just had to be”) doesn’t have the smallest patch of Bermuda or rye in his back yard, although there is a rather incongruous-seeming artificial-turf putting green.

After the retired elementary school principal shows me around a bit more, the plastic grass starts to make sense, not in terms of aesthetics, but as evidence of the water-conservation tie-in that many lawn-eschewers promote. Collecting and impounding rainwater, and using it in sparing fashion, are at the heart of Greenamyer’s approach. He admits that for the majority of lawn-to-garden converts, his irrigation setup would be impractical, as it entails two water storage tanks, 1000 and 700 gallons, which are filled with water directed by the rain gutters on his roof. At a cost of around $2000 for the system, it wouldn’t be possible to recoup the investment unless “the utilities were to charge the real rate for water.”

Other home-food gardeners with whom I spoke claim that one needn’t spend exorbitant sums to save modest amounts. In the case of the Lancasters, total expenditures on behalf of a front-yard installation, including the complementary water-harvesting/recycling system, have amounted to around $2000. Accordingly, with water usage...
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cut in half, they’re no more than a couple of years away from breaking even, not counting savings accrued by limiting store-bought produce. (For the record, Janet Lancaster admits to having paid landscapers around $8000 less than a decade ago to have Marathon fescue turf and a pop-up sprinkler system put in.)

Greenamyer, who converted his lawn in 2008, and other lawn-to-food advocates say that the lawn-conversion trend in San Diego County has also been spurred by the “slow food” movement.

“People are more concerned these days not only about healthy eating, but about where their food comes from. There’s a focus on eating locally and seasonally.” According to home-farming fans, eating what’s grown nearby is not only better for the palate, but, in the economic scheme of things, the most sensible and efficient method for getting produce from the ground to the consumer. Greenamyer says: “San Diego has the largest number of small farms in the state, and California has the largest number of small farms in the U.S. But 95 percent of the production goes out of California, while 95 percent of what we consume here is imported from other states and countries.”

Eric Chamberlin, a librarian who’s in the process of transforming his “crunchy and brown” front lawn to food, doesn’t like those numbers at all. “Every bite of food we eat has traveled an average of 1000 miles.” Being self-sufficient is “a matter of long-term survival... because we’re running out of oil.”

Every San Diegan lawn-to-food devotee I met to one extent or another views water conservation and recycling, along with organic farming practices, as an integral part of the movement. That’s not to say that they’re all community activists of the “Birkenstocks and bikes” mode. When I meet Charles Anacker at his rambling hillside property in East Oak Park, near the College Grove shopping center. For the Chamberlins, fruits and vegetables are just the beginning, the first phase of an “overall lifestyle change” that will eventually include raising pygmy goats for milk. (They plan to petition the City of San Diego for permission to keep the goats on the property.)

He says, “I just liked the design. I’m not into the political stuff. You don’t have to be a leftist to do this. All kinds of people are interested, maybe even a few Christian fundamentalists.”

According to Mel Lions, founder and board member at the San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project, beds in her heretofore crabgrass-infested front lawn, says, “I have always been what is called ‘organic’; to us, it was just ‘natural.’"

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lawn-to-food locals are “limited to those people who eat food.” When I asked him if certain ideologies or demographics typify the trend, he replied, “It’s broad-based. Who doesn’t like fresh produce that you eat the moment it’s picked? There’s also satisfaction in knowing the history of your food.” Lions says it’s not mandatory to despise lawns. “They have a place. You can’t play baseball in a vegetable garden, for example. And a lawn is a nice place to play with your infant. But they shouldn’t be the dominant culture. The lawn-to-food movement isn’t so much a reaction against something as it is a proaction in favor of something else. Years ago, it was the norm to have a vegetable garden at home. We’re just going back to that.” He also touts the home-cultivation of edibles as a superior form of exercise. “Some people go to the gym and pay to use a treadmill. What do they get out of that? Nuthin’. But when you go out to your garden, you get fresh air, exercise, and a basket full of produce.”

Many San Diegans who’ve done the heretofore unthinkable plow-over of sacred turf got their know-how at one of the county’s five regional garden centers. Established under the grant, they’re located in a mix of urban and rural settings: City Heights, Encinitas, National City, South San Diego, and Spring Valley. According to Greenamyer, these “garden ed” classes fill up fast. “The demand is greater than the supply.” Even Iaconic Bob exults, “Interest is huge.”
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modest) savings in the form of lower water bills, does it make economic sense to uproot a lawn and replace it with veggies? When I asked Greenamyer whether lawn conversions result in lower food costs for the home-grower, he was equivocal. “It depends on how you value your time.” There’s a lot to learn after you’ve yanked the last stubborn plug of Bermuda grass. To that end, it’s imperative to educate yourself about sites and soils, microclimates and drainage, the kinds of details that standard-issue, HOA-friendly lawns don’t bring into play. Among these factors, soil composition is deemed to be the most critical; the county’s predominant clay is reviled. Janet Lancaster declares, “We have the best growing conditions and the worst soil.”

If it’s soil quality (or lack thereof) that serves as a common lament, it’s the art of composting that offers earthly salvation. For the uninitiated, the manufacture of compost would seem no more involved than a simple tossing of “stuff” into a container and standing by for rot, but to La Mesa’s Charles Anacker, it’s an art.

I met Anacker on the steep driveway that snakes up his ramshackle hillside lot. Fresh on the heels of taking a master composting class, he talked about the joys of decomposition. He walked over to a series of barrels and dug his hands into the rich, near-black admixture he’d created. “Feel this. It’s amazing how hot it gets in there, up to 150 degrees.” It was hot, all right — and it smelled a little like old coffee grounds, courtesy of Starbucks’ “grounds for gardens” program. Next, he directed my attention to a pile of cut eucalyptus logs and spoke about “hugelkultur,” the creation of raised soil beds by burying rotten wood.

Anacker, a furniture designer by trade, recalls that when he and his wife moved to La Mesa in 1990, they “inherited a large front yard, an old gas mower, and lots of gophers.” Never a turf fan, Anacker says he “gave the mower to a local gardener and decided to dedicate my large front yard to becoming a meadow and natural habitat. I didn’t know where this was going to lead, but I knew I didn’t want to poison my soil with chemical fertilizers, poisons to kill the gophers, or sprays to control insect pests. We planted a few fruit trees and allowed the skunks, rabbits, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, foxes, black birds, field mice, and Mexican parrots to call our front yard home.”

The Anackers’ first, tenuous efforts at creating a food garden failed; because they were unwilling to sacrifice the shade provided by rapidly spreading trees, the first plants died. Nowadays, with some of the big eucalyptus felled, you’ll find cherimoya, guava (both standard and “pineapple” varieties), kumquat, orange, and quince trees. On another section formerly devoted to Bermuda grass (which Anacker alternately praises and curses for its tenuous rhizomes), he’s...
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crafted two 19 x 12 plots. One of the pest-fenced gardens has three raised beds planted with bell peppers, spinach, and tomatoes. The other’s going to be dedicated to fava beans, primarily so that Anacker can use the greens to enrich the soil for a future, still-undetermined crop. “After we eat the beans, I’m going to cut up the rest of the plant material as a nitrogen-fixing mulch.”

Whatever they end up planting in lieu of grass, San Diego area lawn-converters take the position that lawns are unnatural environments. Turf is a lousy way to use water, they claim, citing government-compiled water-usage statistics: e.g., lawns drink 270 billion gallons of water per week, enough to irrigate 327,000 square kilometers of organic vegetables. (According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, satellite and aerial imagery revealed, as of 2007, that around 162,000 square kilometers of the United States is given over to turf — three times the acreage dedicated to any single irrigated food crop.) In addition to water conservation, many in the lawn-to-garden movement link their efforts to larger environmental concerns; they say that the heavy use of herbicides and pesticides make traditional lawns a damaging choice.

Whatever large-scale environmental advantages there are to growing your own, foodies have gotten into the act. On its website, Slow Food Urban San Diego states that it “…links the pleasure of food with a commitment to the community and the environment.” The group, which labels itself a local chapter of Slow Food USA, describes its mission as “raising public awareness, improving access and encouraging the enjoyment of foods that are local, seasonal, and sustainably grown.”

All the local advocacy groups urge San Diegans to support farmers’ markets. But the question arises: If it’s convenient enough to buy produce at a farmers’ market, why grow your own at home? Even if there isn’t a homeowners’...
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association to set up hurdles, and even if the neighbors are supportive, is it worth the expenditure of time and effort? According to the Lancasters, it is, especially in the case of vegetables grown from seed. “Seeds are cheap.” By contrast, “starts,” or young plants, often run $5 or more apiece; depending on germination rates, a $1 package of seeds can yield dozens of plants. (Mel Lions says that one can save more money by not driving to a farmers’ market.)

When pressed, San Diego’s lawn-to-food folks admit that saving money isn’t paramount. Maveh, a 50ish, tattooed retiree who lives on Euclid and spend $100 on plants than on a skirt at Nordstrom.”

“I’d rather go to City Farmers Nursery on Euclid and spend $100 on plants than on a skirt at Nordstrom.”

She exults in her distaste for turf. “I’m really anti-lawn. I’m glad the lawn is dead.”

Though not far from the 94 freeway, it isn’t easy to find Maveh with her husband Joe in Spring Valley, says, “I don’t care. It’s the joy I get from buying plants and watching them grow. I’d rather go to City Farmers Nursery.

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and Joe’s place. Maybe it’s the narrow, winding Spring Valley streets, holdovers from faded ruritania. In front, there’s a small, intact lawn under the shade of gnarled pepper trees. The house itself feels reminiscent of something in Marin or Mendocino. What led them to remove their back lawn? Maveh explains, “After I took a class on xeriscape gardening, I became fascinated. I was never much of a lawn fan to begin with. It’s important to have a diversity of plants, especially native species, to avoid a monoculture.”

As I chatted with the affable pair, whose demeanor bespoke a certain counterculture holdover from the 1970s, I asked: “Did you have any gardening experience before you took out your lawn?” Maveh laughed and pointed to Joe, who is shambling, bearded, low-key. He fessed up to three decades’ worth of grounds-maintenance management at San Diego’s Park and Recreation Department.

When I saw the remains of their former backyard lawn, I understood: the place looks like a miniature botanical garden, a mixture of edibles and ornamentals set amid winding pathways, and hardly the work of casual hobbyists. Although the leitmotif here is “drought resistance,” it’s far from austere; in fact, for inland San Diego, it’s downright lush.

Not everything is edible. There are quirky things such as a spiky floss silk tree (which now and then goes by the colloquial “wife beater”), a tall honeysuckle hedge for privacy, and a Japanese pagoda tree that creates a shade canopy. There are stone fruit trees — Santa Rosa plum and dwarf nectarine — whose low chill hour requirements make them viable here, as well as cherimoya and quince. On the ground, they’ve planted native California strawberries and elderberries, and in containers, bell peppers, chives, cucumbers, tomatoes, and watermelons. Herbs — which epitomize small-scale, dry-climate gardening — may be the culinary stars: invited to sample, I squeezed a sprig of pungently aromatic lemon verbena, then tried a tiny bite of stevia, an in-vogue sugar substitute. Maveh said, “It’s almost too sweet,” but I enjoyed it.

— Moss Gropen

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Model and Actual Patient
Life on the Crest

Jerry Schad loves to explore the desert, and the rougher it gets, the better he likes it.

Sitting at his coffee table, poring over a stack of topographic maps, Jerry Schad looked as happy as a kid in a comic-book store. "I've been trying to figure out a place in Anza-Borrego where we can go for a few days," he said. "Hopefully, someplace I haven't been yet."

Trying to find someplace in San Diego County where Jerry Schad hasn’t been is like trying to find a parking place downtown: if you like adventure and wildlife and don’t mind walking for three days, you might find one sooner or later. Though Schad is about a hundred years too late to say he’s been places where no one has ever been, I would venture to say he’s been to more out-of-the-way places in San Diego County than anyone ever has; Schad is addicted to roaming remote places the way most people are addicted to comfort and TV. I don’t know if there’s a term to describe someone like Schad, but there should be. Something like “weekend transient” or “compulsive pedestrian.”

“And what have you come up with?” I wondered, suspecting his answer was likely to cost me ten pounds, perhaps two nights’ sleep, and some pain.

“Well," Schad said with innocent enthusiasm, "there’s a canyon on the east side of the Santa Rosa Mountains I’ve been meaning to get to for some time."

“And what’s it called?” I wondered.

“It has no name.”

Jerry Schad died on Thursday, September 22, 2011. He wrote the Roam-O-Rama outdoors column for the Reader from 1993 to 2011.
As wilderness enthusiasts know, the Santa Rosa Mountains, in the northeast corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, represent San Diego County’s last truly great wilderness adventure. Remote, severe, and fairly difficult to negotiate, they have remained as wild and unspoiled as anything in the American Southwest. Besides being uncommonly beautiful in their own rugged way, they are also the home to as many as 500 bighorn sheep — which in itself testifies to their wildness. I listened to Schad’s description of the journey he had in mind and was soon caught up in his enthusiasm. I left the planning to him, however.

Schad is the restless, 37-year-old author of Afoot and Afield in San Diego County, published by Wilderness Press in 1986. Besides being the most comprehensive guide to public lands available to hikers in the county, the book is a labor of love by a man practically obsessed with observing, thinking, and talking about phenomena of nature. By profession, Schad is an instructor of astronomy at Mesa College, and he was trained in physics and astronomy at UC Berkeley and at San Diego State. But by avocation, he’s an intrepid desert rat, fond of heat and sweat, indifferent to thirst and dehydration, positively blissful in wind and cold.

Schad’s intense curiosity about nature, and about man’s limitations there, might well kill a man less physically adept. He once hiked the entire crest of the Santa Rosa Mountains — 40 miles from Highway 74, near Anza, to the Borrego Valley — in two days. Another time he ran from the north rim of the Grand Canyon to the south rim in less than four hours — a record at the time. Yet another time he rode a bicycle from Ocean Beach to Gila Bend, Arizona, in 20 ½ hours.

“Why Gila Bend?” I asked.

“Because it was 300 miles away,” he replied, as though that were reason enough.

With his scientific background, Schad has a gift for observation and an eye for detail. For him, almost nothing in nature is too trivial to take notice of. He once found two rock carvins in Clark Valley northeast of Borrego Springs, which looked as though they might have been Indian summer-solstice markers; he returned there on June 21 to observe the solstice himself and found the markers were in fact two degrees off — far too inaccurate to have been left by Indians. He talks passionately of the time he was camped on Mile High Mountain, in the Santa Rosas, and awoke by chance in the middle of the night to see the zodiacal light (the Sun’s light reflecting off dust particles or biting between the Sun and the Earth) from one horizon to the other. He notes that the honey ant makes its mound of gravel, while the harvester ant makes its mound of grass seeds. He notes that it is a west wind that makes life in the desert uncomfortable, or that a hedgehog cactus needle makes a suitable probe for digging smaller cactus needles out of your skin.

Schad is also a habitual topophile. He maintains an immaculate collection of 7.5-minute topographic maps, covering every foot of the approximately 1500 square miles of public lands in the county, which he uses as the visual inspiration for fantasizing about
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foot journeys he plans to take. Schad retreats into his maps the way other people might relax with a good book at the end of the day. He compares the topographic maps to geological maps. Then he compares both of them to 19th-century maps, to see what landmarks the country’s early settlers thought were important. And eventually, after he has visited the area, he draws his own maps — or, rather, adds to the original maps, drawing in water sources, desirable routes, difficult obstacles, old trails, and other curiosities. From a hiker’s point of view, Schad probably has the most complete and detailed set of maps of the county.

Two weeks after Schad told me of the journey he had in mind, we were hiking up Rattlesnake Canyon, on the western slope of the Santa Rosas, in search of the unnamed canyon. Somewhere to the north, an arctic storm was on its way, promising snow — or even worse, wind and cold rain. But for the time being, the sky was a flawless winter blue.

We stopped along the way so Schad could make additions and corrections to his maps or point out oddities: a plant with red, orange, and yellow flowers all growing from the same stem; a pinyon pine being defoliated by a worm; an ancient glowing pit where Indians cooked the heart of the agave plant.

“What I really like about the desert is the seasons,” he said. “Fall in December, spring in February.”

Like most desert rats, Schad is enthralled with intense heat. During the summer, in 100-degree heat, he likes to head off into the desert with a gallon of water, a little food, and a sleeping pad. He’ll stay out for three days, holing up under the shade of a rock during the day and roaming about at night like some nocturnal predator. He talks excitedly of his plans to visit Death Valley in July just so he can experience what he thinks might be the highest temperature of any place on Earth.

“I read once that the ground-surface temperature at a site in Death Valley during the summer was 200 degrees — supposedly warm enough to fry an egg,” he said. “I went home and tested that claim with an electric frying pan and found that an egg heated to 200 would indeed be over easy in exactly six minutes. Actually, though” he concluded, “I recommend cooking eggs at 250, in which case they’re over easy in just three minutes.”

We continued up Rattlesnake Canyon taking a short diversion over to Rattlesnake Spring, which was the only known water source for perhaps seven miles in any direction. The spring, which is a favorite watering hole for bighorn sheep during the summer, is with yellow and white mineral deposits. One lonely-looking cottonwood tree grew near the spring, “I sat up on the hillside there in the summer once and watched the rams butting heads during mating season,” Schad recalled.

We drank from the bitter-tasting spring, filled our water bottles, then moved on. Just before dark, we made camp below a saddle on the crest of the Santa Rosas, about 4000 feet above sea level.

The next morning, after just 24 hours in the desert, I must admit I was beginning to wonder about our water situation. We had a little less than a gallon for the two of us, which maybe wasn’t so bad. But Schad’s reputation for self-inflicted torture really had me wondering what I was getting myself into. Also, just thinking about water makes you thirsty. It’s like a Chinese finger puzzle — the more you struggle, the tighter it gets. The previous night, I had lain awake for some time trying to decide if I should get up and empty my bladder or if the body might be able to absorb some small part of that moisture. I finally chose to wait until dawn.

After a light breakfast, we loaded our packs and crossed the crest of the Santa Rosas, further separating ourselves from our only known water source. We were soon headed eastward down Schad’s unnamed canyon, a broad, fairly steep, bell-shaped canyon that was perfectly quiet, still, and extremely dry. After awhile, I mentioned my concern about water to my companion.

“If we had to, we could go until tomorrow night without drinking again,” Schad said, dismissing my concern. “You know, your body can lose about 5 percent of its moisture and still be all right. Of course,” he added with detached scientific objectivity, “you might not feel too good.”

It was then that my anxiety about water became compounded by a fear that I was following a madman who actually enjoyed suffering and pain. My dehydration or eventual death would only be a passing scientific curiosity to him — something he might describe to his sleepy college students in order to keep their attention after the lunch hour.

After we had gone about two miles down the canyon, it became apparent that the upper half of the canyon was as dry as the rocks it was
made from. We stopped for a break, and Schad, undaunted, pulled out his geological map to study the terrain, while I munched nervously from a bag of stale granola. Across the canyon, a woodpecker hammered annoyingly on an agave stalk. Glancing over Schad’s shoulder, I saw on the map that the area we were in was brightly colored in red, orange, and yellow: the colors of hell.

“It looks like these rocks were made about a hundred million years ago,” Schad observed dryly.

“Just about the same time this granola was made,” I muttered, putting the plastic Baggie back into my pack. I picked up some fresh-looking sheep turds lying at my feet and broke them open. They were as water-stingy as the granola, now stuck in my throat.

Rather than continue down the canyon, we climbed a side ridge, hoping for a view of the lower canyon and (speaking for myself) water. But from the ridge top we saw only a smaller canyon on the other side, and it was as dry as the canyon we’d just left.

All along the ridge top, we found fresh beds where sheep had spent their nightly vigil watching for predators. The presence of sheep, however, wasn’t necessarily an indication of water nearby. During this time of year, the sheep are capable of surviving for weeks at a time on nothing more than the moisture they obtain from eating vegetation. They’ve been known to eat cholla, a cactus as well-armored as any in the desert. They also eat the beavertail cactus — a feat I tried to imitate and was rewarded with a swollen tongue. The sheep’s favorite delicacy, at least this time of year, seemed to be the fibrous and spiny agave leaves. We saw several places where they’d been nibbling on the plants.

We continued down the ridge for a while. In the distance, perhaps 20 miles away, we could see the alluring and silvery waters of the Salton Sea. Schad wanted to press on to the lower end of the canyon, but I was stalling, instinctively trying to stay close to our only source of water, which was behind us. The canyon below soon narrowed sharply, to a point where the old metamorphic rock had eroded down to a bed of hard, new granite. I ventured to the edge of the ridge in order to peer into the canyon below us, and — “Our lucky day!” — 200 feet below was a thin, shimmering ribbon of water trickling through the sand.

It was a sharp descent off the ridge, over rotten scree, but Schad soon found a sheep trail to the bottom. As he bounded down the canyon side, he shouted back to me Schad’s Rule of Thumb: “I figure I can go anywhere a sheep can go!”

It’s a good rule — for Schad. I slid along behind him, proving I could go anywhere an avalanche could go. “Just because sheep went this way doesn’t mean sheep came back,” I shouted. But I don’t think he heard me or cared.

Once we’d reached the bottom, we filled our bellies from the cool, sweet spring, then refilled our water bottles. I was elated to have been spared a trial by dehydration, but Schad almost seemed a bit disappointed. The challenge had been removed.

The canyon bottom was a narrow, twisted...
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San Diego Reader – September 29, 2011

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continued from page 2

close to being a full-blown, long-term, value-creating company.”

At a long-term, value-creating company, management allocates corporate resources “to maximize the present value of long-term free cash flows,” writes Rappaport. That statement requires some explanations: “present value” is the current worth of a future stream of money. “Free cash flow” is the cash that a company generates after paying for items essential to expanding its business. It’s the cash flow (money-minus money-out) that’s available for distribution to stockholders.

Companies can always do such stupid things as slash research and development to jack up short-term earnings. Such moves can put the company’s future at risk. Corporations and Wall Street should focus on long-term free cash flow, not short-term earnings, which tell little about a company’s value, writes Rappaport. Earnings don’t account for the cost of capital, exclude cash outlays essential to growth and, worst of all, can be manipulated by management. Earnings calculations include all kinds of estimates and assumptions that can turn out to be very wrong — almost always overly optimistic.

Rappaport has suggestions for getting management to think long-term. Trouble is, such reform requires uprooting the greed that besets our society. That won’t be easy.

But Todd Buchholz, San Diego author and economist, says risk-taking is the natural state of things. His new book, thrilling title is RUSH: Why You Need and Love the Rat Race. We all dream of peace and quiet, but they are alien to our nature, argues Buchholz. We will be much happier staying stressed, pressed, and obsessed with our work. “The good life is full of stress and angst,” writes Buchholz.

He marshals evidence from scientific studies and quotes Shakespeare, Kierkegaard, Keynes, Freud, Twain, Camus, Kafka, Aquinas, Kant, Salk, and Galbraith, along with Woody Allen, Yogi Berra, and Donald Trump.

The book is hilarious, as Buchholz finds anecdotes to support his theses. President Cal Coolidge and his wife are visiting a chicken farm. Mrs. Coolidge asks how a small number of roosters can lead to so many fertilized eggs. The farmer says that the roosters perform their procreative tasks dozens of times a day. “Would you please tell that to Mr. Coolidge,” she says. Cal then asks the farmer if the rooster services the same hen each time. The farmer says no. “Would you please tell that to Mrs. Coolidge,” gloats the president.

Buchholz argues that work and the anxieties that come with it cause the brain to produce endorphins, which kill pain; serotonin, which keeps us happy; dopamine, which makes us more talkative and excitable; and adrenaline, which makes us drive a golf ball farther, among many things, and enhances other performances.

“Our minds and bodies need some stress,” says the author. What’s more, “Our frontal cortices want us to try different things.” Buchholz says, “Neuroscientists report that when a person begins to take a risk, whether it’s gambling or gunning up the nerve to ask a pretty girl to the prom, his left prefrontal cortex lights up, signaling a natural high. Alpha waves and oxygenated blood surge to the brain. Sitting alone in a pup tent does not yield the same effects.”

Buchholz heaps contempt on those he calls “Edenists,” who believe that all we need to be healthy are peace and quiet. Forget Utopia and ignore the “happiness gurus,” says the author, pointing out that studies by several scholars who claimed they found peaceful tribes have been discredited.

Some of his proclamations will generate arguments from physicians. For example, he says, “I suspect that slow walking causes obesity almost as much as obesity causes slow walking.”

Critics will also note that Buchholz generally ignores people who dislike their work. Oh, he feels sorry for coal miners. But he doesn’t spend much time on people who are bored stiff on assembly lines, who hate their bosses, who know they will never be promoted but can’t leave their jobs because they have to earn a living. “Work makes us happier, more eager to wake up the next morning,” says Buchholz, but a lot of nine-to-fivers will argue the point.

It’s said that Europeans work to live and Americans live to work. This book, as delightful as it is, could use more comparisons of different cultures.

Buchholz’s book will be loved by type A personalities (whom he mentions only once in the book) and work addicts. Most surprisingly, he doesn’t include himself among the type As. I have interviewed Buchholz many times but met him only once, when we shared a podium. His credits include White House economist, Harvard teacher, coproducer of the Broadway hit Jersey Boys, author of eight books, TV personality, and essay writer for such publications as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and the New York Times. He is a high achiever, multitasker, and hard worker with a competitive personality. He loves his work and doesn’t understand those who don’t love theirs.
El Cajon
Baghdad
continued from page 3

“We were honestly shocked,” says Steve Shammas, who is Chaldean and runs El Cajon Market and Produce with his sister, who owns it. They have run it for 17 years. “I hadn’t gone to the club. I never knew who the people were.”

Which seems funny when you realize that the club is only four blocks farther east along Main. But you do get a sense that there may be several communities within the Chaldean diaspora here and that what counts most is family and church.

The Chaldeans are a Catholic Christian people who live in Iraq. Since 1889, they have been migrating to America for a better life and to escape persecution. For a century they sought out Detroit and its auto jobs. But the last three decades have seen an increasing number choosing El Cajon, especially since auto jobs dried up in Detroit. Why El Cajon? Partly because its climate and granite mountains remind them of home.

“This is shameful for the Chaldean community. They shouldn’t do that,” says Rafal. She’s Shammas’s cashier. “I have only been here one and a half years. Before, I was in Turkey. I hear many people here [get involved in] drugs, but not Chaldean. Maybe young Chaldean people born here are different. But in Iraq, we didn’t even think about drugs. And you worked for your family. You didn’t have time for other things.”

“I feel bad for the kids who were caught because they’re young,” says Martin. He’s a barber, Chaldean-born, maybe 25, having a smoke out back. “People say, ‘Why?’ But they can get caught up easily. And everyone needs money. I never knew it was going on because I never went to the club. Old men go there to play cards. I hope it doesn’t happen again.”

“I love what happened, that they carried out the raid,” says Mike (not his real name), who runs a nearby restaurant. “I happened to be out walking that night. Must have been 20, 30 plain white cars came speeding right past me, heading down there. The [people arrested] were probably mainly newcomers [from Iraq] who had survived back there by bypassing the system because there was no system. They got used to jumping to the front of the line, cheating, not obeying rules, living by their wits, outsavvying everyone. I know. I ran from the older regime in 1991, when I was 19.”

Mike, who is Mandaeac, a people whose Gnostic religion is “older than Judaism,” served several years with the U.S. Army in Iraq as a cultural and intelligence adviser. “I didn’t believe [the accusations] in the beginning. Even going to the coffee shop [at the social center], people played backgammon, smoked hookahs, drank tea. You never sensed anything else was happening. But, no question, it’s a black eye for the Chaldean community.”

“And,” he says, “the drug thing didn’t come from Iraq. In Iraq there were very few drugs. Saddam didn’t allow it. He would hang you if you caught you smoking marijuana — really.”

“I tell you, these Chaldeans, they’re taking over this town,” says this young guy who offers to tell me all about the El Cajon Chaldeans if I buy him a $1 taco at a taco stand on Main. “They launder money. They’re into illegal gambling. You can get drugs, knives, pistols, bombs. It’s all happening where their social club is. I call it Chaldean Alley. Five blocks down, man.”

* * *

It is a dank, dark parking lot from the outside. But beyond Kevin’s Hair Salon, among a dozen parked cars, clumps of men stand around talking and smoking outside a modest entrance. Twenty feet of windows stretch either side of the door, and through them you can see men at tables, playing cards or backgammon or dominoes.
“This is all we have of it. Our money.”

“Yes, there were people with cash that night. But not for gambling. But they took it from us! To get drugs, not for gambling. But

Not credit cards. When we buy someone named Jojis, to vary from $133, taken from agents gave them in exchange for cash or other items “receipt Administration “receipt Justice — Drug Enforcement out the U.S. Department of the investigation.”

And suddenly there’s a flutter of papers. Men bring another piece of paper. This is a typed, notarized statement.

“I, Nabeel Qiryakos, hereby state under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that on August 17, 2011, I had an appointment to meet Mr. Kamal Odeesh at 8:30 pm at the Chaldean Social Club located at 811 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020 to sell him my 2008 Toyota Camry.

“Mr. Odeesh had promised to pay me $8,500 in cash for my vehicle as agreed previously when he first looked at my car.

“When I arrived, the club, the building and the surrounding streets were blocked by the police and federal agents.

“I decided to go back to my house and await a call from Mr. Odeesh.

“Later that night, at 12:00 midnight, Mr. Odeesh called me and informed me that the police had taken his cash money that he was carrying with him to purchase my car.

“Therefore I signed and dated this Statement in front of a notary public.”

“My wife and daughter helped me get this money for the car,” says Mr. Odeesh.

“They work at a Subway and a hotel. And another [relative] in Germany sent a gift for the car.”

“We are being penalized because of a few punk kids,” says Kharat. “I know some of their families. The kids have been thrown out. And thrown out of high school. They get desperate for money. It’s not easy, so they do bad things. We tried so many times to call the cops before it got too big. It’s not easy to talk to these kids. They’re 19, 20, 22. But people they’re dealing with… [The kids] say they can’t get out, even if they wanted to.”

And gambling?

“Come in now,” says Saad Younan. “We didn’t know you were coming. So we have arranged nothing. Come in and see if you can find anybody gambling. The winners get tea, Pepsi, yogurt, or water. Or the losers pay for the food.

“It’s the shame of it.”

“Of course, we have some alcohol. But not for gambling. The winners get tea, Pepsi, yogurt, or water. Or the losers pay for the food. Maybe $5 or $10. So, where’s Or the losers pay for the food. Maybe $5 or $10. So, where’s this high-stakes gambling?”

“I realize that high-stakes gambling?”

“It’s not easy here, so they do bad things. We tried so many times to call the cops before it got too big. It’s not easy to talk to these kids. They’re 19, 20, 22. But people they’re dealing with… [The kids] say they can’t get out, even if they wanted to.”

“Come in now,” says Saad Younan. “We didn’t know you were coming. So we have arranged nothing. Come in and see if you can find anybody gambling. The winners get tea, Pepsi, yogurt, or water. Or the losers pay for the food. Maybe $5 or $10. So, where’s this high-stakes gambling?”

“I realize that high-stakes games could happen tomorrow. But tonight this looks like the normal Middle Eastern men’s social club. Men sit around tables crashing domino tiles or playing backgammon or a card game called 51. No sign of roulette wheels, money flying around, or alcohol.

“And gambling?

“All your fingers are not the same. Just like people. We’re Christian. We came here to live the good life. But now, in the morning, people pull up across the road and yell, ‘Don’t shoot!’ Then they drive off, laughing. The worst thing is we have gotten calls from all over the world. Relatives wanting to know what’s going on. It’s the shame of it.”

Do other Chaldeans understand their brothers’ dilemma?

Maybe not. Half an hour later, I pay a call on Mr. Sagmani at his restaurant on West Main Street. By now it’s about 10:30 p.m., but his restaurant, stuck beside a garage and tire shop, is overflowing with Chaldean gents playing games at tables, inside and out.

Steve Sagmani comes out to the front steps with his son Frank.

“So, what do you think about the raid on the Chaldean social club?” I ask.


* * *

According to the U.S. attorney’s office, 20 individuals arrested in Operation Shadowbox have been charged with federal crimes. The San Diego district attorney has charged 21 individuals. The rap sheet on the 41 contains only 10 names that look clearly of Middle Eastern origin.

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LETTERS
continued from page 4

unfortunately been trampled and shouted down by the Ultra Right bullies of political activism who really are involved in activism only as a means of fulfilling a sick quest for a delusional recognition as the “savior” of America or to carry out sinister racist agendas.

Shockingly, as I look back on my past seven years of activism in the illegal immigration issue, I can honestly say that I have encountered more unethical, immoral, and criminal-minded persons from my side of the debate than I have from the adversarial side of the debate over immigration.

Unless immigration law enforcement advocates conduct themselves in a respectable manner, there is little chance any political representative or candidate will ever take them seriously. Ergo, there is a very high likelihood that U.S. immigration laws will never be seriously enforced and “amnesty for illegals” will be the conduct du jour.

Jim Gilchrist
The Minuteman Project

Go Away, Teacher
Re Susan Luzzaro’s piece “The Tyranny of Those Tests” (“City Lights,” September 22). I was caught up by the absence of a suggestion that a disinterested, third-party firm should rate tests without knowing the school, the teacher, or the students’ names. It seems to me that teachers and principals should not have anything to do with testing (so there’s no foolin’ round with the scores). Then credit for good teaching will be accurate. Keep the education establishment out of the testing process. The idea of test-preparation classes should be stopped, know the subject or get a bad score. Lots of people take tests, after which they remember nothing.

Saul Harmon Gritz via email

Correction
A letter that ran on September 22 written by Nancy stated that her brother’s “girlfriend was on the phone with him” when he committed suicide last year. The sentence should have read, “The 54-year-old guy who died on the Coronado bridge was on the phone with his girlfriend.”

Drink Water, Friends
I’m really disturbed by an ad that you have on page 91 in the September 22 issue. It says “Drink Beers Bitches!” I think that’s really offensive. It’s an ad for Daddy-O’s. I can’t believe you printed something like this.

Dawn Moats
Jamacha

It’s Not All Hopeless
Walter Mencken’s recent post “Is Suicide Painless?” is not only insensitive but potentially harmful (“SD on the QT,” September 15). Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among young adults, takes the lives of almost 400 San Diegans a year, and is almost always a symptom of a mental health condition, usually depression. Detailed descriptions of suicide in the media can often lead to a “contagion” effect. Also, the article does not mention that depression and other mental health problems are treatable and there are many options for help, such as 1-800-273-TALK (8255) the National Suicide hotline. Millions of people each year benefit from mental health treatment. Please let your readers know that there is help and hope for the hopeless.

Jerry Phelps, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego Counseling and Psychological Services

Seriously?
Regarding the letters that were written in regarding the “SD on the QT” article “Is Suicide Painless?” As a formerly suicidal person, I found the article quite amusing. If I had come across the article during my darkest days of depression, I still would have found it funny. People in America need to stop taking themselves so seriously and find the humor in any given situation. Granted, not everyone gets or appreciates gallows humor, but in a lot of cases, this is how people (like myself) cope with bad situations. Finding something to laugh at in a bad situation seems to me a somewhat healthier way to deal with bad things than to just mope about it. With people becoming offended at every last little thing, we’re quickly turning into a country where humor of any kind is no longer tolerated if it doesn’t conform to every little nuance of political correctness. Please, find yourselves a sense of humor — or at least let people like myself and Mr. Mencken enjoy our own.

Christina Rothwell via email

It’s Just Sad
I am writing about the article titled “Is Suicide Painless? Not Necessarily, Warns County Health Department” (“SD on the QT”), which was published on September 15

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DIARY OF A DIVA
continued from page 6

by the Reader. It is with great sadness to see a San Diego publication write such an article with the tragedies that have hit our community the last several months. One person dies of suicide every day in San Diego. One person dies of suicide every 15 minutes in the United States.

Your coverage does a disservice to our community and this critical topic. Suicide is a public health issue that is completely preventable. It is preventable only if we work individually and together toward this goal.

Media coverage is an important factor in making this preventable. Research shows that media coverage has an impact on suicide rates. Responsible reporting can actually mitigate rates, whereas irresponsible reporting such as this article can ignite it. I assume it was not the intent of the writer, editor, or the Reader as a publication to incite someone to take their own life, but this is what can be caused by this type of reporting.

I urge the Reader to release an apology to your readers and our community in this apology I would hope you highlight the resources that San Diego has for people struggling with these issues. I also urge you to remove this article from your website to minimize the risk and harm that it holds by staying on the internet.

Ruth Kenzelman, Ph.D.
via fax

Four-Star Ollie
I wanted to comment on the front-page article "The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water” (September 15). It was a real breakthrough for the Reader to have some good investigative reporting. Ollie needs to be promoted, and make sure he contributes often. Big contrast from the pap which is usually in the Reader, like “Dad Was a Bum” (June 16), which conveys very little worthwhile information.

Three cheers for Ollie. Keep up the good work.

Henry Whipple
Del Cerro

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Henry Whipple
Del Cerro
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**Storm The Gates**

Ollie, I think your article on De Anza Cove was a very good one (“The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water,” Cover Story, September 15). I think there should be a follow-up on how the citizens of this city can take this city back from the politicians who are wrecking it for us. I am absolutely appalled by the mayor.

Gail Cole
Linda Vista

**Eye-Opener**

Your article “The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water” (Cover Story, September 15) opened up my eyes to something I was completely unaware of. I never imagined the City of San Diego to be as corrupt as to hire Hawkeye as a way to terrorize inhabitants of De Anza Cove in hopes of keeping them flee the trailer park. As a San Diegan, it is shameful to read how Hawkeye literally shut off utilities and acted as a higher authority than policemen by physically and emotionally aggravating its inhabitants, with the consent of the City. As I read your article, I felt as if I were reading an article on Nazi Germany concentration camps. The people living in the trailer park do not deserve to pay and suffer for something the City consciously decided and is now trying to take away. We all deserve to know what is really going on and the way the City is managing the situation they got themselves into.

Joanna Hernandez
via email

**City Pitches Beanball**

This article gives some insights about the peculiar brand of hardball the City is willing to play in their land dispute issues with mobile home park residents (“The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water,” Cover Story, September 15). Bringing in a company like Hawkeye to intimidate the residents was truly an outrageous maneuver, what with tactics like installing barbed wire — why not also put in a few gun towers while they were at it? It sheds light on what the City of San Diego is willing to do to “manage” their assets, and it’s clear that residents’ concerns don’t amount to much — look at the lame relocation compensation that was initially offered.

Having lived in another park for almost 20 years where the City owns the land but leases the management to a third party, I can attest to numerous challenges residents have had to deal with — most recently in 2007 when our park was placed on a “surplus land list” and first learning about it by reading a newspaper article!

It is heartening to know what determined residents can do by banding together to try and right a wrong. Prevaling in their abuse lawsuit over the shabby treatment they received by Hawkeye’s mismanagement provides for some vindication of the horrid ordeal residents suffered through, and I wish them well in their ongoing lawsuit for fair relocation expenses.

The City should clearly adhere to the state’s Mobile Home Residency Law and provide fair-market compensation for their homes, plus adequate relocation costs.

Skip Shaputnic
Linda Vista Village

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**Who’s Ugly? Everybody’s Ugly**

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. As to the ugly trailer park (“The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water,” Cover Story, September 15), I personally feel that Bonnie Dumanis was ugly. I can imagine that some men would find her attractive. I do not. I feel your current mayor to be quite ugly, and your cops are all ugly. The City needs to get off its pompous ass and provide housing for people of all incomes. I have to also mention Hillary Clinton.

David L. Lesser
via email

**Dysfunction Junction**

I want to thank “Ollie” for writing that piece about the trailer park at Mission Bay (“The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water,” Cover Story, September 15).

I know what it’s like to live in a very dysfunctional neighborhood, and I could understand precisely what was written. I also think San Diego, in many respects, is corrupt.

Keep writing, keep publishing!!!!!!!

Marilyn
via email

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**I (Heart) Truth**

I just read the cover article “The Ugly Trailer Park Across the Water” (September 15). Fantastc writer. He is so right on, whoever Ollie is. Congratulate him for me. I’m not giving a name because I am employed by some of the attorneys involved in this case, but he is totally right on regarding the City and that management company, so congrats for getting it out there. I love the truth.

Name Withheld
via voice mail
Thursday | 29

ATMOSPHERES IN INK: WHISTLER AND THE ETCHING REVIVAL
Consider this exhibition of more than 60 prints investigating how James Abbott McNeill Whistler and his contemporaries exploited the etching medium to evoke elusive qualities of atmosphere, and then take in a gallery talk offered in USD’s Hoehn Family Galleries of Founders Hall. See LECTURES, page 62.

Friday | 30

HONORING THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES
The Foundation for Women hosts a luncheon with keynote speaker Helen LaKelly Hunt, founder of the Sister Fund, who will share her “experience and passion for the issues affecting women and girls to help us focus on opportunities to make a difference.” See SPECIAL, page 54.

Wednesday | 5

TREASURE TROVE
Disney on Ice offers its “newest skating spectacular” with Rapunzel, Flynn, your favorite Disney princesses, Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Simba, Nala, Pumbaa, and Timon all taking to the ice. See FOR KIDS, page 62.
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Other Adventures

Heather2881: This animal was on the rocks near the water on the Colorado River near Hoover Dam.

Sanzo66: Nice view for lunch in Bali near the Besakih temple.

Pphaneuf: My family and I were spending a few days in the desert, and Snickers was playing peek-a-boo.

Orinoco Delta Lodge is home to several orphans — a vulture, a toucan, several monkeys, an anteater, and a jaguar.

Orinoco Delta, Venezuela
By Mary Spierling

An intricate labyrinth, the waters of the Orinoco Delta weave through the Venezuelan jungle on their way to the Atlantic Ocean. The Orinoco branches off into over 60 waterways and 40 rivers in the delta, meandering through forested islands, swamps, and lagoons.

The 24,000 Warao Indians, the second-largest indigenous tribe in Venezuela, are the jungle’s native inhabitants. They spend most of their lives in canoes — fishing, hunting, and gathering in the surrounding forests.

During our visit here, we stayed at Orinoco Delta Lodge, an ecologic built on the banks of the river. Accommodations consisted of 37 cabins and a dining and bar area overlooking the Orinoco.

The camp is a two-hour boat ride from the port of Tucupita or Boca Urao. On our arrival, we were greeted by a baby vulture, toucan, several capuchin monkeys, baby tapir, giant anteater, and jaguar — all orphaned babies who resided at the lodge (many of the animals roamed freely).

Our highlights included a day excursion of the surrounding jungle, where we witnessed river otters in action and visited homes of Warao Indians.

Swimming with Dolphins in Kona, Hawaii
By Frank Lazzaro

I’m a frequent visitor to Hawaii — at least twice a year — and Kona on the Big Island has always been a favorite spot. On a recent trip, and as I do on every trip there, I set out with a friend to kayak Kealakekua Bay in hopes of spotting and maybe even swimming with wild Hawaiian spinner dolphins.

Because of the many experiences I’ve had with wild whales and dolphins in Hawaii, California, and Mexico, I have developed a keen appreciation for marine mammals in their natural environment. I have disdain for captive-dolphin swim programs, and although they serve as a popular attraction for their ease and guarantee of interaction, it’s really at the animals’ expense.

Seeking whales and dolphins in the wild, although unpredictable, has been one of my most exciting and rewarding wildlife experiences. And Kealakekua Bay, near the town of Captain Cook, south of Kona on the Big Island, is one of those magical places where you do stand a good chance of interacting.

This particular day was like any other. We tried to set out bright and early, lagged as usual, and after picking up our kayaks from a local vendor, got down to the bay by 10:30 a.m.

There are several choices for renting kayaks in and around Captain Cook — or continued on page 54.
Deep Creek Hot Springs in the San Bernardino National Forest has been a minor magnet for hikers and other nature lovers — eccentric and otherwise — for decades. Volunteers have spent years fashioning rock-bound basins that impound water ranging from about 96 degrees to about 102 degrees. Water flowing out of those basins quickly reaches chilly Deep Creek, which has carved a deep cleft in the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains.

Allow at least 2.5 hours for the one-way drive from San Diego to the most convenient portal for the hot-springs hike: Bowen Ranch. Head north on Interstate 15 and continue all the way through the “Inland Empire” (or take the slightly faster alternative route, Highway 215 through Riverside and San Bernardino). Pass over Cajon Summit on I-15 and exit at Bear Valley Road in the “high-desert” community of Hesperia. Turn right and travel east for ten miles to Central Avenue. Turn right on Central and drive three miles south to Ocotillo Way. Turn left on Ocotillo and proceed 2.3 miles east to Bowen Ranch Road. Turn right on this unpaved but well-graveled road and continue 8.0 miles (mostly southwest, more or less parallel to a high-voltage powerline) to a toll gate and 1920’s vintage cabin at the rustic, private Bowen Ranch. Pay the $4-per-person fee at the gate and be sure to pick up a copy of the hand-drawn “treasure” map which may help you navigate to the hot-springs site. Park your car at the ranch’s overnight camping/parking area a short distance past the toll gate. Now you are ready to head out on foot toward the springs, almost two miles away and nearly 1000 feet lower in elevation. (Note: Bowen Ranch has no phone, no email, and no website. Typically, the Forest Service has no definitive information about either the Bowen Ranch or about stream or weather conditions at Deep Creek.)

After an initial 0.5 mile of downhill hiking, briefly jog left on a dirt road, then veer right on a signed trail entering San Bernardino National Forest land. You’ll lose about 700 feet of elevation as you descend for another 1.3 miles into Deep Creek’s canyon bottom. About halfway down this stretch, where the trail splits, take the right fork to ensure an easier, more gradual descent. Once you reach the canyon bottom you must decide how to cross the creek to reach the hot pools on the far side. A month ago, the sluggishly moving water, no more than 18 inches deep along the shallowest wading route, was cold enough to numb the feet. Forest Service regulations allow nude bathing in the Deep Creek Hot Springs drainage area and typically about half of the visitors do so. Camping, campfires, and glass containers are strictly prohibited. Other regulations and rules of behavior are listed in a leaflet available along the trail leading to the hot springs site.

Do realize that the uphill, post-soak hike back to the car can be enervating and possibly exhausting in the late-spring and summer heat. Bring plenty of drinking water if the weather is warm!

NOTE: The information in this archived article may not be current.
Rhyme & Verse
At the End of Spring
A poem by Po Chi-i

Read this poem online at SDR eader.com/poetry

to Yuan Chén (A.D. 810)

The flower of the pear-tree gathers and turns to fruit;
The swallows’ eggs have hatched into young birds.
When the Seasons’ changes thus confront the mind

What comfort can the Doctrine of Tao give?

It will teach me to watch the days and months fly

Without grieving that Youth slips away;

If the Fleetwood World is but a long dream,

It does not matter whether one is young or old.

But ever since the day that my friend left my side

And has lived an exile in the City of Chang-ling,

There is one wish I cannot quite destroy.

That from time to time we may come to chance again.

What comfort can the Doctrine of Tao give?

The Sky Tonight” planetary show, then view real sky through
telescopes after show (weather permitting).
Reservations: 619-238-2331 x810 Wednesday, October 5, 7pm and 8:15pm; $8-$12, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALboa PARK)

Become a Master Composer
Course provides training in art, science of music fundamentals and how to teach it to others. Certification depends on class attendance and completion of 30 hours of community outreach. Classes continue on Tuesday evenings through November 8. Field trips to large-scale compost facilities and a commercial mushroom farm. Registration: 760-436-7962 x216. Tuesday, October 4, 6pm; $30. Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, 137 North El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)


Car Show for Grad Night Festival and car show with music, vendors, food, awards, chill cook-off, entertainment. Proceeds benefit Rancho Buena Vista High School Grad Night fund. 760-295-3128. Sunday, October 2, 10am; free: Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive. (WISH)

Check-in Time at Haunted Hotel Experience all kinds of fear in this hotel’sy full of new spine-tingling, skin crawling effects.” Closed Mondays and Tuesdays except October 24 and 25. 619-696-7227. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 6pm; Sundays, 7pm through Monday, October 3, 6pm; free: 619-816-1416, 6pm and up, Haunted Hotel, 424 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Coast Walk Beautification? Check-In Time at Haunted Hotel Experience all kinds of fear in this hotel’sy full of new spine-tingling, skin crawling effects.” Closed Mondays and Tuesdays except October 24 and 25. 619-696-7227. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 6pm; Sundays, 7pm through Monday, October 3, 6pm; free: 619-816-1416, 6pm and up, Haunted Hotel, 424 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Hawaii continued from page 52.

there are a few local residents who now rent kayaks at the bay. This option saves you the trouble of loading and returning the kayaks with your car and also helps support the locals. Most people will tell you that very early in the morning is the best time to see the dolphins, but I’ve encountered them at many different times of day here.

It wasn’t too long after heading out into the bay in our double kayaks that we spotted a pod of spinners dolphins which come into the calm, protected bay waters to rest and play. Within minutes, I slipped into the clear blue water with my mask, snorkel, and fins to survey the situation. Much to my delight, the pod of around 10 to 15 dolphins was visible below and swimming alongside our kayak. I spent about an hour in the water with this group, playing, and cavorting. The group expanded to up to 40 dolphins by combining smaller congregations.

I’m sure you’ve seen or heard of dolphins at the Boise River, the Colorado River, and the Guadalupe River. I’ve often been asked how to see dolphins and I’m happy to share some tips:

1. Wear long pants. 619-668-3281. Saturday, October 1, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (NEARBY MEA)

2. To Fix the Economy... What must be done? Share ideas with Civilized Conversation group. 858-231-6209. Thursday, September 29, 7pm; fee: $18 and up, and F. Solter, 4906 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

3. Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” in celebration of 25th anniversary of Encinitas, enjoy fes-
tivities including live performances, community group exhibits, heavy equipment and fire truck displays, variety of food, more. Chefs com- pete to establish “who can bring the most taste and style to the lively Luca bean” during third annual Luca Bean Cook-off, with tast- ings on offer. 619-730-6911. Sat- urday, October 1, 12pm; fee: $86. San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. (LA JOLLA)

4. Oktoberfest and Invitational Beer Festival” EdUCate! hosts third annual party with music, home brew contest, games for kids, food (for sale), beer garden promising “ten different kgs of San Diego’s finest brews.” Proceeds benefit University City schools. 858-677-0989. Saturday, October 1, 2pm; fee: Standley Park and Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

5. Powpex Poway Stamp Club hosts exhibition and “relaxed stamp show” for purchase and sale of stamps. Sat-urday, October 1, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (NEARBY MEA)

6. Do you think you’re the world’s best beer drinker? Participate in the beer garden contest for a $15,000 diamond engagement ring or Charles Koll Jewelers gift certificate. Requested $25 donation for public information to be held (including neighborhood), events section.

7. “Autumn in the Garden” San Diego County Master Gardeners host tour of eight diverse Point Loma-area gardens of master gardeners. Marketplace promises master gardener handcrafted gar- den art (birdhouses, butterfly water dishes, more), plants, food, garden- ing books, garden-related items. Rain or shine. 858-694-2860. Sat-urday, October 1, 10am; $25. Dana Middle School, 1775 Chatsworth Point Loma.

8. “Cut Out for This” Exacto blades and knives are some of “the most diverse tools in contemporary urban art.” View works using sharp edges by local artists dur- ing this Thumbprint Gallery exhibit. Live paint by Mofo, True Delinquents, Tim Carter, 858-354-6294. Tuesday, October 4, 7pm; fee: $21 and up, Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar, 410 Tenth Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

9. “Honoring the Women in Our Lives” Foundation for Women hosts luncheon with keynote speaker Helen LaKelly Hunt, founder and president of the Sis- ter Fund, sharing her “experience and advice.” This year focuses on women and girls to help us focus on opportunities to make a difference.” Reservations: 858-483-0400. Friday, September 30, 11:30am; $65-$25. San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. (LA JOLLA)

10. “Sky Tonight” planetary show, then view real sky through telescopes after show (weather per- mitting). Reservations: 619-238-2331 x810 Wednesday, October 5, 7pm and 8:15pm; $8-$12, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALboa PARK)

11. “Diamond Dash” Help “break the Guinness World Record for largest treasure hunt in the world.” Couples invited to take part in the treasure hunt powered scaverger hunt; winning couple may receive a $15,000 diamond engagement ring or Charles Koll Jewelers gift certificate. Requested $25 donation benefits Komen for the Cure. 858-298-5655. Sunday, October 2, 1pm; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALboa PARK)

12. “Fleetwood World is but a long dream,” Wear long pants. 619-668-3281. Saturday, October 1, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (NEARBY MEA)

13. “To Fix the Economy...” What must be done? Share ideas with Civilized Conversation group. 858-231-6209. Thursday, September 29, 7pm; fee: $18 and up, and F. Solter, 4906 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

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17. “Fleetwood World is but a long dream,” Wear long pants. 619-668-3281. Saturday, October 1, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (NEARBY MEA)
A WELL-TRAVELED BEER

PACIFICO ON DRAFT HAS ARRIVED.

But this was no ordinary beer delivery. See how we brought 5 special kegs to 5 cities. Facebook.com/PacificoBeer

Adventures on TAP

Now on TAP
Largest Oktoberfest west of the Mississippi

10 Blocks • Over 300 Vendors
Free Admission • Children's Carnival
Easy access from Trolley

Three Beer Gardens • Live Music

Live Music in the Big Beer Garden!

Friday, September 30
Bavarian Beer Garden Band (6-10 pm)

Saturday, October 1
Bavarian Beer Garden Band (1-4 pm)
Car Tune Dogs Classic Rock (6-10 pm)

Sunday, October 2
Harmonica John Frazer of the BluesWailers (1-3 pm)
Jump'n Jack Flash Mobile Music
Entertainment & Productions

Windermere Real Estate Food Court at 4th and La Mesa

www.LMVMA.com and www.LaMesaChamber.com
Rotary Oktoberfest

The 29th annual event promotes German food and beer, entertainment. Music by Faith Page, Roger and the New Villagers, Pacific Coast Community Band, the Shape Goats, the Last Call. In pumpkin patch, children may decorate pumpkins, each student leaves with completed sugar skull they have decorated. Learn basics of craftwork, live music, pet stroll, kids' art. Taste from 1:4 pm; art stroll from 10am-5pm. 858-755-1179. Sunday, October 2, 10am; $25-$40. Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar. (DEL MAR)

Time to Scream! Del Mar "Scaregrounds" hosts Scream Zone, boasting House of Horror with rooms filled with "terrifying scenes and scares," haunted hayride through haunted barns on race track, and "the Chamber," promising "the largest spinning tunnel in San Diego." Dates: September 30, October 1-2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-31, 858-755-1161. Fridays through Sundays, 7pm; through Monday, October 31, 5-12, 8-10 and up. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2200 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Take the Haunted Trail "All-outdoor haunted attraction" follows mile-long trail through twisted grove of pines and gnarled oaks. This year, check out "the X-territory" maze. Closed Monday and Tuesday except October 24 and 25. 619-696-7227. Wednesdays through Sundays, 7pm; through Monday, October 31, 8-10, 10 and up. Marston Point, Laurel Street at Sixth Avenue. (BALBOA PARK)

Taste of Del Mar and Art Stroll Culinary creations and juried artwork, live music, pet stroll, kids' art. Taste from 1:4 pm; art stroll from 10am-5pm. 858-755-1179. Sunday, October 2, 10am; $25-$40. Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar. (DEL MAR)

Calender

LOCAL EVENTS

San Diego County Library Book Festival Event promotes authors, discussion panels, musical entertainment, activities. Among the authors attending: Lisa See (Shanghai Girls, Dreams of Joy), Gotham Chopra (co-author The Seven Spiritual Laws of Superheroes), Ellen Hopkins (Crank, Glass), Kim Barnouin (co-author of Skinny Bitch series), Richard Carrico (Strangers in a Stolen Land), many others. 760-753-7376. Saturday, October 1, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

San Diego International Orchid Show Fair promises "countless varieties of orchids" on the grounds, some in exhibits and some for sale. Lectures on culture and care. Vendors offer wares. 760-436-3036. Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, 9am; free-$12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)


Speak with property owners, solar installers, energy efficiency experts. 858-220-3317. Saturday, October 1, 10am; free. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Saturday at the Lawn is a new initiative of the House of Pacific Relations to promote multicultural goodwill and understanding through cultural programs from various Nations presented to Balboa Park visitors. October 1, 2011, marks the 9th time this year that the House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages, Inc., has been able to provide music, free to the public, in Balboa Park on Saturdays. Balboa Park at International Cottages Lawn Stage. Saturday, October 1, noon to 4pm; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Sweet Skulls! Maryann Luera and Ana Ibarra lead class, promoting brief Day of the Dead customs, symbolism of sugar skulls, and their use in altars. Learn basics of crafting and decorating sugar skulls; each student leaves with completed sugar skull they have decorated. Required reservations: 619-280-6408. Saturday, October 1, 12pm; Wednesday, October 5, 6pm. $22. Vintage Religion, 3821 32nd Street. (NORTH PARK)

WoodWalk Kickoff Paradigm Project supporters plan ten-day trek from SD to Los Angeles "in honor of the hundreds of millions of women" who cook over open fires to survive. Group will carry 40- to 60-pound bundles of wood on their backs eight hours a day to raise awareness. Journey begins with "night of open fire cooking demos, beers at home plate," screening of Stoveman video and feature movie. Tuesday, October 4, 4pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Art of Fashion" Exhibition created in partnership with Fashion Careers College, features five creations inspired by artwork at the Timken. Through October. Museum features Saint Barthelemy, said to be "only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego." Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 1:30pm. free. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"From El Greco to Dalí" This exhibition of “Great Spanish Mas-
“64 works drawn from one of the world’s finest private collections.” Exhibit showcases masters of the Spanish school including El Greco, Ribera, Murillo, Goya, Sorolla, Picasso, Dalí, Miró.

Works by artist, curator, author Rubén Ortiz-Torres on exhibit in “Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man” were developed from early 80s to early 90s, “when the artist was inspired by the punk scene in Mexico City.” See drawings, photographs, video by the longtime UCSD visual arts professor through Sunday, October 30.

“Life and Truth: French Landscapes from Corot to Monet” brings together works from museum’s permanent collection and loans from local collectors, including landscape paintings by Corot, Courbet, Théodore Rousseau, Narcisse Diaz, Charles-François Daubigny, others. Closes Sunday, October 16. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 12pm; free-$12.

San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Imagine That!” Exhibition drawn from museum’s permanent collection examines desire in photography “to create images of the unseeable,” asks the viewer to examine photography not as an extension of human eye “but as a pursuit of discovery, observation, and technology driven by the imperceptible.” On display through Sunday, October 9. Daily, except Mondays, 10am; free-$6. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface” Enjoy an in-depth look at 13 artists whose work with light as a medium in the 1960s and ’70s defined an era of art making in California. Featured artists: Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Ron Cooper, Mary Corse, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, Bruce Nauman, Eric Orr, Helen Pashgian, James Turrell, De Wain Valentine, Doug Wheeler. “Combining key works from the museum’s collection” with major loans from public and private collections, exhibit “includes immersive light installations together with rare, ephemeral, and site-conditioned works, some seen in California for the first time in decades.” Through Sunday, January 22.

View “Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie,” a new digital video animation through Monday, January 2, inspired by Steinkamp’s recent research into atomic energy, atomic explosions, and the effects of these forces on nature. The “enveloping panoramic work will activate a field of moving flowers and flowering trees.” Daily, except Wednesdays, 11am; free-$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

“Transitions: Works by Françoise Gilot” “Interested in mythology, symbolism, and the power of memory, French-American artist Françoise Gilot expresses complex philosophical ideas with lyrical accessibility.” View a col-
lection of oil paintings and works on paper highlighting her interest in color relationships and fine line between figuration and abstraction. Gitel resided for many years in La Jolla with husband Dr. Jonas Salk, now divides her time between studios in New York and Paris. Closes Sunday, November 13.

Oceanside native Everett Peck is an animator, cartoonist, illustrator, painter, best known for his television series Duckman (1994-1997). “It’s Not My Fault,” on exhibit through Sunday, January 29, showcases Peck’s work over past 30 years, tracing his evolution as an artist from early concept sketches to recent large-scale paintings, humorously exploring pop culture of modern America and its intersec-
tion with everyday life. Also on display: illustrations, sketch books, preliminary and concept drawings from Peck’s extensive animation work.

“We Can Work It Out,” inspired by memo-

“Waterways” Pianist John Mark Harris plans "a recital of music about and around the water” with selections by Debussy, Ravel, Bach, Liszt, Couperin, 619-276-1041. Sunday, October 2, 3pm; free. St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1945 Illion Street. (SAN BAY)

“Symphony of Germany” The 70-member LJO (Landesjugendorchester Rheinland Pfalz) opens St. James Music Series with “works of the Germanic tradition.” Program includes Beethoven’s "Coriolanus Overture," Symphony No. 4 in E-flat Major (Romantic) by Bruckner, 858-459-3421 x109. Sunday, October 2, 4pm; free-$25. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street. (LA Jolla)

Ul-Beehovend Quartetto Sor- rento performs "Serioso" and "No. 1" string quartets for the Classical Music Society. 858-385-0659. Sun-
day, October 2, 2:30pm; $5-$25. Lutheran Church of the Incarna-
tion, 16886 Esposa Road. (PONAY)

An Evening of Chamber Music Anabelle Terbetski (viola), Kim Hain (violin), Katherine Petrovyan (piano) perform works by Bach, Mozart, Schumann, Havemans, Vaughan Williams, Rachmaninov in Recital hall room 226-220. 619-
644-7254. Saturday, October 2, 6pm; $5-$10. Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive. (EL CAJON)

Choral Masterworks Cabrillo Chamber Orchestra and St. Eliza-
abeth Seton Choir perform Mozart’s "Coronation Mass," “Ave verum corpus," and “Laudate Dominum” (from "Vesperae solenae de confes-
sore"). Soloists: soprano Rebecca Stenke Harris, mezzo-soprano Elena Vinuet, tenor Timothy Leonbartone Michael Blasco. 619-607-5017. Sunday, October 2, 6pm; $15-$25. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 6628 Santa Isabel Street. (CARLSBAD)

Classical Piano Concert Xaratz Chamber Concert series opens with pianist Iron Barnatan, who was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2009. Reception follows. 858-454-5872. Saturday, October 1, 7:30pm; $40-$45. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA Jolla)

Gartner Steinway Piano Con-
certs Celebrate "beautiful Steinway Articate grand piano contributed by Robert H. Gartner" with perfor-
mances of classical and jazz piano. 760-434-2904. Sunday, October 2, 3pm; free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Recorder Players Beckoned San Diego County Recorder Soci-
ey meets to play ensemble music from medieval to 20th century with professional conductors. Recorder players of all skill levels invited. 619-334-1993. Saturday, October 1, 1pm; Clairemont Lutheran Church, 4271 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAREMONT)

Trio Licenzia Tackles Mendels-
sohn Ensemble members Alyze Dreiling (violin), Angela Yeung (cello), Linda Scott (piano) perform two Mendelssohn piano trios, Op. 49 in D Minor and Op. 66 in C Minor in French Parlor of Founders Hall. 619-260-2938. Fri-
day, September 30, 7:30pm; $10-
5. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Volante Piano Quartet Concert Hour series continues with “four San Diego County locals” performing “music with global influences” including the Brahms “Piano Quartet C Minor.” 760-744-1150 x2317. Thursday, September 29, 12:30pm; free. Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10), 1140 West Mis-
son Road. (SAN MARCOS)

DANCE

“Trolley Dances 2011” Visit six stops along MTS line for site-spe-
cific dances created by Jean Isaacs, John Diaz, Paz Tanjuquoit, Ally-
son Green, Minerva Tapia. “New work to be performed by 60 of San Diego’s most adventurous dancers” during event hosted by Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater. Sat-
ursdays: six tours depart every hour; Sundays: six tours depart every half hour. Reservations: 619-225-1803. Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, 10am; free-$30. Grant-
ville trolley station, 4510 Alvarado Road. (GRANTSVILLE)

Argentine Tango with Colette Starts a new 6-week session on October 3, and we’ll give you a first free class that Monday or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm. For more information, visit www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5567. Monday, October 3, 7pm; Dance Place San Diego,
Win a pair of tickets to Karl Denson at The Belly Up
Karl Denson has led a storied career as a multi-faceted recording and performing artist who first came to prominence as a member of Lenny Kravitz’ band debuting on his first release, Let Love Rule.
Enter by Friday, October 7 at 1 pm

Win tickets to The Gourmet Experience
The Gourmet Experience features hundreds of culinary, luxury, home and lifestyle products and services catering to your refined and sophisticated tastes. This is not your everyday expo!
Enter by Tuesday, October 4 at 1 pm

Win admission plus $100 to spend at Harvest Festival
San Diego, are you ready to kick off the holiday fun Now in its 39th year, the Harvest Festival at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is the perfect opportunity to pick up holiday decorations and goodies for your family and friends.
Enter by Friday, October 14 at 1 pm
Scottish Country Dance
Beginners classes hosted by Royal Scott
Friday, September 30, 7:15pm; free. $5. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BAL-
boa Park)
Swing Jam with the Fre-
scottish Country Dance
2650 Truxtun Rd., Studio 106. (SOLANA BEACH)
Fall Comfort Foods
Mix up mac and cheese soup with bacon and blue cheese crumbles and many other dishes with Phallis Carey. 858-
270-1582. Thursday, September 29, 7pm. $15. Great News!, 1788
garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)
Taste of Downtown
Treat your taste buds during self-guided walking tour; participants may use shuttles or walk to 50 par-
ticipating eateries ranging from Gaslamp Quarter to Little Italy. Ticket locations: 619-233-5008. Thursday, September 29, 5pm; $30. Downtown San Diego, Columbia Street and West B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

FOOD & DRINK

"Just Meatballs" Join Chef Joy, “create a multitude of meatballs and sauces that complement them. Get details on "importance of the meat you choose," fillers, binders, seasonings, 760-233-2433. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; class (8:45pm) followed by open (7:45pm), continues when Carl and Margie lead "blueisin’ it" workshop (8:45pm). Beginning Charleston class (8:45pm) followed by open dance with the Freemonts (9:30-midnight). 619-291-3775. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. (NEARBY MESA)

FOOD & DRINK
"Just Meatballs" Join Chef Joy, “create a multitude of meatballs and sauces that complement them. Get details on "importance of the meat you choose," fillers, binders, seasonings, 760-233-2433. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; class (8:45pm) followed by open dance with the Freemonts (9:30-midnight). 619-291-3775. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. (NEARBY MESA)

SCOTLAND'S CELEBRATION OF THE DECADE OF DANCE

Swing Jam with the Fre-
scottish Country Dance
2650 Truxtun Rd., Studio 106. (SOLANA BEACH)
Fall Comfort Foods
Mix up mac and cheese soup with bacon and blue cheese crumbles and many other dishes with Phallis Carey. 858-
270-1582. Thursday, September 29, 7pm. $15. Great News!, 1788
garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)
Taste of Downtown
Treat your taste buds during self-guided walking tour; participants may use shuttles or walk to 50 par-
ticipating eateries ranging from Gaslamp Quarter to Little Italy. Ticket locations: 619-233-5008. Thursday, September 29, 5pm; $30. Downtown San Diego, Columbia Street and West B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

FOOD & DRINK

"Just Meatballs" Join Chef Joy, “create a multitude of meatballs and sauces that complement them. Get details on "importance of the meat you choose," fillers, binders, seasonings, 760-233-2433. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; class (8:45pm) followed by open dance with the Freemonts (9:30-midnight). 619-291-3775. Friday, September 30, 7:45pm; Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. (NEARBY MESA)
I ANSWERED THE CALL

Sweetwater River Church

Contact: 6090 Banbury Street, San Diego, 619-475-2442, sandiegohope.com

Denomination: Assembly of God

Membership: 125

Pastor: Frank Wooden
Age: 53
Born: Berkeley
Formation: Vanguard University, Costa Mesa; Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz.

Years Ordained: 24

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend writing your sermon?

Pastor Frank Wooden: We do something different at Sweetwater. I’m gifted with a great pastoral team of credentialed ministers, and we do a team process twice a month. At the moment, we’re looking at an upcoming sermon series, so one of us will be assigned the duty of mapping out the message series. Each week, whoever is scheduled to preach for that week will preach their own sermon using the notes and research we’ve gathered. So between the notes and research done beforehand, and what it takes me in any given week, it’s probably around a 12–14 hour process to develop a message.

SDR: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?

PW: I’m big on the concept that hope does change things. Our God is a God of hope. We designed our whole ministry around hope and use sandiegohope.com as our website. I think at some point we’ll probably change the name of our church to reflect that same idea. I really believe the world is searching for hope. That hope is found in a person named Jesus Christ. So anytime someone visits our church, the whole goal is to encourage their hope.

SDR: Which of the Ten Commandments does your congregation have the hardest time keeping?

PW: I think all of them can be challenging, but the first one, to have no other gods, can be tricky. We put ourselves that we’re more educated than to bow before a bow, and I think we can have other gods that go by more palatable names which can worm their way into our lives. Anything that you put before God can become an idol, whether it’s a fitness regimen or trying to make a success in life climbing the corporate ladder. I think those are the things in life that are most subtle in the ways they work their way into us.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

PW: I sensed a call by God. It wasn’t an audible voice but I knew that ministry is where he wanted me to be. Each time that the next step came…there were confirmations that along that just kept reminding me I was on the right path.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PW: My favorite verse in scripture is John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except by me.” I think we all appear before Christ. The goal is that Christ came to give us abundant life (John 10:10), and we look at abundant life as not only eternal life, although that’s a component of it, but also as a certain quality of life we can live now. I look at it as a continuum. Christ came to change my life for now, but also for eternity. The key is that this must happen through Jesus Christ…. There is no other way except through Jesus, and heaven is our eternal home. We also believe there is a hell. If heaven can be described as eternal paradise with Christ, hell is a place I would describe as eternal torment.

— Joseph O’Brien

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

To an end?
Procession through San Diego’s Little Italy to Embarcadero
Benediction to follow at Our Lady of the Rosary

PATIOs, PATHWAYS, PLANTS
Want to improve your landscape but unsure where to begin? Doug Kalal covers “variety of topics such as different types of materials for patios and pathways,” plant solutions for problem areas. 6:19-20, 706-706. Wednesday, October 5, 6pm to 7pm; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Revolt Summer Surf Series
Finals Pro Am surf competition with many divisions. Beach games, DJs, Free for spectators. 858-450-0373 or 619-787-7427. Saturday, October 1, 9am; Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens, 1999 Citracado Parkway. (ECONDONO)

MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART
Bonita Museum and Cultural Center “Stitching Things Together,” an exhibit of quilts by Chula Vista Quilters Guild, continues through Saturday, October 1. Quilts on display include a log cabin variation, quilts using one-pattern piece, and quilts depicting houses or buildings.

- Museums feature exhibits of local history and fine arts. Stories of Bonita’s 100-year history are told with artifacts, photographs. Displays include Native American culture, lemon orchard period, events of the flood of 1916, and transformation of family life by technology. 4355 Bonita Rd., 619-267-3141. (BONITA)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum
The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista’s past; exhibits feature lemon packing-crate labels, photographs of El Cajon valley, furnishings of the time period (1879-1912) including a pump organ, roller desk, wood burning cast iron stove, furniture brought around tip of South America, a Thomas Edison phonograph, icebox, Hoosier cabinet, bed warmer, clothing, children’s toys. Museum is open on first and third Saturdays of month, 11am-2pm. 280 North Magnolia Ave., 619-444-3800. (EL CAUDEO)

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

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum
House in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, of Pacific Highway; Wetherby Street and Hancock St., 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)

Marston House Museum
3525 Seventh Ave., 619-298-3142. (MILESTO)

Miniature Engineering Craftsman ship Museum
A collection of fine work in metal and woodworking at small end of the size scale including clocks, model aircraft, cars, trains, construction equipment, engraving, miniature guns, model machine tools, woodworking tools, running model gas, steam, and Stirling engines. Also included: a collection of small vintage tabletop and benchtop machine tools from early 1800s to present. Master machinist can be seen building small engine proj.
François Villon
Unto thy Son say thou that I am His, And to me graceless make Him gracious. Sad Mary of Egypt lacked not of that bliss, Nor yet when sorrowful clerk Theophilus, Whose bitter sins were set aside even thus Though to the Fied his bounden service was.

Oh help me, lest in vain for me should pass (Sweet Virgin that shalt have no loss thereby) The blessed Host and sacring [sic] of the Mass. Even in this faith I choose to live and die.

A pitiful poor woman, shrunk and old, I am nothing, and nothing learn’d in letter lore.

Within my parish-cloister I behold
A painted Heaven where harps and lutes adore,
And eke a Hell whose damned folkseeth full sore:
One bringeth fear, the other joy to me.

That joy, great Goddess, make thou mine to be—
Thou of whom all must ask it, even as I;

And that which faith desires, that let it see.
For in this faith I choose to live and die. — from "The Ballade to Our Lady"

François Villon (c. 1431–1463) was a French poet who, in the same tradition as Miguel Cervantes (Don Quixote), Thomas Malory (Le Morte Darthur), Johnny Cash, and Merle Haggard, found his muse more often than not in a jail cell. A thief and vagabond, he is perhaps best known for the line, “Where are the snows of yesteryear?” — as translated by pre-Raphaelite poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti.
I recall that first sniff on a warm September evening in 2008, the sight of variousnimono(simmered dishes) piled intoplates) lining the sleek wooden bar, the lightcrunch of thecellulose noodles with chicken) the next. Sukiyaki and nishime, a vegetable stew, were special-occasion dishes, as were the various simmered dishes that are among my favorites at Wa Dining Okan.

Okan is tucked into the corner of a strip mall on Convoy, sharing space with Nijiya Market. The spartan but tastefully decorated shop is tiny, consisting of a nice 16-seat bar area and a few small tables. The capacity of the shop probably tops out at about 30 people, and things can get a bit cramped. This also means that if you intend on a non-solo visit to Okan on any evening other than Sunday or Monday before 6:00 p.m., reservations are recommended.

Upon being seated, you are handed a menu to go along with the smaller two menus placed at each table, one in English, the other Japanese. The large menu includes all the daily and seasonal specials — there are often as many as a dozen — along with the much overused category name “tapas.” These are the items in the large plates placed on the bar. I’d stay away from anything resembling a tuna salad; you can get that anywhere. My preferences are the more classic dishes, such as nasu-miso (eggplant with spicy miso) and nasubi nimonono (simmered eggplant), kabocha nimonono (simmered pumpkin), and kiriboshi daikon (simmered dried daikon strips).

Over time, I’ve noticed an increased presence of nikiyaga-type dishes. Traditionally, nikiyaga is your basic meat and root vegetables slowly stewed in a soy-sake-mirin-sugar sauce. The end product can look like a dry stew or even gravy. At Okan, it comes in dishes such as shishito peppers stewed with ground beef, sweet and salty, with a sneaky spiciness. All kozara ryori (small plates) are priced at $3 during the literal happy hour (5:30–6:30 p.m. daily); otherwise, they’re $3.75 each. If you’re at the bar, don’t be surprised if someone peers over your shoulder. Chances are that this person is not minding your business but merely checking out the daily offerings.

You could make a meal out of a couple of small plates and a noodle or rice dish. Since natto is not offered, I’d go with tororo (grated mountain yam) over rice. Yes, the texture is somewhat like glue, but it’s refreshing when mixed in a bowl of rice with a touch of soy sauce.

There are a couple of other items I enjoy: the gobo salad ($6.50; $5 during happy hour) is an eye-catcher. It’s also delicious. Gobo (burdock root) is common in Japanese cuisine and often used in Chinese herbal remedies. It has a woody, earthy flavor, a mild sweetness in the background. Because of its fibrous texture and its ability to soak up flavor, you’ll find it most often in various simmered and stewed dishes. At Okan, gobo is shaved then deep-fried, accentuating the sweetness of the root. It’s served dramatically stacked on top of a bed of mizuna and dressed with a ponzu-like dressing.

If the gobo is the princess of salads, the daikon radish salad with plum dressing ($7) is the ugly duckling. Slices of daikon are haphazardly stacked on layers of katsuobushi (dried bonito flakes) with mizuna and the plum-based dressing scattered about. It is no less tasty, though I find the flavor a bit sour. I also like the kawa-su, thin slices of chicken skin in a ponzu-based dressing.

Fans of soju will be overjoyed to see the list of 30-plus brands available. Five are priced by the glass; bottles range from $13 to over $300. The sake list is more modest, with seven offerings, including two of my favorites: a good everyday Otokoyama and the pricey but wonderfully floral Kubota Manju Junmai Daiginjo. To qualify for Daiginjo Junmai classification, rice has to be polished (milled) to at least 50 percent. “Manju,” as we call it, is polished to 67 percent, which leaves only a third of the raw material for this refined sake.

As for the rest of the menu, there are places on Convoy that do a better job with robatayaki (grilled), sashimi, and agemono (fried) dishes, though I’ve had a well-prepared deep-fried chicken-gizzard dish ($6), and agedashi tofu is good. The menu changes with the season; if something grabs your attention, try it. Recently, I’ve noticed the addition of kamameshi (rice cooked in a kettle). And while I don’t expect it to live up to the fantastic kamameshi we had at the James Beard–nominated Aburiya Raku in Las Vegas, I’m still excited to check it out.

So, what’s with the “Dinner at Mom’s” title? Well, Okan is a slang word that means “mom.” And though I’d never, ever, call my mother Okan, I’m happy to say that my favorite dishes at Wa Dining Okan do make me think of my mother. ■
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Famous Rings

“Our grandmother, Pretty Kitty Keen, had donut places all through the Depression.”

Carla’s been begging me to stop by one of this town’s legends next time I’m down I.B. way. Stardust Donuts. Honestly, donuts aren’t my thing. Too cakey, I always thought. Not to mention cholesterol city.

“They’re part of my childhood,” she says. “Please?”

Well, maybe a couple of donuts would be all right, with maple icing, plus a coffee.

‘Course, between getting up and getting there, stuff happens. A whole morning’s worth, and half the afternoon.

When I finally jump off the bus where I.B. stragglers onto the Silver Strand, it’s around 4:30 p.m. I run and walk along Highway 75, until… ah, yes… hiding behind a little clump of tropical foliage sits Ed and Cliff Arnold’s Stardust donut shack. Been hearing about the cinnamon donuts for years.

Except — flip-sign in the customer window says “CLOSED.”

“It’s simple,” says Ed, when I spy him behind the glass, working away in the kitchen. He’s got a lotta hair, and it’s all white. “As soon as we run out, we close. We’re out.”

He points to the empty trays. No dough, no nuts. Dang.

“But,” he says, like I bet he says a thousand times a week, “there’s always tomorrow.”

“When you open?”

“Around ten. Tennish.”

So today, I managed to get here at about 1:30 p.m. And, yes! “OPEN” signs all over the place.

Ed Arnold and his brother Cliff are working inside, and maybe half the racks are filled with their famous rings.

A girl is standing at the window in front of me (there is no inside). Melissa. “No one has donuts like theirs,” she says. She gets two chocolate donuts and two cinnamon rolls ($1.49 each). “No one has donuts like theirs,” Melissa says. She gets two chocolate donuts and two cinnamon rolls (89 cents each).

“I’ve been to every other place in I.B., and they donuts and two cinnamon rolls (89 cents each).”

“Everybody starts off with the same commercial donut-dough mix,” says Cliff, “but we add things like fresh eggs and shortening. Exactly what we’ve been doing for 44 years.”

“I’m looking at a rack of uncooked buttermilk twists, waiting to be baked and glazed.

“I thought you only sold donuts,” I say.

“It doesn’t have to have a hole to be a donut,” Cliff says.

“Our cinnamon roll doesn’t have a hole,” says Ed. “Or the long johns.”

These guys should know. They have been making and selling them here since 1967. And before that, says Ed, their grandma Kitty Keen sold them downtown, starting in 1929.

The choices these days are glazed, chocolate, cinnamon rolls, old fashioned, buttermilk twists, one with a raspberry filling, and a caramel pecan cinnamon roll ($1.49; they only make it Thurs—Saturday). But today’s Wednesday. So I go for a glazed and a cinnamon (89 cents each) and a coffee ($1.20).

Ed asks if I want sugar and milk in my coffee, and when I say “sugar,” he mixes it in himself.

The donuts? Delicately crispy on the outside, meltly tender inside. I’m no expert, but it does taste like you’re eating something legendary. I feel lucky to be here. Ed says they’re getting on — he’s 73 and Cliff’s 68 — so they’ve cut back on their hours. (They used to start preparation in the middle of the night, to be open at 6:00. “We’re not fast food, like burgers, where you cook only when you get the order. We have to be ready ahead of time.”)

I’m chewing away when I get to talking with Scott, who’s from Arizona. He’s a snowbird, a lawyer. “Did you know,” he says, “Americans munch 10 billion of these every year? And the size of the donut hole changes with the economy?”

“I’d read that the “hole” idea came from a New England sea captain, Hanson Crockett Gregory, around 1847. Story went that Gregory’s mom had made him up a package of big fat olykoeks — the Dutch pilgrims’ “oily cakes” — to last the voyage in his sailing ship. Only trouble was, he couldn’t steer and hold his oily cake at the same time. So he impaled it on one of the spokes of his steering wheel and had himself an instant donut holder. He told the ship’s cook to make them with holes from then on.

Good enough yarn that you want to believe it. ‘Course, let’s be practical: the hole helps the dough cook evenly all the way through.

Ed says donuts became popular during the First World War, when they were served to U.S. troops in France — called Doughboys, and not by coincidence. Then, partly thanks to the Salvation Army, they stayed plentiful and cheap through the Great Depression.

“Our grandmother, Pretty Kitty Keen, had donut places all through the Depression,” he says. “Keen’s Donuts.” In World War II, they built her a place across from the Convair #2 plant, on Pacific Highway. She stayed open 24 hours for all those Rosie the Riveters. I remember. I was four or five.”

When they moved in here, in 1967, I.B. was much busier, says Ed. “Vietnam, Ream Field, Navy — we were open from 5:30 a.m. till 11:00 p.m. every night. That was work.”

Then he’s off back to help Cliff dunk the twists into the glaze. But before he does, I get a whole bag of cinnamon, glazed, and chocolate donuts for Carla. Except, dang. Now I’ve got the hots for that caramel pecan cinnamon roll I can’t have until tomorrow.

“See you soon,” I say to Cliff. “The wife, you know. Once she’s on a roll…a caramel pecan cinnamon roll…”

The Place: Stardust Donut Shop, 698 State Route 75, Imperial Beach, 619-424-6200

Type of Food: Donuts

Prices: Most donuts, 89 cents; caramel pecan cinnamon roll, $1.49; coffee, $1.20

Hours: About 10:00 a.m. till they run out of donuts, daily

Buses: 901, 933, 934

Nearest Bus Stop: SR 75 at 7th Street (901); Palm at 9th Street (933, 934)
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At San Diego Reader September 29, 2011

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT!

The 2011 Restaurant issue will be out on October 20th and we’d like to know who you think is the best!

TO PLACE YOUR VOTE PLEASE VISIT www.sandiegoreader.com/vote/
enthusiasts, but entrepreneurs of course, appeal to craft beer. There is a story that's worth telling about itself, but c'mon, given that the book has been released by Stone Brewing Company's reputation, surely everyone was expecting a great deal more humility than was evident in the historic component of the book. It's no wonder, considering the effort, that the book also will be for sale at the aforementioned restaurant, where its authors will be signing copies.

The book hits shelves on September 27. That night, the book will be available for sale at the restaurant where its authors will be signing copies. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens is located at 1999 Citracado Parkway in Escondido.

* * *

Allen Sem will come to you and cook South Indian style, on the spot. His dosas were to die for, way-big fermented rice pancakes — like tortillas on hormones — stuffed with spicy potato inside, rolled into a huge crispy golden flute, with a rich sauced mushed onions, coconut, green coriander, and if you really want to go off the deep end, serve it with dollops of sauces like green mango, sauced mushed onions, coconut, green coriander, and if you really wanna be daring, a lethal little bowl of red chiles.

Then he got rid of the truck. Horror? Where to get your fix?

His dosa was good, but it was also a little too big for the spot, if you have 30 friends willing to pay $8 a head. That's over a month for each of the 15 years that's covered in this book. It's no wonder, considering the effort, that the book will also be for sale at the aforementioned restaurant, where its authors will be signing copies. Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens is located at 1999 Citracado Parkway in Escondido.

* * *

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Then he got rid of the truck. Horror? Where to get your dosa fix?
Then, if only to augment the Chocolate Factory ambiance, a wall of Macallan posters divided slightly, and a few hundred of us made our way through, one at a time, into a seating area.

The stage was made up of glossy black surfaces and interactive big-screen TVs, like something out of a Chris Angel skit. But instead of dazzling us with crappy magic tricks, Eden Algie, our veritable Willy Wonka, gave us a history lesson on scotch accompanied by samples of the Macallan 12-, 15-, 17-, and 18-year vintages.

Not Panicking, But Pannikin! Say It’s Not So!
The rumors are true. Pannikin downtown (675 G, 619-239-7891), the place where you can choose between a cup of fresh-roasted coffee and an African mask or a Tarahumara drum or a Mexican skeleton, is gonna close. Today. After 34 years.

“The landlord wouldn’t give us another lease,” says Verena Garnett. She has run the place for years with her sister, Vivienne. There are Pannikins up north, but this is the last to carry the collection of cultural curiosities from every continent, a kind of symbol of the big world out there that coffee opened up in the ’80s.

“Where you drink coffee among cultural curiosities”

“Besides, she says, downtown is changing. “It’s a young crowd. They’re not interested in cultural things. They’ll come in, take a picture of each other with an African mask, email it to their friends, and leave. Probably for Starbucks.”

But the eccentric sisters will be back. “We’ll go visit mum in England and then come back and find somewhere in Little Italy, North Park, University Heights, or even downtown.” But it won’t be Pannikin anymore. “We only had rights to that name on that site.”

Maybe they’ll name it “Caroline’s,” after Caroline, the three-wheel Indian Bajaj tuc-tuc/rickshaw they drive around town.

What’ll I miss most? The smell of the coffee beans roasting as the sisters roasted them right outside on G street. It could drop a man at 20 paces.

One 1/2 price Flight with this ad
Fattening Up While Fighting Childhood Obesity

It’s important to get a lot of iron in one’s diet, but if you’re looking to get a solid helping of irony, look no further than Olivewood Gardens’ Heart of the Harvest two-day fund-raiser. What’s ironic about it? Part one of the event is a multicourse feast called Moonlit Soiree that’ll be served under the stars amid OVG’s plentiful foliage on Saturday, October 1. With not two or three, but fifteen local chefs putting out food, it’s certain to be a delectably glutinous affair (my kind of party!). The cause the event benefits? The fight against childhood obesity.

But who wants to nitpick when it’s all in the name of charity? This is a worthy effort and the list of high-caliber gastronomes who’ve signed on reads like a who’s who of toques and the list of high-caliber gastronomes who’ve signed on reads like a who’s who of toques who consistently give a damn for making San Diego a better place. How can I tell? I see them at fund-raisers all the time and, when I interview any of them, they go on and on about their extracurricular humanitarian activities in the most natural way. I marveled at Ricardo Heredia’s (Alchemy in South Park) tireless energy and zeal for working with youngsters in his kitchen and a nearby elementary school on our first meeting day, October 1. With not two or three, but fifteen local chefs putting out food, it’s certain to be a delectably glutinous affair (my kind of party!). The cause the event benefits? The fight against childhood obesity.

Molecular Gastronomy at... Harney Sushi?

When I signed up for a seat at Harney Sushi’s new, monthly Nook Dining event, I was expecting an evening of sushi. Despite knowing about the small sushi spot in Old Town for years, I’d never before been inside. The nook, which seats six, is a private booth (made private especially sweet apple pie. So Cider doesn’t go with anything, and the only way, but once you got past the weird cold outside, every flavor — citrus, creamy (from the avocado and crema), spicy (sliced serrano pepper), fresh fish — could be discerned, and play outside the sushi bar. (Side note: Chef Anthony only learned how to roll sushi a few months ago. His expertise is in the fancy food, some of which I got to try.)

Here’s the deal: $125 per person, including tax and gratuity. You can expect around seven labor-intensive courses, each paired with a different libation (sometimes beer, sometimes cocktails, whatever fits the food). For the month of September, the theme was “Tailgate Party,” with each course representing a different football region.

West Coast was a fish taco paired with Ballast Point Yellowtail Pale Ale. The taco shell was more like frozen dough. It was actually a pureed corn tortilla formed into a shell by dipping the bottom of a ladle that had been chilled with liquid nitrogen into the batter. It was a little too cold and not crispy enough to contrast in that pleasant taco way, but once you got past the weird cold outside, every flavor — citrus, creamy (from the avocado and crema), spicy (sliced serrano pepper), fresh fish — could be discerned, and was appreciated.

Next was New England, a clam chowder, also paired with beer. You know what? All the pairings were beer, and here I’m more interested in the food, so I’m going to stop telling you there was beer. Just know now that all of the pairings were great (some from Coronado and Stone Brewery) except the dessert one, because Julian Hard Cider doesn’t go with anything, especially sweet apple pie. So back to the chowder. It was salty. This is likely because of all the “bacon power” on the dish, but even the broth was like a salt lick. I’m not one for clams, so I passed those bits to David, but I did enjoy the potato puff, a pleasant potato dough that cut the salt. Oh, and
the flowers were pretty.

On to New Orleans, the jambalaya with uni, oyster, and lobster. It was agreed by oyster lovers that this oyster was not great. But the uni was very fresh, and the lobster was perfectly poached, and the jambalaya itself was nice and tomato-y.

Ah, South. Buttermilk fried chicken and white corn grits, the latter of which were too salty to eat. The fried chicken, however, was exquisite. Chef took buttermilk and boiled it down so that the protein solids would coagulate, then he skimmed those off, leaving a buttermilk broth behind. He then took the broth, added hickory smoke, which was presented under a dome. It was enveloped in hickory smoke, which was released with a flourish when the chef removed the dome at the table. The baked bean balls were stupid-good. And the BBQ sauce was the right balance of sweet and spicy.

Oh, my God, there’s more? Yup. Green Bay was “Brats and Cheddar,” or tender slices of lamb in a cheddar consomme with a “sauerkraut meringue.” I know, right? Like, what? Basi- cally, it was dehydrated sauerkraut, which was a pity, because I think the wetter stuff would have been better. But that didn’t matter, because we couldn’t just get past how awesome the lamb was. The lamb was sous vide in all of the spices of bratwurst, which made it taste just like a brat. It caught us by surprise, but it was an Oh, you got me a present! kind of surprise, not a What’s that on the bottom of my shoe? surprise. Between me and David, it was the best bite of the night.

It was so good that I wished that had been my last bite. The dessert — region USA, “Mom’s Apple Pie” — was served with a “hot” cinnamon ice cream. The crust over the apple slices was great, but the ice cream, which was flanbèed, was boozyer than Everclear. I felt like I was licking gasoline.

Overall, Nook Dining can be a lot of fun, and you will certainly

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taste some original and mind-expanding meals. I don’t think the $125 a person is unreasonable, considering the work that goes into creating the menu and the fact that you are given just as much booze as food, and it includes tax and gratuity. If you do check out what Chef Anthony (a really nice guy, by the way) wants to dish up next month, or the month after, I advise you to layer—not to stay warm, but so that you can remove as much clothing as possible. The nook gets hot, and several of us diners ended up using the menu to fanning ourselves, and half-jokingly asked the wait staff to please leave the door to the cooler located across from the table) open so that we could catch a refrigerated breeze. So when I say it was a cool experience, I don’t mean that literally.

Next time I go there, I’ll have to try the sushi.

Posted Sept. 22, 1:11 p.m. by Barbarella

An All-Island Affair at Leroy’s in Coronado

After reading Naomi Wise’s assessment of Leroy’s Kitchen and Lounge in Coronado, I agree that it’s just what the island needed. I read my Reader colleague’s dining review seconds after exiting the new Orange Avenue eatery. I was there to check out their first-ever beer dinner, a five-course affair that brought together fellow Islanders David Spatafore and Shawn DeWitt. The former is the owner of Leroy’s while the latter is the director of brewery operations for Coronado Brewing Company. Both were on hand for an event that showcased the best of what both businesses can do.

The menu was built the way any beer-dinner bill should be devised—with the chef tasting the individual beers and building dishes around them. The night’s offerings drove home the validity of my opinion. The dishes—from a Point Reyes blue-cheese soufflé to a beet-and-citrus starter with CBC’s apricot-infused Nado Nectar to an oatmeal-in-lieu-of-nuts take on pecan pie served for dessert with Down and Out Stout—found varying yet universally successful degrees of harmony with each other. The night’s brightest stars were chicken-fried veal sweetbreads that were so crispy and zestily seasoned they’d drive the Colonel to jealousy and make thymus fans out of even the least offal-inclined (serving them over cheese curd and mushroom-gravy-bathed polenta-based faux fries didn’t hurt their case, either). The beer that accompanied that dish, Four Brothers Pale Ale, provided a textbook example of hops’ ability to cut through fried and boldly flavored dishes to cleanse one’s palate.

The other proteins served, duck breast and pork loin, were cooked to perfection and served with accoutrements built off of fresh, tasty produce (heirloom tomatoes, black kale, sweet corn) and beers both new (Barrel-Aged Barleywine, the latest addition to their portfolio) and old (Mermaid Red, the first beer they brewed back in 1996). Service at this communal, family-style event was friendly and efficient; enough so, I’d have thought they’d been at this far longer than just two months.

Future beer, wine, and spirit dinners are in the works, as is a prix-fixe beer-pairing menu that will be available during all ten days of San Diego Beer Week. Leroy’s is located at 1015 Orange Avenue. 

Posted Sept. 22, 12:54 p.m. by Brandon Hernández

The Frank Rivera

Frank Sinatra is everywhere. When you walk in, the swing bands howling “Luck Be a Lady Tonight!” Pork pie hats bob at the bar. Clusters of people act out their Rat Pack rouges, the Rat Pack twitching in their seats, the Rat Pack hats bob at the bar. Clusters of guys act out their Rat Pack routines in front of their girlfriends. And, talking of the Rat Pack, me and Matt are kind of getting into the spirit, too. “Gotta be martini glasses or highball,” says Matt. He’s the expert.

Sat at this bar before, choosing his drink. “Ever thought of becoming a bartender?” I ask, and Matt orders the Infidel—Hemingway’s libation (rum/lime/syrup).

“We’re at the Riviera Supper Club and Turquoise Room (7777 University Avenue, between Lee and Maple; 619-713-6777; riviera-supperclub.com) on a — can you believe it? — Tuesday night, around nine. Place is packed like it was the weekend.

This is Sam Chammas’s baby. He helped restart Turf Club in Golden Hill, with the same retro grill-your-own-steak heartbeat. When he lost that, he moved east to La Mesa, and, boy, looks like the world moved with him.

We have two cocktails each. Or was it three? Truth is, I’m new to this cocktail world. Thank goodness for the bar food. Ernesto went and grilled a little rack of ribs and got some onion rings and potato wedges.

Not cheap. But this is what you save your shekels for. Night out with da boys.

As the band hits “Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White,” we put our first orders in. I start with the sangria (brandy/orange liqueur/citrus/topped with house red); Ernesto has the Art Snob (bourbon/bitters/orange twist/ginger ale) and Matt orders the Infidel — Hemingway’s libation (rum/lime/syrup).

“An ephemeral drink,” he writes on a napkin, “lighter than anything. Goes down and disappears before you realize it’s in your mouth. The rum is totally invisible.”

He tastes my sangria. Scribble scribble. “The wine lends a piquancy to the fruit of the sweet lemon and syrup…registers only as a gentle worth, a tinge of grainy prickle at the bottom of things…”


“Ever thought of becoming a writer?”

Posted Sept. 22, 11:59 a.m. by Ed Bedford
Dane Reinhart dropped screamo for death metal, and metal for rap, needed to feel acceptance [by playing in a band] and write lyrics about my pain.”

Reinhart, 21, would take the Coaster down to Soma, “I liked screamo because I could hear vocalists who would get all emotional and let it out. But then I got into heavier stuff like As Blood Runs Black, Bury Your Dead, and Silent Civilian. Bodnar discovered the band at an unsigned-artist showcase at Chain Reaction in Anaheim. He signed Burning the Masses to Mediaskare, which released two albums and helped them tour the U.S. and Europe.

But Reinhart said Bodnar only wanted Burning the Masses with two conditions: “He told the [two guitarists and bassist] ‘I will sign you, but the drummer and the singer have to go.’ He said that I would never make it in this industry. I was pissed.

“Spit took three months to realize this was not the genre of music I wanted to play. I still wanted to do music, but I kind of felt death metal was this dead-end genre. Only a select few make it.”

Reinhart was frustrated as a lyricist, as most death-metal singing is incomprehensible. “Sometimes I’d hear a song and say, ‘You mean to tell me this song is about politics? How the hell would you know?’ It’s all about people trying to be a better Cookie Monster. I wanted people to understand my lyrics.”

Reinhart turned to hip-hop. Performing as Solus, he freestyles and writes his own lyrics. “A lot of rap music on the radio is pretty weak. You don’t even have to make rhymes that make sense. You can just Auto-Tune your voice over a computer-generated beat, and if you have a big pocketbook behind you, you can push it into the Top 20. It’s, like, a lot of these people [with hits] won a lottery ticket and now they get to cut in line.”

Solus appears Friday, October 7, at a hip-hop showcase at Riley’s in the Point Loma Comfort Inn.

— Ken Leighton

**Different, Times Ten.**

“It’s a concept that’s been tried before, but I don’t think quite successfully.” Wayne Riker, an Encinitas guitarist and author of nine guitar-instruction books, says that his own compilation CD, Guitar Decathlon, will be different, times ten. He points out that axe master Aiden Roth attempted such an undertaking back in the ’90s. It was good, he says, and it featured a different guest on every track, but it was too much of a hot-licks fest for Riker’s tastes.

This fall, Riker will begin laying down individual tracks at Studio West in Rancho Bernardo toward completion of his own compilation. “Ten tracks, ten styles, and ten top-shelf guest guitarists from the greater San Diego area.” Each track, he says, will feature dual guitars, bass, and drums. No horns or keys. “I’m going from hard rock to mainstream jazz to everything in between.”

To date, Riker has enlisted a broad range of local stylists. The current roster includes Laura Chavez, Peter Sprague, Andy Tiptak, Robin Henkel, Mike Pfieger, Jim Soldi, Dan Papalla, Jimmy Patton, Tony Tomlinson, and Fred Benedetti. With a release date planned for March or April of 2012, recording begins in November.

Riker will play on all tracks as well as produce. “They’re all my original compositions.” He likens his recording process to an Alfred Hitchcock production, meaning, for the most part, unscripted. He wants improvisation in the studio. “The musicians,” he says, “will mold each track in their playing.”

Riker plans to send promo packs out to radio stations such as Jazz 88.3 KSRS, in San Diego, and other similar stations across the country in order to build support the old-fashioned way, via the airwaves.

The roots of the decathlon stem from Riker’s respect for the level of local talent. “All of these players I’ve either heard of over the years or I’ve played with, and they’re all guitarists that have a high musical IQ. If I go see any of these players, they’re gonna be right on the mark with the right chord voicings and hip solos and,” he says, “unique styles. I’ll love to see them get the recognition.”

— Dave Good

**Slo Jam.**

Directed by Chris Aquavella, 14 mandolin players and three guitarists pluck and strum the poignant notes of “La Frisonette.” Avoiding signs of our times sporadically break the spell: near the country-blues posters, the bright colors and circular forms that were hippie favorites depict Jerry Garcia with a halo, wearing angelic robes. Aquavella reminds members of the New Expression Mandolin Orchestra to text him if they’re locked out of the building.

In 1974, Sheltown (in Southeast San Diego) native Walt Richards opened the New Expression Folk Instrument Study Center at Fairmont and University when his employer, Grayson Music, closed. He recalls thinking, “Gosh, I need a new expression for my business. Also, people come to learn music, and to them it’s a ‘new expression’; they’ve never done it before.... We started out as a co-op, with...”

(continued on page 75)
several teachers.”  
Over the next 37 years, New Expression’s retail operation developed a following around its discerning selection of acoustic instruments and for its services (upon purchasing a Taylor in the mid-’90s, NE’s Ray Street personnel were the only ones I trusted to install the pick-up they swore was meant for the guitar). Although NE has endured several relocations, along with shifts in business status and name (“House of Strings,” “Acoustic Expressions,” “Old Time Music”), Richards, with a bevy of instructors and roots enthusiasts, has consistently provided bluegrass and acoustic classes and jam sessions. Along with maintaining San Diego’s sole bluegrass resource, Richards originated the acoustic “Slo Jam” gathering in San Carlos.

I ask him how NE’s new (as of February, 2011) 30th Street home compares with previous locations.

“The two stories are a pain in the ass, but it’s half the rent we were paying on University Avenue. The studios are roomier — there’s space for lots of groups and classes and for concerts. We’re planning more open houses and performances including students — the one we did in August was very successful. Their families, and neighborhood people, can come have a party and see what the students are doing. It builds community, which is a goal I had in mind many years ago — it was a vision from the beginning. Over the past few years, it’s really come into fruition.”

Beppe Gambetta appears at New Expression Music in North Park this Thursday, September 29.

— Mary Leary

**Groovetube - Blue Man Group Covers Nirvana “Nevermind” at Tower Bar**  
By Chad Deal — Sept. 26, 4:00 p.m.

**James Farm At Anthology Oct. 2**  
By Robert Bush — Sept. 23, 9:52 p.m.

**1st Sloths Show Since 1966 @ Eleven Oct. 1**  
By Jay Allen Sanford — Sept. 23, 9:52 p.m.

**Joey DeFrancesco At Dizzy’s**  
By Robert Bush — Sept. 24, 9:44 p.m.

**A Taste of Fame: Local Tribute Bands (even Bill Shatner?)!**  
By Jay Allen Sanford — Sept. 23, 6:04 p.m.

**Groovetube - Illuminauts at ZZZzzz: The Sound of Quiet Pux**  
By Chad Deal — Sept. 23, 5:37 p.m.

**Carlos @ Cricket**  
By Alisa Hunt — Sept. 23, 9:42 a.m.

**Roseanna Vitro at Saville Theatre**  
By Robert Bush — Sept. 22, 5:23 p.m.

**Local Soprano Loves Frogs**  
By Garrett Harris — Sept. 22, 3:24 p.m.

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DURAN DURAN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

STEELY DAN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

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Thursday 29
A trio of male Nurses will administer healing sounds at Soda Bar tonight. The Portland band’s crisp, sweet Apple’s Acre, its 2009 Dead Oceans debut, was an easy comp to the Cure (circa The Top, Head on the Door) and enjoyed consistent critical praise for its “delicately shambolic” psych-pop sound. This year’s Draculia, which dropped last week, finds the former San Diego outfit bringing up the beats to troupers with funk that delicately shambolic sound. You can dance with Dominant Legs, who open the show.... Bloomington’s “hurricane of sweet, sex, and day-glo,” Andy D, cracks one at Tin Can Ale House tonight. Mr. D claims he’s “the anachronistic lover child of Punky Brewster and Lee Van Cleef...raised by breakdancing robot wolves,” and he’s out to tout this year’s album, which finds the Bellevue band raising some much-needed benefit. This show should raise some much-needed...

Friday 30
Florida’s garage-bom fuzz-pop trio the Jacuzzi Boys join our own Jungle Fever at Ti-Two Friday night. The Jacuzzi this year released their sophomore album and first for Hardly Art, Glazin’ — “Sugar in my hair/melting everywhere/in the sunshine/glazin’ for you.” You get the gist. Fun band, good deal of a double bill. And you’ve got two nights to catch Dum Dum Girls, Crocodiles, and Colleen Green at Casbah, as this fuzz-pop threeway settles into the Middletown mainstay for the weekend.... ‘Nother noisy one up the big hill, where glam-metal band Glitter Wizard, Hot Fog, Joy, and Sister Mary Challenger play Tin Can Ale House.... A stroll down Fifth at House of Blues, Portugal, The Man brings their brand of radio-ready alt-pop to the downtown stage. Brooklyn-via-London blues-rock band Alberta Cross up first.... Hard-rocking British band UFO lands at Brick by Brick. Forty years on and these guys are still grinding. Word on the interweb is that they’ve got a 20th studio set in the works.... L.A. hard-core punk perennial Circle One’ll set the pit in motion at Shakedown. Check out the rolling fliers on their Space page: myspace.com/circle1. These guys played some epic shows in the early ’80s.... ‘Round town, you’ve got Stalins of Sound, Slaughter. Last Years, and Northern Tigers turning up at Eleven...Blues-rockers Heavy Guilt roll into Whistle Stop. And Swedish indie-pop trio Peter Bjorn and John play Belly Up behind this year’s Cooking Vinyl offering Gimme Some.

Saturday 1
I’ll be dropping the little dudes at the Never Shout Never show at Soma and then walking the block to the Shakedown, where SanFran band Glitter Wizard will be casting its stoner spell. Taking cues from forebears Sabbath and Blue Cheer, the Wizards concoct acid-rock potions equal parts heavy metal and — glitter? *Glitter is the herps of art supplies,* bassist Arthur Tea tells SFGate.com. “You can never really get rid of it.” Thanks, I’ll wear something disposable. Hot Fog, Brian Ellis Group, and Mutantspaceboy also on the bill.... It’ll be Sloths and Loons at Eleven. Apparently this is the first Sloths show since 1966! Get the rest from Jay’s September 23 “Jam Session” blog post: sandiegojareader.com/weblogs/jam-session/.. Dude is thorough.... A block east, Southern Lord doom-metal garden tool Weedeater plugs in at Soda Bar.

NURSES AT SODA BAR

infusing its “huge rock with a dance vibe,” says drummer Scott Rockenfield. He probably meant dance vibe.... Local lo-fi faves Crocodiles, Heavy Hawaii, and the Plateaus will play a Club Cafe benefit. This show should raise some much-needed green for the campus collective. I guess they’ve got a monster insurance bill coming due in the new year. Get up there and see a show and drop a little something extra in the coffee can.

Sunday 2
When last I looked up Blind Pilot, they were a pair Portland folks on a bike tour of the West Coast. Their DIY debut 3 Rounds and a Sound was garnering nods from all the right heads for its “in-telligo” touchstones (Iron and Wine, the Shins). This year I count one, two, three...six members and a new ATO disc called We Are the Tide garnering nods from all the right heads. If you read the Belly Up blurb on this Sunday-night set, Blind Pilot’s about to make a splash.... Or — guilty pleasure comin’ at ya — English synthpop duo Erasure (“A Little Respect,” “Chains of Love”) hits House of Blues on their Tommorow’s World tour.

Monday 3
From Birmingham, Alabama, one-man band and Swami signee Dan Sartain will play Bar Pink behind his fifth studio set of rockabilly pop, last year’s Dan Sartain Lives: Two Tears and Des Roar open the show.... The Strawbs will play an acoustic set at the AMSD Concert spot on Mansfield in Normal Heights. They’re a British psych-folk band formed in the mid ’60s that was more of a band’s band. Fairport Convention’s Sandy Denny fronted the group for a time, and they’ve toured with Supertramp, Deep Purple, and had stints with the Monks, Bee Gees, and Mott the Hoople.... Horror punk and hardcore hit House of Blues with a Misfits and Agent Orange double bill.... Blues-guitar icon Kenny Wayne Shepherd will be at Belly Up behind his latest, "I’ll set

Tuesday 4
NYC dance-punk band the Rapture will be at Belly Up Tuesday night. They’re touring in support of their first record in five years, In the Grace of Your Love, which indie mag Cobwebb says, “moves away from the party and into a troubling phase of post-hyperbolic dote...”. They gave it two and a half cowbell out of five.... Singer-singers Rocky Votolato and Matt Pond PA bring their new things to Casbah...while rockin’ blues crews Plugs in at Soda Bar.... Horizon punk and hardcore hits House of Blues with a Misfits and Agent Orange double bill.... Blues-guitar icon Kenny Wayne Shepherd will be at Belly Up behind his latest, 'Round town, you’ve got

Wednesday 5
The Loft loves its avant garde, Tulsa style, as the Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, formerly Frogg Cocktail — I know, why’d they change the name? — takes the UCSD stage for some high-falutin’ humpnight show.... Y’know, if you got someone to impress.... Udderwise: Cymbals Eat Guitars at Casbah. Will Crain of "Of Note" this show, so flip or click to that for more. And also on the bill.... While

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Grease Punk

“I fired myself from the Mudsharks in 1999 but rehired myself in 2006!”

Lightnin’ Hopkins meets Social Distortion,” how Scottie Blinn describes his
head-rush headland music. “I call it
‘grease punk’: deeply rooted blues, with a lot of at-
tribute that tells a good story.” Blinn
first came to local prominence in the late '80s while playing sideman
to San Diego bluesman Tomcat
Courtney. In 1992, he and drummer Tom Essa
(Natasha’s Ghost) teamed up to form the Mississippi
Mudsharks, frequently named Blues Band of the Year at the San Diego Music Awards.

The group had three European chart topping
CDs on the CrossCut Records Blues Charts in the
mid-'90s before breaking up in 1999, though the
split didn’t turn out to be permanent (one shortlived incarnation as Mississippi Mud included former
Social Distortion harmonica player Eric “Jailhouse”
Von Herzen).

Blinn later formed the Tiki Torchers with for-
mer Hooters drummer Dave Uosikkinnen and
bassist Tim Butler (Hot Rod Lincoln). In 2006, he
was named in HARP magazine as a guitarist/ vocalist to watch. He’s also been playing guitar for Punk Rods since 2005, and he owns Double
Barrel Records, founded in 1998 and based in
Lakeside, where he lives with his wife Roxanne
and son Jackson.

His newest band, Black Market Baby, debuted
this month, covering tunes by venerable old play-
ers such as Tom Waits, Hank Williams Sr., and
Leadbelly. “We play hard-hitting soulful blues and
American roots music,” says Blinn, “with reverence
to all the original bluesmen and women.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

1. Black Sabbath, Paranoid. “Amazing songs and
  tones.”
2. Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets, Live at
  the Grand Emporium. “One of the
tastiest blues guitarists of the past
30 years.”
3. Jimmie Vaughan, Strange
  Pleasure. “It’s a masterful blues album by one of the
  best around.”
4. ZZ Top, Rhythmeen, “Greasy, with huge tone
  and badass songs. Anyone who writes a song like
  ‘Vincent Price Blues’ just knows.”
5. Social Distortion, Sex Love & Rock ‘n’ Roll.
  “Great songs and killer vocals, Ness and the band
  hit a home run with this one.”

MOST EMBARRASSING CD IN YOUR
PLAYER?

“The Best of John Denver, but I’m not really
embarrassed about that. His voice was angelic.”

FAVORITE HANGOUT?

“I kind of like my house. There are guitars,
hot rods, a recording studio, a pool, a great view
of El Capitol mountains, and a lot of open space.”

FAVORITE CONCERT?

“Stevie Ray Vaughan at SDSU Open Air around
1986, when I was 16 years old. The Beat Farmers
opened. Country Dick was in rare form, needless
to say, and Joey Harris blew my mind with his
vocals and guitar work. Stevie Ray just blew the
doors off the place. When I recorded a record for
Joey a couple years back, my mom said, ‘You’re
not hanging out with those Beat Farmer boys, are
you?’ She’s since become a huge Joey Harris fan
after meeting him and his beautiful family.”

LAST TIME YOU GOT FIRED?

“I fired myself from the Mudsharks in 1999
but rehired myself in 2006!”

FIRST TIME DRUNK?

“I remember it involved a lot of vomit and dirty
pee pants. Fun stuff, huh? Amateur hour.”

UNFULFILLED AMBITION?

“Have a killer conversation with Tom Waits.”

WHO SHOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE?

“Michael Madsen, kind of like how James Bro-
lin played Pee- wee Herman at the end of Pee- wee’s
Big Adventure.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?

“In 2004, my wife Roxanne and I were married
in Antwerp, Belgium, by the famous New Orleans
musician Dr. John.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT
YOU?

1. “I have a degree in psychology from the Uni-
iversity of San Diego and worked as a residential
supervisor in a group home for troubled teens.”
2. “There are no mug shots of me in any
country.”
3. “A couple years back, I gave a friend the
Heinlein maneuver and saved him from choking
on a big piece of carne asada.”

Scottie Blinn: “Anyone who writes a song like ‘Vincent Price Blues’ just knows.”
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1337 INDIA STREET, LITTLE ITALY, SAN DIEGO  619 595 0300 AnthologySD.com kprifm.com
BY WILLIAM CRAIN

All through the summer of 2001, the news media fueled speculation that congressman Gary Condit, who represented the San Joaquin Valley, might have been involved with the disappearance of intern Chandra Levy — especially after he belatedly admitted he had carried on an affair with the much younger woman. Years later, Levy’s remains would be found and another man convicted of her murder, but by then the media had moved on to other stories: the events of September 11, 2001, saw political career. I hadn’t seen his name in nearly to that. Even so, the scandal ended Condit’s stories; the events of September 11, 2001, saw but by then the media had moved on to other.

Gary Condit, who represented the San Joaquin

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Wednesday, 8pm — Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey. Jazz with full horn section provided by the Race Riot Suite. Free.
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Prescott Promenade: 211 1/2 E. Main St., El Cajon. Friday, 6pm — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. Boogie woogie. Free.
Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147. Friday, 8pm — Sundrop Electric, A Scribe Amidst the Lions, Sour Soul, and Children of Nova. Psychedelic/rock/pop/Indie. Saturday — The Stoney B. Blues Band. $10.
Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District. Thursday — Bo Porter. With the Cactus Jacks, and the Palominos. Friday — Circle One. With Social Task, and Reservoir Tips. Saturday — Glitter Wizzard. With Hot Fog, Brian Ellis Group,
Spin Nightclub: 2028 Hancock St., Midway District, 619-294-9590. Saturday, 9pm — We Love Bass. With Total Science, Metalheadz, Hospital, and Advance/d. DJ Set by Knight Riderz. Hip-hop/party rock. $10-$15. 21 and up.
Stage Saloon: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-696-9436. Thursday, 10pm — Seismic Dubstep. With Crimels, and Thorn on a Rose. Free. 21 and up.
Trinity Episcopal Church: 845 Chestnut St., Escondido. Saturday, 6pm — Peter Popping Band Concert. Nuevo Flamenco, bossa, samba, and Cuban Latin jazz.

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**Antheneum School of the Arts Studios:** 441 Park Blvd., Normal Heights. December 2 — Peter Sprague’s String Consort.


**BY DAVE GOOD**

IDIOT GLEE: Tin Can Ale House, Saturday, October 1, 1863 Fifth Avenue. 619-955-8525.

IDIOT GLEE is 23-year-old Kentuckian James Friley, a one-man-band who surrounds himself with keyboards, effects, and a looping device. But it would be inaccurate to say that Friley is Idiot Glee, or even a gleeful idiot. Rather, idiot glee is something of a personal affliction as described by Brian Eno in his essay “Into the Abyss.” Friley phones during the homebound as described by Brian Eno in his essay “Into the idiot glee is something of a personal affliction.”

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What’s after Paddywhack? “I’ve got a handful of new songs [that] I’m not sure what to do with,” Friley worries that the new material sounds too different. “I think it all still has [my] sound. People [tell me] it sounds like Idiot Glee... the next step in Idiot Glee, just a little more upbeat this time.”

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Wednesday 10/5 • 9PM

Kenny Wayne Shepherd
w/guest
Mon, Oct 3rd @ 8PM

ELECTRIC MISTRESS
Lunar Maps Crobot and the Paperwork
W/Guest
Thursday 10/6 • 8PM

DUST N BONES
(GNR TRIB)
W/Bonfire (AC/DC TRIB) and Guest
Friday 10/7 • 9PM

COMMON SENSE
W/Shoreline Rootz
Saturday 10/8 • 9PM

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W/Smoke Fairies
Sunday 10/9 • 9PM

Just Added: 1/15 Handsome Furs

Upcoming Shows:

10/2 Rock for Challenge Day 
W/Temple of the Dog – Matts Show
10/3 The Point of Being Pure at Heart
10/4 Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe feat. Mike and Kyle of Slightly Stoopid and Anders Osborne presenting Rolling Stones Sticky Fingers in entirety
10/5 Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe feat. Mike and Kyle of Slightly Stoopid and Anders Osborne presenting Rolling Stones Sticky Fingers in entirety
10/6 The Naked and Famous – SOLD OUT!
10/7 90s Comedy Show and Poetry Slam feat. Lauren O’Brian
10/8 Adrian Belew Power Trio and Stick Men
10/9 Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks
10/10 Leon Russell
10/11 Big Head Todd and the Monsters w/Charlie Muschelito and Nate beneath
10/12 Banding Together Instrumental Jam

Collection feat. Michael Tieman
10/24 Trentemoller
10/27 Tennis Meters
10/28 Noche De Los Muertos – B-Side Players
10/29 Super Diamond
10/30 Garlic Storm
10/31 Halloween Heat – 80’s Heat
11/4 Led Zeppelin 3
11/6 Judy Collins – Seated Show!
11/8 Ra Ra Riot
11/10 Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears w/The Sheepdogs
11/13 The Expoundables
11/14 Sea Change
11/15 Company of Thieves
11/16 Jim Jeffries – Comedy Show
11/17 They Might Be Giants
11/18 Lotus
11/21 Stephen Stills – SOLD OUT!!!
11/22 Joy and Giant Dub Get Old w/Jason Meuwes and Kevin Smith
11/23 Primetime Rockstars
11/25 Wild Child

11/26 Chris Isaac Christmas Show
11/27 Floyd FX performing Wish You Were Here
12/1 Leo Kottke
12/4 Leo Logio
12/6 Peter Murphy and She Wants Revenge
12/7 The Chris Robinson Brotherhood
12/9 Blind Boys of Alabama w/Scott and Sara Watkins
12/13 Dinosaur Jr. performing RUG in its entirety w/military Ranger interview
12/14 The Manczaruk-Rogers Band (feat. Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek and Roy Rogers)
12/15 Venice Christmas Show
12/18 Shaw Calvino
12/23 A Cash’d Out Christmas
12/28 Leftover Salmon
12/31 New Year’s Eve – English Beat
1/4 Wayward Sons and The Pettybreakers
1/12 Mark Hummel’s Blues Blowout
1/24 Martin Sexton

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WWW.4THANDBEVEVNTS.COM
Rave On: A Tribute to the Songs of Buddy Holly
Various artists
By Alan Segal

Buddy Holly’s been dead 52 years. He died at 22 in a plane crash described “as the day the music died” by singer Don McLean in his classic-rock anthem “American Pie.” Though his recording career lasted only three years, Holly’s influence and song catalog helped define rock and roll. On this new tribute album, you can hear Holly’s rock influence best as interpreted by Paul McCartney’s channeling of the early Beatles sound on a memorable cover of “It’s So Easy.”

There are 19 Holly songs in this collection, and for someone who is familiar with the original Holly versions, it is a treat to hear them reworked by pop artists old and new. Florence and the Machine add a touch of zydeco to “Not Fade Away,” Cee Lo Green speeds up and modernizes “You’re So Square,” Jack White and Karen Elson stylize “Crying, Waiting, Hoping,” and Lou Reed does a traditional take of “Peggy Sue,” as does Fiona Apple on her beautifully rendered cover of “Everyday.”

Other artists on this stellar, star-studded tribute disc include the Black Keys, She and Him, Patti Smith, and My Morning Jacket.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Buddy Holly helped define rock and roll

Everyone’s a Critic

to “Who Was in My Room?” through a megaphone that demonically distorted his vocals. The band was in fine form, particularly guitarist Paul Leary, whose beaten-down Strat permeated the thick atmosphere backed by surreal film projections.

Closing song “The Shah Sleeps in Lee Harvey’s Grave” mutated into an improv jam session courtesy of the Gibbytronix machine. After several minutes of jittering feedback and caustic noise, the nightmarish image of the emaciated front man surveying the crowd was a fitting end to a disturbing experience.

Concert: Butthole Surfers
Date: August 26
Venue: Brick by Brick
Seats: General admission

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

Holly’s rock influence best as interpreted by Paul McCartney’s channeling of the early Beatles sound on a memorable cover of “It’s So Easy.”

Standing ovation

Devastated taste, propriety

September 30 & October 1 — The Dum Dum Girls and the Crocodiles.
October 4 — Rocky Votolato.
October 5 — Cymbals Eat Guitars.
October 6 — The Parson Red Heads.
October 7 — Gang Gang Dance.
October 9 — Electric Six.

Cherokee Point Elementary School: 3735 38th St., City Heights, 619-641-3408.

October 6 — My Chemical Romance, and Matt & Kim.
October 7 — Journey, Foreigner, and Night Ranger.
October 9 — Avenged Sevenfold.
October 19 — Judas Priest, Black Label Society, and Thin Lizzy.
October 28 — Jason Aldean.

October 1 — Mike V.

The Griffin: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista.
September 30 — Have a Cigar, Rushed.

Harrah’s Rincon: 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.
October 1 — Duran Duran and Neon Trees.
October 14 — Steely Dan.

Houset of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
October 2 — Erasure.
October 3 — the Misfits.
October 5 — Andre Nickatina.
October 7 — David Crowder Band, Kevin Devine.
October 9 — Badfish.

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October 11 & 12 — The Dropkick Murphys.
October 13 — Tech N9ne.
October 14 — The Head and the Heart.
October 15 — Blasphemous Rumours.
October 17 — Chromeo.
October 19 — Lecrae.
October 20 — Opeth and Katatonia.

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433-3245.
New Village Arts Theatre: October 1
New Expression Music:
Jolla: 10640 John Jay Hopkins Dr., La
Neurosciences Institute: October 29
7252.
Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-
Park, 619-255-5147.
October 24
Quartet.
October 29
Hollywood Bowl:
November 26
Holly Hofmann Quintet.
September 29
9035.
October 30
of Nova.
Lions, Sour Soul, and Children Electric, A Scribe Amidst the

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Riley’s Music Lounge:
Soda Bar: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway Valley View Casino Center:
Valley View Casino Center:
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BANKERS HILL
Avenue 5: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 drafts, wells, $2 off bar food.

Azuki Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $5 large sake, $5 large Sapporo; $4 sushi rolls, discounted specialty rolls and appetizers.

Pizzicato: Daily, 4-6pm: 3 $1 pies, house wine.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Cafe: Daily, 5-7pm: $5 big glass of select wine; $2 off bar bites.

ALPINE
San Diego Brewing Company: Daily, 4-8pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.75 wells, house wine, espresso shots, wells + juice. 6pm-close: $2.75 domestic, $3.75 imports.

BAY PARK
Bay Park Fish Company: Daily, 3-7pm: $2 fish tacos, 20% off sushi rolls, 25% off draft beers, wines by the glass, and appetizers.

Offshore: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic, $3 sangria, well and micro imports, $5 Tommy Bahama cheesecake.

BONITA
Sapphire 18+ Lounge & Hookah: Tuesday-Saturday, all night: Cheap drinks. Cheap eats. 1/2 off hookahs Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm.

CARDIFF
Baja-Wan Pizza House: Daily, 11am-6pm: $1 off pie, glass of house wine. $3 off pitcher.

Chase Martini Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 premium drafts, well, glass of wine, $5 cocktails, $6 martinis.

CARLSBAD
The Alley: Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.

Argyle Steakhouse/Golf Clubhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Drinks priced by the hour (4-5pm: $4, 5-6pm: $3, 5-7pm: $2, etc.), offering wine, beer, premium liquors.

BELLEFEUR
Daily, 5-7pm: 3 $1 domestic beer, happy hour wine, well highballs.

BISTRO WEST
Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: Discounted wine, draft, well, specialty martinis, bar appetizers.

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

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm: $2.50 domestic bottles. $2.75 wells (short). $3.50 wells (tall). 

OGgie’s & Pizza & Brewing Co.: Tuesday-Thursday, 3-9pm: 1/2-off appetizers, $1.50 sliders. All day: $3 draft, $4 micro, $2.50 wells.

CARMEL VALLEY
Artera: Daily, 4-9pm: $3 snacks, $10 grilled calamari, $5 premium drafts, $6 Artera wines, $7 specialty signature collection.

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

CHULA VISTA
905 Sushi: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.25 Bud Light, Corona, $4.50 large Kirin, Sapporo, sake or house wine, $3 off pitcher.

TEN BARKS
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-off appetizers.

Choco'Lita: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 10pm-close: $1 off beer, cocktails, 1/2-off mini pizza, $2 off appetizers.

Black Angus: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 1/2-off wells, drafts, appetizers.

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

ALPINE
Sundays
San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

BAY PARK
Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.75 wells, house wine, $4.75 call.

BAY PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $1 well baskets, pinot noir, house margaritas. Lounge only.

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BAY PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $1 well baskets, pinot noir, house margaritas. Lounge only.
**Carmel Valley**

**Double D's on Broadway**
Daily, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestics, $5.00 off mixed drinks, $1 off shots.

**El Cajon Grand**
Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells.

**Flinn Springs Inn**
Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2.50 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

**Main Tap Tavern**
Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $1 off 16-oz. drafts, $2 off pitchers, $3 call. $5 nachos.

**Encinitas**

**Blue Fin Sushi Bar**
Tuesday-Thursday, 5-8pm: $1/2off wine, beer, sake, select appetizers, sushi rolls.

**Boston Gourmet Pizzas**
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, 10pm-close: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner, Saturday-Sunday, all day: $1 off pint, $2 off schooner, $5 bloody mary, screwdriver.

**Bullpen Pub & Grill**
Monday-Friday, 2-7pm, 10pm-2am: $1 off draft beer, $3 off pitcher, $2 off wine.

**Cap'n Kenos**
Monday-Friday, 6pm-midnight: $2.50 drafts, wells. Free appetizers.

**D Street Bar and Grill**
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, $2.50 domestic drafts, $2 off all appetizers.

**Savory**
Daily, 5-6pm: 30% off food & beverages in the bar & lounge area.

**Union Kitchen & Tap**
Tuesday-Friday, 5-8pm: Two for one all wine by the glass.

**Escondido**

**Brigantine**
Tuesday-Saturday, 3:30-7pm: $1 off draft beer, $4.75 house margarita, $5 red wine, $7 Krsta vodka cosmo, $7.50 margarita.

**El Galeon**
Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Two for one draft beer, margaritas.

**Holiday Wine Cellar**
Monday, 5:30-7:30pm: $5 for five wine tastings.

**Tango Restaurant & Lounge**
Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks, $1/2-off bar menu.

**Fallbrook**

**Aqua Terra**
Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3 domestic, $9 pitcher, $4 imported, $12 pitcher, $12/2-off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

**Golden Hill**

**Turf Supper Club**
Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: $1 off all beer/wine/spirit. $5 lunch: 1/2-lb. burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + chips.

**Grantville**

**Camel's Breath Inn**
Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 10:30am-8pm: $2.75 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

**J's Clubhouse Pub & Grill**
Monday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: 256 wings. Tuesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $1 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $1/2 off beer.

**Trio Porcellini**
Daily, 4-7pm: $3 domestic bottles, $3.50 drafts and house wine.

**Wine Steals**
Tuesday, 5-30pm-7pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: $10 wine tasting.

**Imperial Beach**

**Club Bananas at Lydia's Cafe**
Daily, open-10pm: $3 wells & domestics.

** Kearny Mesa**

**Bud's Louisiana Cafe**
Wednesday-Thursday, 3-9pm: halves of beer and wine by the glass.

**Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke**
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

**Rayo Grill**
Daily, 4-30pm-7pm: $4 drafts, wines, $3 domestic bottles.

**Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas**
Monday-Thursday, 5-30pm-7pm: $1/2-off house sake/drafts.

**Kensington-Talmadge**

**Kensington Cafe**
Daily, 3-7pm: $3 all beers, $4.55 all glasses of wine, all tapas under $5.25.

**The Kensington Club**
Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

**Kensington Vine**
Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 fine wine.

**Til-Two**
Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

**La Jolla**

**Alfonso’s of La Jolla**
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.25 drinks, bar appetizers.

**Beaumont’s**
Daily, 4-6pm: $3 draft, well, $3 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Special prices on margarita, sangria, wine cooler.

**La Jolla Brew House**
Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 wells, house drafts. $4 house wine. $5 premiums.

**Lupi Italian Restaurant**
Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $3-$5 martinis, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.

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

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

**La Sala**
Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 drafts. $5 house wine. $7 specialty cocktails.

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**The Filling Station**

**Pub & Grill**

**Daily Happy Hour**
11:30am to 7:00pm
Karaoke Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9pm to 1am

**Monday Free Juke Box Night**

**Thursdays Free Pool Night & Drink Specials**
$2.50 dom. beer and well drinks $7.50 pitchers

**Sunday**

**Free Pool All Day**
Dance Party Friday and Saturday night.

**9522 Miramar Rd. 858-578-0757**
Northeast corner of Miramar Road & Black Mountain Rd.

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**La Jolla Brew House**

**Locals Night**

WEDNESDAY 7-11pm

$3 pint of the night

$4 Pizzas (Cheese or Pepperoni)

$5 Wings (Dozen)

www.pintsforprostate.org

www.pintsforprostate.org

www.lajollabrewhouse.com

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**Escondido’s Blues, Jazz, Classic Rock Dancing Lounge. Every Friday and Saturday**

**Sep. 30**
**Jimmy Patton and Enrique**

**Oct. 1**
**Steve Orr**

**Oct. 7**
**Jimmy Patton and Enrique**

**Oct. 8**
**McLovin**

**Oct. 14**
**Bill Magee Blues**

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**$2 Taco Tuesday**

Choose from chicken, beef, fish or carnitas.
The desire. So he gave away lands but had neither the aptitude nor the military. Ask at the box office.

**A Totally Wicked REVUE**
A concert style musical revue of works by Stephen Schwartz, composer-lyricist, including songs from Wicked, Pippin, and Godspell. STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY. OCEANSIDE, 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH OCTOBER 2.

**Doubt: A Parable**
OCEANSIDE THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH OCTOBER 2.

**Felony Most Fowl!**
A con man schemes to steal the Enormous Emerald of the Equinox at a chicken ranch in the 1800s. Can an innocent young woman's beloved save the day? JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN ST., JULIAN, 760-765-1857. 7PM FRIDAYS, 1PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS. 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 30.

**How the Other Half Loves**
Scripps Ranch Theatre presents Alan Ayckbourn's farce about three couples, two houses, and myriad complications. Jim Caputo directed. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-689-6171. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH OCTOBER 8.

**Little Shop of Horrors**
Crisply directed by Sean Murray, this spirited production of the B-movie classic goes back to the musical's black and white roots. Everything on Sean Fanning’s Skid Row set’s in shades of gray, including the costumes. Only Audrey II, the carnivorous plant, is in Technicolor. Melissa Fernandez heads the cast as the emotionally bedraggled Audrey Pulgaard (and does a wonderful rendition of “Somewhere That’s Green”). Brandon Joel Maier and Phil Johnson hit the right notes emotionally bedraggled Audrey Pulgaard (and does a wonderful rendition of “Somewhere That’s Green”). Brandon Joel Maier and Phil Johnson hit the right notes. Pete Schmitz is Seymour and Mr. Mushnick, John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a father who suspects his priest of misconduct. C.J. Keith directed. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BLV., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH OCTOBER 9.

**Lend Me A Tenor**
Marty Burnett’s classy, art deco set and Sonia Lerner’s stylish costumes suggest anything but farce. But Matthew Wiener directs with such stopwatch precision he’s turned a fitfully funny script into a wall-to-wall steeplechase at North Coast Rep. When Tito Merelli can’t perform, young Max must sing Otello. Christopher M. Williams (Max) and Bernard X. Kopcho (Tito) excel with timing and slapstick takes. A top-notch supporting cast — led by Ted Barton, Jill Drexler, and Jessica John (a dervish as Tito’s jealous wife) — make Tenor one of the year’s top ensemble shows. Critic’s Pick. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 9.

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**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**
San Diego Musical Theatre presents the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice story of Inez Candelaria and her three children’s dream of a life in show business. With their building scheduled for demolition and their life together beginning to crumble, the filming of the movie West Side Story on the streets of their soon-to-be-abandoned neighborhood finally brings reality into focus. Featuring Tony Award winner Priscilla Lopez (A Chorus Line).

**Petals**
For Basil and Petals, it can be a lesson in the rigors of marriage. When Tito announces a new contract for his wife Petals, she’s in a less-than-blissful union? This unique and exciting theatrical experience moves around your table and amidst the action the suspects serve a delicious meal. Help solve this hilarious mystery!

**San Diego’s Longest Running Interactive Mystery Comedy Dinner Theatre**
What happens after 25 years of marriage in a less-than-blissful union? For Basil and Petals, it can be MURDER...just ask the groom! Petals has planned a nostalgic tribute to their nuptials and instead finds herself wearing black and seeing red! After all, the family fortune is at stake. Help solve this hilarious mystery!

**Somewhere**
A World Premiere Play with Dance NOW PLAYING!
A poignant new play about one family’s attempt to make its fantasy a reality. Gorgeous dance sequences are woven throughout the play and help to tell the story of Inez Candelaria and her three children’s dream of a life in show business. With their building scheduled for demolition and their life together beginning to crumble, the filming of the movie West Side Story on the streets of their soon-to-be-abandoned neighborhood finally brings reality into focus. Featuring Tony Award winner Priscilla Lopez (A Chorus Line).
versatility as a passel of baddies. David McBean gives Audrey II the requisite booming voice and the overwhelming urge to convert all of humanity into “plant food.” [due to popular demand, Cygnet has extended the run of this show].

Critic’s Pick. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., SD REPERTORY THEATRE, 7900 UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH PARK. 619-544-1000 OR SDREPORG

You never know who you might get stuck sitting next to.

THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH OCTOBER 2.

Man of La Mancha
Miguel de Cervantes sits in a dungeon. To make his case, he stages a drama the prisoners act out. At Walk, director Dan Moica has them also playing instruments, and playing them well. As Cervantes/ Don Quixote, Johnson Lalone sings the iconic songs with strength and feeling, and Natalie Nucci gives Aldonza the necessary grit. A strong support cast includes John Polhaus, Daniel Berlin, and A.J. Mendoza. Jennifer Edwards-Northover’s expert lighting helps make the dungeon become whatever Quixote imagines. Worth a try.

WALK THEATER, 2860 LAWRENCE WKLY DR., ESPERMONT. 619-293-7646. 8PM AND 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 30.

National Comedy Theatre
The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.” NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 37TH ST., COLLEGE AREA. 619-264-3999. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Odyssey
The Old Globe Theatre presents writer Tod Almond and director Lear deBessonet’s “musical theater” play. Down in the street. Giovanna Lopez’s drama about Inez Candela and her three children: their love, levels and hear a story on head- wihich of her three children: their love, levels and hear a story, and Robin Goodfellow, a singer, may be seen. The children wander through a maze and become whatever they come to. Patrons go in groups at 15-minute intervals, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Critic’s Pick.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 7900 UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH PARK. 619-544-1000 OR SDREPORG...
Baby Steps!

Are we supposed to cheer when he chews out his wandering girlfriend?

50/50

A slice-of-life indie about a young man facing cancer, overstuffed with Seth Rogen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Up in the Air’s Anna Kendrick as the world’s worst beginning therapist, and Angelica Huston. Rogen looms especially large as a best friend so sex-minded that he keeps his bumhole shaved but leaves his face stubbly throughout.

A slice-of-life indie about a young man facing cancer, but the young man in question is sour and immature. (Are we supposed to cheer when he chews out his wandering but repentant girlfriend? When he finally figures out how to use his cancer to get laid?) And the great journey he makes when confronted with the possibility of his own death is toward... becoming slightly less sour and immature. You know: treat mom like a person, remember that those around you are doing their best. Baby steps!

A slice-of-life indie about a young man facing cancer, but the cancer doesn’t really get to let loose. Before diagnosis, Adam jogs. After diagnosis, he sits on the couch. He shaves his head. He throws up (once). He smokes pot. He feels tired. 50/50 is billed as a comedy, but it mostly avoids looking for (admittedly dark) humor in the physical devastation wrought by both disease and treatment.

A slice-of-life indie about a young man facing cancer, but the life in question is so slight that it’s hard to see the slice. Our hero has quirks — neatness, nail-biting — instead of a recognizable personality. There’s a dog and a house. Ordinary troubles with work and money don’t really come into play — such mundanities would get in the way of the film’s real interest: the love life of the (young, handsome) cancerous man.

All that said, the film is not without heart, and the gray Seattle skies lend a somber background to the hijinks. Gordon-Levitt knows how to put across youthful bewilderment. And I sincerely enjoyed the late-stage cancer duo of Matt Frewer and Philip Baker Hall. Guess that makes me old.

★

Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure

In 1987, Eddie Lee Sausage and Mitch-ell D. were two recent Midwest college grads making a go of life in San

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idesofmarch-movie.com

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
Francisco, living in a cheap, garishly pink Lower Haight apartment complex and making audio recordings of their neighbors’ arguments. If that last bit sounds odd, a word of explanation: the neighbors, Peter Haskett and Raymond Huffman, were tremendous drunkards, and even more tremendous quarrelers. The recordings began as a kind of defense mechanism, but soon morphed into something more — something approaching theater. Eventually, after a stint as an underground phenomenon, they became just that.

It’s not an easy watch. You begin, like Eddie and Mitchell, by being queerly fascinated with these two drunken, broken souls locked in vitriolic verbal (and physical) combat. Why do they stay living together? How does the homosexual stand the homophobic, and vice versa? But, after awhile, the locus of queasiness shifts to the two guys making and distributing the recordings. Yeah, they talk about street art, the display of the broken for the sake of art, and money has a way of making things ugly and tedious. To his credit, filmmaker Matthew Bate does not shy away from the machinations surrounding filthy lucre, and a fair chunk of the movie is devoted to questions of rights and cash. Then again, maybe it’s all he can do, given that those machinations never amounted to much.

The story of Shut Up Little Man! raises lots of good questions about the wellsprings and morality of art, and in so doing, it tempts the critic to play the commentator. Your mileage may vary, but it left me with one overwhelming conclusion: the casual and profitable display of the broken for the sake of entertainment, enjoyed here by the underground cognoscenti of yesterday, today serves as the foundation for the most expository of reality television made for the howling masses. Sure, it’s fascinating. But does that make it good?

** Tucker and Dale vs. Evil **

Maybe Alan Tudyk does not covet the blood-splattered crown that Bruce Campbell laid down following Sam Raimi’s Evil Dead trilogy. But after this charming, gory spoof of hillbilly horror films (when will these college students learn to stay out of the woods?), I’d say it’s his for the taking. It’s all there: the movie-star looks thrown off-kilter by one facial feature (Campbell’s too-heroic chin, Tudyk’s puppy-dog eyes), admirable composure in the midst of insanity, and most importantly, the ability to play it straight without playing it serious. (Unlike, say, George Clooney, saddled with Tarantino cool in From Dusk Til Dawn.)

Amazingly, Tudyk isn’t even the star of the show. That honor rests on the beefy shoulders of Tyler Labine as Dale, his bearded, bashful best buddy. The comedic high point of Tucker and Dale comes early, during one of the film’s many references to various horror classics. But hilarity, homage, and lighthearted carnage aren’t the point of the story. That comes later, when Dale tells pretty, kindhearted psych major Allie, “I should have known that if a guy like me talked to a girl like you, somebody would end up dead.”

No one ever said that chasing your romantic dream would be easy or that nobody would get impaled on a stake in the process. Tucker and Dale isn’t subtle — too many gags, too much plot — but it’s sweet.

Special bonus points for casting Jesse Moss as a hillbilly-hating prep-pie: the look of Tom Cruise circa Risky Business combined with the scary intensity of Tom Cruise circa Oprah’s couch. Even more points for not making the black guy die first.

** My Afternoons with Margueritte **

Is it weird that I’m praising Tucker and Dale’s portrayal of a fat guy with low self-esteem over that of French acting giant Gérard Depardieu in a film that made me sob from its unbearable loveliness more than once? Probably. But there is this: For all the absurdity in Tucker and Dale, there is a fundamental honesty about people. Margueritte, on the other hand, is a sweet fantasy of redemption, the sort that imagines we can emerge from a lifetime of childhood abuse unscathed, still full of innocent kindness.

Depardieu puts his unwieldy bulk and asymmetrical face to excellent use as village simpleton Germain — the sort of guy who lives in a trailer behind his mother’s house, grows a garden, and does odd jobs around town. He can barely read, but like Dale, he remembers what he hears. Unlike Dale, when he talks, he reveals the soul of a poet. When sweet old lady Margueritte reads to him after a chance meeting on a park bench, he declares that a particular sentence grabs him by the ears like a rabbit. When he describes his own difficulties with reading, he says that the words scatter like nuts and bolts thrown into a drawer. Margueritte herself is likened to a glass animal in a shop window.

I could go on — I’d even like to go on. Listening to Germain reel off these gems is a genuine pleasure, as is observing life in his village. And there’s a wonderful point to all of the big guy’s interactions with Margueritte and her books: a struggle to find peace with the mother who never showed him love, who cut him down at every turn, who lives even now in a fantasy of life before motherhood.

But that brings us to the dishonesty. Margueritte tells Germain, “If you don’t get enough love as a child, everything’s left to be discovered.” Translation: if there were never any apron strings, then you’re free as a bird. In the story, Germain eventually learns the truth of this, but I’m not buying. Damage done in childhood hages chains stronger than any apron strings could ever hope to be. The film suggests that Germain’s simplicity shielded him from the worst of things, but his gift for expression betrays him. If anything, a poet’s soul would feel the blows more keenly.

Reviewed in listings: Killer Elite, Happy Happy, Machine Gun Preacher.

— Matthew Lickona

** MOVIE LISTINGS **

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubin, Scott Marks, 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 alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Abduction — A young man finds his baby photo plastered across a missing persons website. A solid foundation for a thriller wasted on still another attempt to renew interest in director John Singleton’s faded reputation, this time via a Taylor Lautner vehicle. From Boyz n the Hood to a boy made of wood, it appears as though Mr. Singleton has reached the twilight of his career. With: Lily Collins, Alfred Molina, and Jason Isaacs. 2011. — S.M.

★ Carmel Mountain 14; Chula Vista 20; Fashion Valley 18; Grossmont Center 10; Horton Plaza 14; La Jolla 12; Mira Mesa 18; Mission Valley 20; Mission Valley Hazard Center 7; Oceanside Mission
Bad Teacher — Poor Elizabeth Hesley. She needs $10,000 for new books, the kind his fellow students don’t have. Had she not been a dear daddy by sheer gravitational pull. But, alas, she’s just a poor teacher, in every sense of the word. Whatever will she do? Doesn’t matter, not relevant here. Cameron Diaz talk dirty and act bitchy and dress slutty and smoke weed and still come out smelling like a rose. Jason Segel adds heart and some laughs as a chunky, dorky gym teacher. 2011. — M.L.

Gambit... — The epic chronicle ends, -style caper pic — The epic chronicle ends, -style caper pic

The Debt — A 2007 Israeli film inspired this fitful thriller about Israeli agents sent to Eastern Europe to abduct a notorious Nazi (acted with evil charisma by Jesper Christensen). Two acting teams play the flawed heroes (Sam Worthington, Martin Csokas, Jessica Chastain in one; Tom Wilkinson, Helen Mirren, Ciarán Hinds in old retirement). Worthington is dull meat; John Madden directed like a Hitchcock knockoff, ineffectually checking on a notable woman and the crudely violent, vacantly “moral” climaxes falling on game but creaky Mirren is ludicrous. Despite effective moments and clamy atmosphere, this is pulp trying to be a Holocaust-haunted drama of ethical weight. 2011. — D.E.

Deceptive Detective and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame — Something is making the wrong people burst into flame pictures: the impresario’s insurance, and Deceptive Detective is summoned to crack the case. Like a good modern detective, he rejects supernatural explanations for the deaths, instead focusing on the thrillingly mundane realms of chemistry, zoology, and political intrigue. Unlike a good modern movie, he is not overly bound by the force of gravity, and doesn’t bat an eye at quasi-magical facelifts. Great fun until plot machinations and special effects bog things down to the final third or so. 2010. — M.L.

Dolphin Tale — A tale of a tail. The dolphin tale, a sea critter that lost its tail in a crab trap, was rescued by humans, then fitted with a prosthetic for use in its new Florida home. Charlie Martin Smith (the actor who played the noted actor Voight’s rough American actor in *Look Who’s Talking Now* and *Look Who’s Talking Too*) directed with splashing confidence. A rustic wife frets about her adopted Ethiopian kid is mute, but a white woman adrift, so much so that she slips out of her marriage (to Steve Carrell) and into a new bed with a soft phallic, but Hugo Weaving’s obese Nazi has trouble finding his inner baddie. 2011. — M.L.

Colombiana — Colombiana is an Angelina Jolie action-blockbuster without the jolie. Enter Zoe Saldana, an actress Hollywood can’t quite pigeonhole, as Cataleya, a stock exotic-female vigilante poised to take on a slew of interchangeable male aggressors. The opening sequence — a chase that allows nine-year-old Cataleya (Amanda Stenberg) to show off her skills at parkour — hurks back to the breaky, right-to-the-action writer/producer Luc Besson’s past glories (*District B13*, *Taken*). The film doesn’t mature along with her. Flash forward 15 years, as Besson and cowriter Robert Mark Kamen’s garden-variety plotting steamrolls logic. Don’t wardens receive is far less important than the many many of the laughs arising from moments of the garden-variety plotting steamrolls logic. Don’t wardens


Drive — A tricky, unsettling, often riveting film, shot in a coldly gorgeous LA by Dan-

ish director Nicolas Winding Refn. Ryan Gosling, an update on Travis Bickle in *Taxi Driver*, has magnetic mystery as the lean, terse “hero” who drives, can box criminals, and may be a sociopath. His shifty interest in the lonely beauty (big-eyed Carey Mulligan) down the hall leads to violent situations, shot with crisp relish that plays with the rituals of movie sadism. Albert Brooks’s nail-gun sarcasm and sly, smug watchfulness make him a terrific villain. If you don’t expect air-tight plot or a warm payoff, this is one hell of a ride. 2011. — D.E.

The Guard — Brendan Gleeson dominates as Irish country cop Gerry, a smart slob who gets drunk, chops off fingers, makes fiery speeches, and making the wrong people burst into flame pictures: the impresario’s insurance, and Deceptive Detective is summoned to crack the case. Like a good modern detective, he rejects supernatural explanations for the deaths, instead focusing on the thrillingly mundane realms of chemistry, zoology, and political intrigue. Unlike a good modern movie, he is not overly bound by the force of gravity, and doesn’t bat an eye at quasi-magical facelifts. Great fun until plot machinations and special effects bog things down to the final third or so. 2010. — M.L.

Dream House — Leasing an old New England home, haunted by past murders and present terror, causes hard times for newcomers Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz. Jim Sheridan also directed Naomi Watts, but Marisa Tomei and written by John Michael McDonagh as the film’s denouement. Cicely Tyson. 2011. — S.M.


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The Killer Elite — What a waste. Director Gary McKendry pulls together action god Jason Statham, genuine star Clive Owen, and a surprisingly subdued Robert DeNiro in an international espionage thriller based on a true story, and then turns around and makes this shoddy, shaky, seemingly endless parade of cliches, inept in the action, and generally bad storytelling. At least the sunglasses look good. 2011. — M.L.

The Lion King 3D — Simba, Disney’s favorite (and most popular prince) returns for another Leone rise to greatness on the savannah. Mythic and movie references are tucked in expertly, the animation is very good, the songs work well, and the new enhancement is profitable 3D. 1994. — D.E.

Love Crime — At 50, Kristin Scott Thomas’s impeccable bone structure and diction (French, English) ratify her cool, raccoon “charm” as a business power schemer, in a Parisian complex of offices that recall the glassy city of Jacques Tati’s Playtime. Too soon, she’s gone (imagine Meryl Streep exiting The Devil Wears Prada early). We are left with Ludivine Sagnier as her devious, monotonous assistant, spinning plot cogs including a murder. Alain Corneau directed with crisp, Cartesian relish, but this story of female friendship and betrayal in the French big-business world loses force and begins to seem very programmed. 2010. — D.E.

Machine Gun Preacher — Pulpit pulp. Gerard Butler is Sam, a beery biker dude and crackhead ex-con. Led to God by his wife (Michelle Monaghan), he then rescues children in war-raped Sudan. The source is a reality story, the outcome is Rambo Redux with a faithful spin. Director Marc Forster’s (Monster’s Ball) hands capable actors (including Michael Shannon, Kathy Bates) and scared kids through violent agnosies, using an old tactic: show hell, promise heaven. 2011. — D.E.

Midnight in Paris — One of Woody Allen’s mosely smoothly enjoyable entertainments. Like Stanley Donen’s Funny Face and Richard Linklater’s Before Sunset, it is a devotional candle of the American love of La Belle Paris. The blond witch who lights up for joy is Owen Wilson as Gil, a “Hollywood hack,” aspiring novelist, and mostly a thrilled tourist. Stuck with a pretty but philistine wife (Rachel McAdams), he magically escapes into his preferred Paris, that of the 1920s. There are fond, funny riffs on Hemingway, Picasso, Matisse, Gertrude Stein, Dali, Butch and Zaida Fitzgerald. The charming, sneak-up romance of Gil with a French beauty (Marion Cotillard) adds lustre to Darius Khondji’s delicious imagery. Not stuffy, the movie name-drops with a blithe bounce. 2011. — D.E.

Moneyball — A rare sports movie with a brain. Brad Pitt does perhaps his best star acting as Billy Beane, the Oakland Athletics general manager who, sick of being looted by big-money teams like the Yankees, opted for a “sabermetrics” approach using computers and the advice of a smart, chubby nerd (Jonah Hill, very good as this composite figure). The script went through much overhaul (Robins Wright’s tiny role may be a symptom of that), and Steven Soderbergh left as director, but Bennett Miller came in as more than a relief hitter. Full of nuances, always sharp about the frictions of change, finely acted, fascinated by the game but not pious, the movie has the rich adulthood of Miller’s previous work (The Cruise, Capote). 2011. — D.E.

The Devil Wears Prada — What a waste. Director Sofia Coppola’s (The Bling Ring, Marie Antoinette) addition to the parade of female friends bonding in the cutthroat sphere is late, and Steve and Donna (Rachel Weisz, Meryl Streep) are certainly not as good as Devora and Capote. 2006. — D.E.
Our Idiot Brother — More Cheech than Chong, Neil (Paul Rudd) is no idiot, but his good-slewed strength and lack of drive comes off as a well-intentioned, if misguided, response to the verdicts of his more structured sisters. They are richly played by Kathryn Hahn, Eliza- beth Banks, and Zooey Deschanel (who often seems to be floating in a talcum mist of charm). Using Rudd’s color and high emotion — in contrast to the more-mature-presented-day story also told. 2010. — M.L. 

** (LA PALOMA)

Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misad- venture — Reviewed this issue.

(FLASPG 15)

The Smurfs — A mysterious vortex trans- portes a rick of little blue beings, no more than three road apples high, from their magical kingdom to the streets of New York. Hey, kids, wanna hear some filthy smurfing words? “Plot.” “Pacing.” “Tim- ing.” Four smurfing motherasmurfs are given screenwriting credit. It takes forever for anything to happen, and when it does, there’s no shimmering sige of sty, wit, or joy. It is crooked with the direction, with Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, and the voices of Jonathan Winters and Katy Perry. 2011. — S.M.

** (MOUNTAIN CAMPUS 14; SANTE FE DRIVE 4)

Sky: All the Time in the World in 4D — In lieu of a review, here are some actual lines of dialogue that should give you a sense of what has been offered in lieu of a watchable film: “Never underestimate the power of love.” “DISCOVERY CHANNEL.” “You don’t understand?” “Pull my finger.” “I know I was a bue” beath.” You should have a competition to see who can pull it out for the longest. “Adults overthink things.” “There is no going back.” Featuring AtmosRcpace scrupt ‘n’ stuff! Also Jeremy Piven, Jessica Alba.

** (LA PALOMA 10; OTAY RANCH 12)

Tucker & Dale vs Evil — Enjoyable prequel, thirty years after the same-named debut of the series on the big screen. The chaotic and incoherent prologue might somewhat undermine the emotional punch of the birth of James Tiberius Kirk at the same moment as his father’s death, but the reintroduc- tion of the familiar characters — the assembly of the changeless crew for the maiden voyage of the U.S.S. Enterprise — can’t help but be fun for imitates. Chris Pine and Anna Kendrick, surrounded as though modelled on no weighter a prototype than Christian Slater, show an outanosk punk and fails to advance very far beyond that. Zach- ary Quinto’s Spock, on the other hand, has some big ears to fill and fills them fully, achieving elusively arge of unmonstra- tive intensity. Karl Urban, Anton Yelchin, Zachary Quinto, John Cho, Simon Pegg, Eric Bana. 2009. — D.S.

** (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Straw Dogs — Writer, director Rod Lurie basically retakes Sen Peckinpas’ misgionary tale of revenge as macho- baptismal. The location shifts from England to Louisiana, but don’t expect this to do much for tourism. Instead of a masonic architect (Dustin Hoffman), there’s a tooty, squeezer (James Marsden), and Kate Bosworth replaces Susan George as this year’s prime victim. Even the posters are worse, which might be an impressive remake. With James Woods and Alexander Skarsgärd. 2011. — S.M.

** (CHULA VISTA 10; PALOMA 15)
## MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**Tale (PG) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri - Sat 10:00 AM, 4:00, 9:45, Sun - Thu 10:00 AM, 4:00, Dolphin Tale 3D (PG) Special Engagement; 3D Upcharge Applies, No Passes Allowed, Fri - Mon 1:00, 7:00, Tue 1:00 PM, Wed & Thu 1:00, 7:00, Moneyball (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri - Sat 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, Sun - Thu 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, The Lion King 3D (G) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 7:30, 9:45, Sat: 12:45, 3:00, 7:30, 9:45, Sun: 12:45, 3:00, 7:30, Mon: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 7:30, Tue: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, Wed: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, Thu: 12:45, 3:00, IP Man (R) Tue 7:30 PM, Spookley the Square Pumpkin (G) Sat & Sun 10:30 AM, The Lion King (G) Fri - Wed, 5:15 PM, PARKENT MOVIE MORNING: “WHAT’S YOUR NUMBER?” THURSDAY, 10/6 @ 10AM.

## UPTOWN

Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0256)
Machine Gun Preacher (R) Fri, Mon – Thu (2:00), 14:30, 7:45, 9:15, Sat & Sun (11:25), 2:00, 3:30, 7:10, 9:45, Detective Dee And The Mystery Of The Phantom Flame (PG-13) Fri, Mon – Thu (14:00), 14:30, 7:00, 9:45, Sat & Sun (11:00), 14:00, 16:30, 20:00, 22:30, 9:45, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30, Midnight In Paris (PG-13) Fri, Mon – Thu (1:15), 3:50, **No show times are currently available**, Fri (PG-13) Fri – Mon (1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30, 10:45, 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30), Saturday & Sunday (1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00). Reading
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Anniversary Live (PG-13) Fri, Mon – Thu (11:30), 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, Cottington (PG-13) Fri, Sat, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, Mission Valley Hazard Center Drive
Movie Line: 619-685-2841

## EAST COUNTY

Regal Parkway Plaza
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information.

## LA MESA

Reading Grossmont
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)

## RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Regal Rancho San Diego
2951 Jacumba Road (800-326-3264)
Call theater for program information.

## Santee

Santee Drive In
10990 Westside Avenue (619-488-7477)
Contagion (PG-13), Dolphin Tale (PG), Drive (R), The Smurfs (PG)

## SOUTH BAY

Chula Vista
AMC Palm Promenade
770 Democracy Road (888-262-4386)
Abduction (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (12:05) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, Moneyball (PG-13) Fri-Sat. (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) Fri-Sat. (11:45, 2:10) 4:45, 7:35, 9:45 Sun. (11:45, 2:15) 4:45, 7:15, Spookley the Square Pumpkin (G) Sat & Sun. (10:30), 2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)

## IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information.

## NATIONAL CITY

AMC Plaza Bonita
3030 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4386)
Abduction (PG-13) Fri-Sat-Sun. (11:00, 1:00) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, Contagion (PG-13) Fri-Sat-Sun. (11:45) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, Contagion: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) Fri-Sat-Sun. (10:30), Dolphin Tale 3D (PG) Fri-Sun. 1:30, 7:30, Dolphin House (PG-13) Fri-Sat-Sun. (11:25) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30, Drive (R) Fri-Sun. (11:30) 4:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15. The IMAX Experience (PG-13) Fri. Sun., 10:00 Sat. 7:00, Sun. 4:00, Sun. 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30.

## NORTH INLAND

Escondido
Regal Escondido
330 West Valley Center Road (760-261-0119)
Call theater for program information.

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Dream House (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 5:30, 11:00, 7:00, 11:00.

Abduction (PG-13) Fri-Sat: (10:15, 12:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30) Sun: 10:30, 12:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

Dolphin Tale 3D (PG) Fri-Sat: 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00.

Dream House (PG-13) Fri-Sat: (1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30) Sun: (11:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00).

The Help (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00.

The King Lion 3D (G) Fri-Sun: (11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00)

What's Your Number? (Not Rated) Fri-Sat: 11:00, 1:20, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00.


**Dream House** (PG-13) Fri-Sat: (1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30) Sun: (11:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00).

**The Help** (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00.

**The King Lion 3D** (G) Fri-Sun: (11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00)

**What's Your Number?** (Not Rated) Fri-Sat: 11:00, 1:20, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00.


**Dream House** (PG-13) Fri-Sat: (1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30) Sun: (11:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00).

**The Help** (PG) Fri-Sat: 12:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00.

**The King Lion 3D** (G) Fri-Sun: (11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00)

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MISSION BEACH, $695.
280-3BA apartment. Reduced. Ocean views, extra clean, steps to village and beach. Prefer 1 person. 6 month lease possible. 858-456-0407.

MISSION BEACH, $2250.
380-2BA duplex. A must see unit near world famous Windansea Beach! Open house Saturday, 10/1, 10:00-11:00. Private balcony, garage, and parking included. 7006 La Jolla Boulevard #2. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

MISSION BEACH, $895.

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Large 2BD+2BA townhome. Huge balcony, 2 car garage. Ocean views, extra clean, steps to village and beach. Prefer 1 person. 6 month lease possible. 858-456-0407.

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A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to sandiegoastoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND it is received by us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Employees of the Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 5880, San Diego, CA 92106-5803, 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 .PS; format. 800 by 800 pixels maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

- And now for the really small print:
- All answers must be legible and entered clearly.
- Late entries will not be considered.
- One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages among those who correctly solve the puzzle one of the famous Reader baseball caps. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

ACROSS

1. Apt. coolers
2. Filly: horse: sheep
3. Something to land
4. Poker game memento, maybe
5. Retton who was the first woman to appear on the front of a Wheaties box
6. Ruckus
7. “Visit Stockholm, where you’ll only have ...!”
8.不间断
9. Pope’s partner
10. Table clearer
11. Infant’s babbling speech that starts to mix in real words
12. Intense dislike
13. “... nut”
14. Architect Mies van ______ Rohe
15. Chastain who flashed her sports bra at the 1999 Women’s World Cup final
16. Lobster ______ Diacono
17. Yank’s foe
18. “Bambi” aunt
19. Shocking swimmer
20. Carson Daly hosted it on MTV
22. Elev.
23. John-John’s stepfather
24. Martha’s 1960s backup group
25. Tomfoolery
26. _______ chis
27. Ballard fig.
28. Deg. held by Jill Biden
29. China’s Chiang ______-shek
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Name:
________________________
Address:
________________________
City:_____________________
State:_________Zip Code:__________
Personal Message:________________________

Please check one:
Hat: __________
T-shirt: S _____ M _______  L _______  XL _______

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THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

1. L. Barling, El Cajon, 2. in the American Revolution, were the Minute-men especially small soldiers, or just fast? Maria Coda, Oceanside, 2. if time is on our side, why are so many people late? Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 2. Gardner’s. We stockbrokers believe what goes down must come up. Richard Hutchings, Santee, 2. Lots of marijuana washed up on the beach, and no terp was left unstoned! Doug McCambridge, Rancho Bernardo, 1. One hour on the treadmill equals a bear claw for breakfast.

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PACIFIC BEACH, $1325.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1350.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1450.
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PACIFIC BEACH, $1575.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1579.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1775.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1975.
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NC COASTAL
Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucada • Oceanide • Solana Beach
OLD TOWN & UPTOWN
City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights
SOUTH BAY
Borita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro
SOUTHEAST SD
Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope
Mountain View • Shelltown • Shoreview • Valencia Park
**THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

**RULES OF THE GAME**
1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard, or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it in by 10:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 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 Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8583, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached and sent as a single PDF or 800 pixels maximum. Tip of the week: Don’t forget to count your blanks. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

**NEW RULES**
Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages among those who correctly solve the puzzle one of the famous Reader baseball caps. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

**EASY:**
1) Jaclyn Farnandez, Mission Valley, 1.
2) Hirosim Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 2.
3) Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 2.
4) Gary Gish, Rancho Bernardo, 1.
5) Joe Selig, San Diego, 1.

**MEDIUM:**
6) Then 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.

**HARD:**
1) It is better to be quiet and be thought cool than to speak and remove all doubt.

**EVIL:**
1) Among those who correctly solve the puzzle one of the famous Reader baseball caps. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

**EASY:**

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**SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!**

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the “comments” feature, you must be a registered site member.

**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

- Jaclyn Farnandez, Mission Valley, 1.
- Hirosim Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 2.
- Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 2.
- Gary Gish, Rancho Bernardo, 1.
- Joe Selig, San Diego, 1.

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Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

Dots ...
Two two-letter words, five three-letter words, six four-letter words, and four five-letter words appear in this week’s puzzle. We’ve spotted one. Try to identify the rest.

1) ___ 2) ___ 3) ___ 4) ___ 5) ___ 6) ___ 7) ___ 8) ___ 9) ___ 10) ___ 11) ___ 12) ___ 13) ___ 14) ___ 15) ___ 16) ___ 17) ___ 18) ___ 19) ___ 20) ___

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ____________________ State:_____ Zip Code: _____________
Personal Message: ____________________________________________________________

Please check one:
Hat:________                        T-shirt:  S_______   M_______   L _______   X L _______

5) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
6) Late entries will not be considered.
7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
8) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES
Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages among those who correctly solve the puzzle one of the famous Reader baseball caps. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com

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) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-237-7907 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) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
6) Late entries will not be considered.
7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
8) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Same to You
For those of you like ants on top of a hot cooking pot, the correct solutions are:
Where there’s smoke there’s fire (15) There are no waves if there is no wind
Speak of the devil (14) When you speak of T’s ao T’s ao …
Bart and switch (9) To display a lamb’s head…
Picky, picky, picky (4) To blow on the hair …
The bad apple … (6) The horse that leads the blind
Building castles… (16) Like climbing a tree…
As ye sow … (5) If one plants melons …
On pins and needles (7) Like ants on top …
To lock the barn door … (10) To dig a well…
As thick as thieves (17) Like bamboo shoots…
Biting off more than you can chew (1) Riding a tiger…
Water under the bridge (12) The wood has already been used up …
The talk of the town (11) To be like wind and rain …
A drop in the bucket (3) One hair from nine oxen
The truth will out (2) Paper cannot wrap up fire
It takes two… (8) It is impossible to clap …
Like comparing apples and oranges (13) The head of the cow …

This Week’s Winners:
Ed Barro, San Diego, 2. Why is that thing will “B” OK only if everything is “A” OK?
John L. Drehner, San Diego, 2. Confucius say: “People who live in glass houses should answer their doorbells.”
Conway Redding, La Mesa, 2. What doesn’t kill will just make you wish you were dead.
Carolyn Clark, Lakeside, 1. If you live on a farm, you gotta dig it.
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 1. Diluted Mai Tai: a form of Chinese water torture.

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616 San Diego Reader September 29, 2011
**Lyco Patrol Results**

**City Lights**
- p.3 exam should be Assessment
- p.6 next exam should be Residences
- p.9 has should be have
- p.10 should be 245(i)

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"Vanilla Megilla" by Bill Griffith ©2011

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\[\text{Image} 278x31 \text{ to 383x181}\]

\[\text{Image} 526x92 \text{ to 631x220}\]

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**Raffle Fraud.** On Monday, August 29, when Armando Sepulveda of Houston went to pick up the title of a 2012 Ford Mustang he’d won at a raffle at the Jim Wells County Fairgrounds the previous Saturday, he was told the car had not yet been paid for.

Two days later, Sepulveda went to the Jim Wells County sheriff’s department and filed a fraud complaint against the raffle organizers, Hope and Faith Ministries. The raffle was to benefit the ministry and pay the expenses of a volunteer group, the Cheerstrike Cobras, a local cheer organization. Directors of both organizations blamed each other for the missing money, but the Hernandez family, founders of the ministry, had to ask family and friends for the $21,000 needed to pay off the car. Sepulveda drove his new Mustang back to Houston the week after he filed the complaint.

**Facebook Made Me Do It.** Two women, Mercedes Buentello and Miranda Salas, filed assault reports against each other on September, September 10, after Salas allegedly wrote a negative comment about Buentello on Facebook. According to a report, Buentello drove to Salas’s home to confront her about the comment. A man named Cesar Garcia, who was inside the home at the time, attempted to break up the fight that developed between the two women. Garcia was then allegedly struck across the ear by Enrique Luis, who had accompanied Buentello. Each woman accused the other of starting the fight. Luis was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

**A Day in District Court.** Of the 13 cases seen in the 79th District Court of Jim Wells County by Judge Richard Terrell on Tuesday, September 10, three defendants pled not guilty and chose to take their cases before juries. Four pled guilty, resulting in three probationations and one 15-month prison term for evading arrest. In two cases, the defendants asked Judge Terrell to reduce their bonds. The judge denied one and approved the other.

The judge also released one man, who had been in the court’s custody since May for the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, on a personal recognizance bond; and another, in court for a DWI charge while under probation for the same charge, who asked to be let out on bond, was denied. According to Alice Echo News, the judge called the latter “a menace to society.”

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**By Isabel Moreno**

---

**Advertisement for Raffle Fraud.**

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**Advertisement for Facebook Made Me Do It.**

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**Advertisement for A Day in District Court.**

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Valid on posted price. With this coupon. Offer ends soon! We accept area competitors' coupons. We certify all vehicles.
Roads play a role in keeping us healthy. They help us stay connected, accessing medical facilities, family, and friends. In times of distress, they often provide a means of escape, literally saving lives. Yet, the same roads can become barriers, leading to issues such as depression, weight gain, and anxiety. These negative impacts may not be immediately obvious, but they can have long-lasting effects on our well-being.

September 29, 2011

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baby comes into contact with the flower, sen-

tors mimic sucking sounds. Although dolls

gravated battery on a police offi   cer). Pinney

him (because he did nothing illegal, he wrote,

ernment to compensate him for all the grief it

ready on the market, breastfeeding activists are

sors mimic sucking sounds. Although dolls

been effective in treating virtually
every

health problem!

country with sovereign and diplomatic immu-

WBBM Radio noted that Pinney appeared to

solicit romance on his MySpace page by

writing that he "hopes to get into a committed

relationship with a woman, but wouldn't mind

if it meant leaving this world, and leaving

an alien with similar anatomy [sic] and genetics."

The Continuing Crisis

Francis Ragusa, 75, was back in court in

Brooklyn, N.Y., in June, claiming child support

she said was never paid by husband Philip Ra-

gusa, 77, in their divorce settlement of 33 years

(Alt. "children," of course, long ago became

adults, but the $14,000 judgment has grown,

—

interest, to about $100,000.) Frances told

Benton County, Wash. (possession of metham-

Jerry Prieto, 38, pleaded guilty in July in

in Columbus, Ga., in April), Ms. Suk Kim Ho,

in July that she called Philip

several months earlier to discuss the amount

but that Philip merely began to cry. "Don't let

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PERSONALS
GI JOE LOVES HIS CAR. GI Joe loves his girls, but not his car’s care. Love me, love me, say that you love me.

SPORTS
FISHING TACKLE AND BOXES. 4 total, deep sea, used once, no corrosion, 1 large, new, $225; sell $45. 6 medium, new, only $35. Kenny, 619-398-7017, charger and bracket included. $100

SPAY/NEUTER YOUR PETS. Save lives. Don’t breed or buy while shelters animals die. 76% of cats entering shelters and 61% of dogs are euthanized. Approximately 25% of dogs and 56% of cats in shelters are purchased, Rescue.


COMPUTERS


MOUNTAIN BIKE LIGHT. Nine Rider Cyclops, single-beam system, battery charger and bracket included. $100 new, only $35. Chris, 619-398-7017.

BICYCLES
WANTED / TRADE GI Joe loves his cars, but not his car’s care. Love me, love me, say that you love me.

PLAYS/NEUTER YOUR PETS. Save lives. Don’t breed or buy while shelters animals die. 76% of cats entering shelters and 61% of dogs are euthanized. Approximately 25% of dogs and 56% of cats in shelters are purchased, Rescue.


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  - Starting at 15K: $49.95
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  - 60K/90K: $139.95

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- $69
  - plus labor

**Catalytic Converters**

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- Most cars.

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- $160
- Most cars. Two labor extra.

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  - Buy 2, get 2 Free

**Free Shocks & Struts**

- Free Shocks & Struts
- Any shade up to rear 5 windows. Tint removal from $29.

**CV Boots**

- Any shade up to rear 5 windows. Tint removal from $29.

**FREE Towing**

- (within 10 miles) with major repair (over $300)

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  - (just off Miramar Rd. 1 block from Pyramid)

**MR International Auto Repair**

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  - 858-455-5440

**CITY LIGHTS**

**Under the radar**

continued from page 2

busy first half of the year raising money for his 2012 reelection bid. According to his campaign financial disclosure report filed in July, Democrat Gloria took in $47,034 in cash and $1,000 in in-kind contributions and paid out just $259.72, leaving him with $44,504.28 in the bank. Contributors included Allied Waste’s James Ambroso ($300) and Neil R. Mohr ($300); Allied parent Republic Services Inc. general manager Fred Ashford

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**Engine Rebuild – Call for Special Price!**

Import & Domestic • TOWING AVAILABLE • 10% Military Discount

*Most cars.* See more specials at MRInternationalAuto.com

MasterCard • Visa • Discover
A marketing partnership with Sprint and Toyota.
The two partnerships will bring in approximately $345,000 this fiscal year.

One of these partnerships is with Sprint Solutions. The cell-phone provider will pay the City $100,000 annually for two to five years. In exchange, Sprint will be featured on the City’s website as the official wireless partner and will be able to offer discount plans to city employees.

The second of the two partnership agreements announced was with Toyota. That agreement calls for Toyota to lease the City’s lifeguard division 34 new vehicles, saving up to $1.1 million, depending on the length of the contract. In exchange, Toyota will be named the “official vehicle of the San Diego Lifeguards,” sponsor safety events, shoot commercials, and be allowed to market to city employees.

Bringing Up the Rear
Local Tourism Keeps Rising
San Diego — San Diego hotel occupancy through August continues to pick up, according to the latest data from Smith Travel Research. Year-to-date through August, occupancy at local lodging places was 71.5%, up from 69.1% for the same period last year.

However, San Diego’s occupancy rate trails the 79.2% of San Francisco, 73.5% of Los Angeles, and 73.3% of Orange County.

Misplaced Money?
USD Gets $600K to Attract Women, Minorities to Sciences
Linda Vista/USD — Last week, two $600,000 grants were awarded by the National Science Foundation to UC San Diego.

To meet his goal of 60% of science, technology, engineering, and math courses filled with females, are African American, Hispanic, or Native American.

Critics, however, argue that the money at USD might be misplaced. Mark Perry, a University of Michigan professor of economics and finance writing for Daily Markets, points out that the 28 of the 58 faculty in affected fields, or 48%, are female.

“Lock Box” in Quotes
DeMaio’s Plan to Save Our Streets
San Diego — Carl DeMaio is the man with a plan to “Save Our Streets” from potholes. His new SOS initiative claims it can raise between $335 million and $497 million over the next five years for road maintenance and upgrades.

It’s no secret to residents that San Diego’s streets are in a state of disrepair — TRIP, a national transportation research group, rates San Diego as the eighth-worst city in the country in terms of road maintenance.

According to DeMaio’s calculations, the city’s budget deficit for street operations and maintenance tops $60 million annually. To meet his goal of 60% of streets being “fair,” 30% being “fair,” and 10% being “poor,” (from 38%, 45%, and 17%, respectively, at present) would require expenditures of $116.6 million annually over the next five years.

To get this money, he proposes establishing a “lock box fund” that relies on expected increases in city revenues, which would be required to go toward roads funding before anything else.

Wall of Evidence
Arms Trial of SEAL Opens in Las Vegas
Coronado — Opening arguments in the arms-smuggling trial of Coronado-based Navy SEAL Nicholas Bickles began Monday in a Las Vegas federal courtroom.

“Assistant U.S. Attorney Phillip Smith said the government ‘brick by brick’ would ‘build a wall of evidence’ against the San Diego-based SEAL accused of smuggling machine guns, other weapons and explosives into the country from the Middle East for his own profit,” according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Bickles, a petty officer 1st class stationed at Coronado Naval Amphibious Base, stands accused of smuggling and selling more than 70 firearms intended for use by the Iraqi army.

Irwin’s Okay
Dumanis Campaign Draws New Supporters
San Diego — After a period without making much noise, the Bonnie Dumanis for Mayor campaign appears to be ramping up. This afternoon she announced some new political backers: Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs and California Board of Equalization vice-chair Michelle Steel.

Still, Dumanis appears to be facing an uphill battle. A recent poll shows Dumanis coming in third, behind Democrat Bob Filner and fellow GOP candidate Carl DeMaio. Of course, it should be noted that a principal of the firm that conducted the poll is also a DeMaio financial backer.

by Matt Potter

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PET EVENTS

DOG ADOPTION AT FIRE STATION. Sponsored by Chula Vista Animal Care Services and San Diego Humane Society. Event held Saturday, October 11, 10am-2pm, at Fire Station 4, 850 Pasco Ranchos in Chula Vista. See Care Facility website located at 276 Ave A, Chula Vista 91910.

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

AQUARIUMS, FRESHWATER/FRESHWATER. 10% off all standard tanks, and other loving dogs and cats, including Amazing, a 4-month-old, healthy, brown and white shihtzus for Adoption! Please see website for animals at this shelter and their 2 other locations: www.sdsamcat.org.

AQUARIUMS, PONDS! Complete setup: $150. 760-731-2631. AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! 60 GALLONS. Please email your ad to pets@sdreader.com. AQUARIUM SALE


Cats, dogs. Fall Special (through October 31, 2011): $25 Adoption Fee. See website for animals at this shelter and their 2 other locations: www.sdsamcat.org.

MOORE, Cian Jazz. ID#0447008. Male, black. Neutered. County Department of Animal Services, Northern Region Shelter, 24611 Pacific Coast Hwy., San Clemente 92673. 619-767-2376. Please see website for animals at this shelter and their 2 other locations: www.sdsamcat.org.

BLUE BRINDELE PIT BULL. Rogue. Female, 5 months old. Handsome, healthy, not a dog. Loves to play in the yard, walks well on leash, loves children and other dogs. Great with children, great on walks, and is a healthy, playful, wonderful, playful, not a heavy breeder. Short black fur. Neutered, housed in a foster home. Email: info@evenorganize.org. To adopt, contact: Zandra, female, 6 years. Go to www.sdsamcat.org. It was a pleasure sharing her with you. She needs a home and a family who will love her.


G했달/TRADE

BASSET HOUND RESCUE/ADOPTION. Nonprofit. Loves kids and dogs. El Nino. 4-1/2, would like a dog pal. Loyal, female, 6 years, Chihuahua, male, 2-1/2 years. Buddy, male, Dee Dee, female, 2 years, great with cats also. Zandra, female, 6 years. Go to www.sandiegorescues.org/page/frame. html. “Adopt.” Also: Carmella, Basset Mix, female, young. Email: lhbryneel@msn.com. See “Events” on website for Basset Hound monthly meetup group, 619-286-8638. Donations (not deductible) needed for medical fund.


CATS AND KITTENS. East County Animal Rescue has many available for adoption. Some cats available daily at Petco in El Cajon. 345 North Second St. Adoption event at El Cajon Petco every Saturday and Sunday. 12 noon to 5pm. Go to facebook.com/catsrescue. Click on “Photos” (on the left) then click on “Available for Adoption.” Phone: 619-742-5280 or 619-442-3014.

Cats/Kittens for Adoption. The Good with children and everyone. Cozy, male, 1 year. ID#A143070. Female, 2 years. Good with kids, good with dogs, good with cats. 572 Airport Rd., Carlsbad. See website 7 days a week. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUM SALE


BLIND, NEUTERED. Female, 2 years old. Neat, navigator. Small, 7 years old. Male, 4 years old. Great with children and other dogs. Good with kids, great on walks, and is a healthy, playful, cuddly. 3 black/white, 1 grey, 3 orange tabbies. $40 covers spay/neuter. Email: info@bajadogrescue.org or call 619-407-9372. Stella (shown here). Female, 4 years old. Lovable, brown and white fur, playful, loves to play laser light games! To meet him, contact Val: 858-467-9297.

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BLACK/WHITE CAT. Sizzles. Unusual coat in his tail. Male, 6 months old. Great cat, sweet, loving, playful, loves to play light tight chase. Neutered, tested, vaccinated, wormed, microchipped. Go to GuardianAngelsRescue.org for more info. To meet him, contact Va 619-566-4153.

BLIND, NEUTERED. Female, 2 years old. Neat, navigator. Small, 7 years old. Male, 4 years old. Great with children and other dogs. Good with kids, great on walks, and is a healthy, playful, cuddly. 3 black/white, 1 grey, 3 orange tabbies. $40 covers spay/neuter. Email: info@bajadogrescue.org or call 619-407-9372. Stella (shown here). Female, 4 years old. Lovable, brown and white fur, playful, loves to play laser light games! To meet him, contact Val: 858-467-9297.
Over 10 selected strains to choose from.

Free Compassion everyday from 4:00-5:00.

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- SDSU Area
- Downtown/Little Italy

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High quality ID cards
Walk-ins welcome
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Free joint Sundays • Gift for referrals
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24/7 phone & online verification ID card
New Patients & Renewals

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Special: $25 1/8th SOUR DIESEL
Lots of Free Parking
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WE’RE OFF 54TH STREET IN OAK PARK

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First time patients receive 5 GRAM 1/8, 1 Pre Roll and 1 Thick Glass Pipe ($60 min donation)
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You’ve had the right. Now you have the right source. Must have doctor’s recommendation.

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