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San Diego Reader
VOLUME 40 / NUMBER 42
OCTOBER 20, 2011

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NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights
When they say “nonliquid,” they mean you’re stuck; and Under the Radar ................................................................. 2
New Sweetwater boss sidestepped his way into hot water; and News Ticker ........................................................................ 3
Letters .............................................................................................................................................................................. 4
Diary of a Diva
Please don’t rant on my wall. ............................................................................................................................................. 6
Straight From the Hip
You are hot — on the inside............................................................................................................................................... 8
SD on the QT
Almost factual news. .......................................................................................................................................................... 12
Back When
A revolution in Mexico? ..................................................................................................................................................... 14
Sporting Box
What collegiate sports learned from Wall Street ................................................................................................................. 16
Red Zone
High school F-ball highlights ............................................................................................................................................. 18
Best Buys
Arty party for kids .............................................................................................................................................................. 18
Eat
Burger Time ......................................................................................................................................................................... 26
Nibbles & Drinks ........................................... 30
Ed’s Eats ............................................................................................................................................................................. 36
Beer Town ............................................................................................................................................................................. 42
Neighborhood Restaurants ..................................................................................................................................................... 44
Pizza Places ......................................................................................................................................................................... 50
Burrito Especial .................................................................................................................................................................... 54
Fledgling Jailbirds
Where do they go when allowed to fly the coop? By Rosa Jurjevics .......................................................................................... 58
Web Gems
Some of our best blogs from August and September ............................................................................................................ 70
Puzzle
Wordsmiths play here .......................................................................................................................................................... 130
Sudoku
Find fame in a numbers game .................................................................................................................................................. 132
Brainstorms
Graphic mind-benders ......................................................................................................................................................... 134
Typo Patrol Results ............................................................................................................................................................... 142

CALENDAR

Events
Outdoors, Special, Dance, Film, Food & Drink, For Kids, Galleries, In Person, Lectures, Sports, Museums & Public Art........... 83
Travel & Getaways
At film-festival time, a quiet getaway near Cannes; surf and safety on the Balsamo Coast, El Salvador; “Artists” strike in the hinterlands ......................................................................................................................... 84 85
Poetry
“In Broad Daylight I Dream of My Dead Wife,” by Mei Yao Ch’en ............................................................................................... 88
Religion
Don’t leave our children a divided world .................................................................................................................................. 91
Music
Classical Music Review & Guide ............................................................................................................................................ 93
Club Crawler ........................................................................................................................................................................... 100
Blurt ....................................................................................................................................................................................... 96
Red Pony Clock’s big-band joy pop ......................................................................................................................................... 102
Everyone’s a Critic ............................................................................................................................................................... 108
Here’s the Deal: Monkey Paw .................................................................................................................................................. 110
Happy Hour ............................................................................................................................................................................ 109
Theater .................................................................................................................................................................................. 112
Movies
Not just another skin flick, it’s Almodóvar ........................................................................................................................... 113

ADVERTISING

Classified Ads
Classified Index ................................................................. 143

Display Ads
Automotive .................................................................................. 138
Career Training .............................................................................. 122
Health and Beauty ......................................................................... 66
Help Wanted .................................................................................. 120
Legal Solutions ............................................................................... 10
Music ................................................................................................ 95
Rentals .............................................................................................. 131
Research Studies ........................................................................... 57
Services ............................................................................................ 133
Travel & Getaways ......................................................................... 84

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Gifts of praise
As a longtime San Diego County supervisor, Republican Ron Roberts is used to being generous with other people’s money. Now he’s perfected his giving style by making so-called cash and in-kind behests, paid for by special interests, to local charities.

In the words of the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission, “behested payments are contributions to charity by individuals and corporations” on behalf of elected officials. “These payments are not considered campaign contributions, but are payments made at the ‘behest’ of elected officials to be used for legislative, governmental or charitable purposes.” The law places no limits on the amount of the behests, but if they total more than $5000 in a single calendar year, they must be reported.

Thanks to Roberts, this year’s Golden Achievement Awards Program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego was the beneficiary of $7500 each from the Sycuan Casino and Resort and Solar Turbines, according to a July 11 filing.

Another Roberts behest, one valued at $24,000, was made by HomeAid San Diego, a nonprofit organization that bills itself as being “dedicated to building multi-unit housing for San Diego’s temporarily homeless men, women and children.” HomeAid, which, according to its website, “is supported by an alliance of local building and real estate industry organizations,” partnered up three years ago with developer Pardee Homes to build what they called the Padres Playhouse at Petco Park. Inside the small, promotional playhouse on exhibit at the ballpark was “a flat screen television, baseball-themed and gym locker” furniture, a radio/CD player and a small study/seating nook with baseball accessories.

A 2008 news release said the playhouse would be auctioned for charity at the end of the season, but earlier this year, HomeAid donated the structure to the San Diego Center for Children in honor of Roberts, complete with a televised June media event at which the county supervisor was present to be hailed for his generosity. “We are humbled that Supervisor Ron Roberts has selected the San Diego Center for Children as the home for this wonderful Padres Playhouse,” Dave McCaslin, the center’s executive officer, was quoted as saying. “It’s often a dream of a child to have a playhouse, and Supervisor Roberts’ gift will surely make our children feel special.” Besides McCaslin, among others paying tribute to Roberts was Rana Sampson, an ex-cop who now is the children’s center’s vice president for development and marketing and wife of San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders.

Cashing in and out
The former Ron Roberts and Brian Bilbray aide running next year for the seat being given up by retiring county supervisor Pam Slater-Price is off to a big start in campaign contributions. According to a report filed in July and covering the first half of this year, Republican Steve Danon raised $63,980 in cash and $290 in nonmonetary contributions for a total of $64,270. He began the year with $27,723 and spent just $5448, leaving him with a cash war chest of $66,255.

Contributors, many from out of town, included Luce Forward lawyer William Earley ($400); dealer-maker Richard Felago ($500); development consultant Roberta Herdes ($500); $250,000

Donor Ray Lucia strongly defends high-quality, nontraded real estate investment trusts, although he admits some are sticklers. He doesn’t think the extremely fat fees are a problem; they can be offset by income that yielded 2.5 to 3 percentage points more than competing investments. Theresa Ochs, head of compliance for RJL Wealth Management, says that Wells II “doesn’t take on a lot of debt. It is conservative. We as a firm pay close attention to the nontraded REITs we sell. We meet regularly with the principals.”

When Michael Lucia worked for Ray’s company, the firm paid $8175.21 to a customer who complained about not being informed of the risks in a Wells nontraded trust, according to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority records. “I had five different meetings with the investor, the kids were involved, the investor was fully aware that the REIT would be nonliquid for 10 or 15 years,” says Michael. But his then-boss, his brother Ray, decided to settle.

Regulatory authority records show that Michael Lucia personally understands how bad the real estate industry is. In July he filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy because of a failed real estate investment. “The deal was not related to my financial planning practice. It was an investment in Las Vegas. When you buy it for $400,000, it’s worth $150,000, and your renter moves out, going to take a haircut. You have to go through several real estate cycles. Crap happens. And crap has now hit the real estate market.”

Attorney Rob Butterfield, who is often on the air with Ray Lucia, says, “You buy them as a bond substitute. They have potential upside, little downside, and even if [the price] goes down, you get that 5 to 6 percent a year, and you’re still ahead.” Some think of them as part stock, part bond, and part annuity, yielding 2.5 to 3 percentage points more than competing investments.

Graybeards, Beware
Beware nontraded real estate investment trusts. That advice was issued early this month by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the nongovernmental regulator of securities firms.

Real estate investment trusts (REITs) pool money from many investors, put the money in real estate, and distribute 90 percent of taxable income to shareholders. Some trusts trade on the stock exchanges, so their prices can be volatile. Nontraded trusts have a constant price and generally pay fat distributions (essentially, dividends).

They’re comforting to own in years like 2008, when stocks crashed.

But the regulatory authority warns that front-end fees are high (a whopping 10 to 15 percent). The distributions can come from borrowed funds and include some of the investor’s own money. Because they are not traded, they are illiquid for a long period (say, 10 to 15 years); ultimately, most of them either become publicly traded or liquidated. “Early redemption is often restrictive and may be expensive,” the regulatory authority warns that in the case of Wells II, a nontraded trust, “it’s a terrible time to have to sell real estate. The REITs are cutting back on the redemption process,” he says, expressing sympathy for Ketchum. However, all customers received material warning of the risks, says Michael.

On the air and in his books, brother Ray Lucia strongly defends high-quality, nontraded real estate investment trusts, although he admits some are sticklers. He doesn’t think the extremely fat fees are a problem; they can be offset by income that is higher than one will get from other stocks or bonds. He doesn’t recommend those nontraded trusts that carry too much debt.

He says that he always trained his salespeople to tell customers that the nontraded trusts are long-term investments. “There must be a 10- to 15-year time horizon, preferably 15. If you’re trying to redeem shares prior to the 10- to 15-year period, you are

continued on page 20
The Board Hits the Canvas Again

By Susan Luzzaro

The honeymoon might be over,” acknowledged Dr. Edward Brand, interim superintendent for Sweetwater Union High School District. Knee-deep in scandal, the Sweetwater school board on June 21 fired superintendent Jesus Gandara. On June 22, Brand stepped into Gandara’s shoes, but people are already asking if the shoes fit too well.

“Sweetwater is in my DNA,” Brand said in an early September interview. Brand served as Sweetwater’s superintendent from 1995 to 2005. His return was welcomed by many.

Community activists were so pleased to be rid of Gandara and so eager to see Sweetwater get back on its feet, they agreed to stop sharing scandals with the press. The truce ended on August 29.

The trigger was an incident at the school board’s workshop on teamwork. According to community activist Fran Brinkman, the combative board had been shouting over one another, and board president John McCann had been known to shut off the microphone of boardmember Bertha López. The workshop meeting began in the boardroom, but after 15 minutes, Brand announced a break. Later, it was discovered that Brand had reconvened the meeting in a back room — without the public.

Community activist Kathleen Cheers said she was “livid.” According to Cheers, she and Brinkman sat in the boardroom for over an hour waiting for the workshop to resume.

Brinkman said that no one advised them that it had reconvened elsewhere. She said that a Brown Act violation has been filed against the district.

In the September interview, Brand said he had no intention of excluding the audience. His perspective was, “We wanted to do a workshop about teamwork. It wasn’t about making policy. We did a 15-minute overview in open session, and then we went from the boardroom to this back room because we were going to lay out charts. I had instructed our staff that if anybody [from the audience] wanted to observe, then they could be invited back. Somehow, that didn’t get communicated to the three or four people who showed up for the meeting.”

Brand admitted, however, that he really didn’t want the public to attend the workshop powwow “because then the workshop discussion would not be as frank.”
LETTERS

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

Anchor Babies
Re “Easy as 1,2,3” (Letters, October 13). Enrique Morones states that “undocumented people do not qualify for most social services” when they arrive in our country. This is false. When such people give birth to children, these children become automatic citizens who are eligible for welfare. So when one such baby is born, the family gets welfare. A second baby gets another check, a third the same, and so on. These “anchor” babies are also entitled to sponsor their illegal alien parents for legal resident status. These are realities, not myths.

John Primavera via email

Too Much Commentary
Mr. Name Withheld spoke on voice mail (Letters) that the October 6 issue’s Thomas Larson cover story was “loaded with who and whom errors. I wonder about some-
continued on page 82

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Troll Revolution
by Barbarella

It seemed like an innocuous deed, posting a link to my friend’s video on my Facebook wall. Nice, even. I’d go so far as to say it was the opposite of reprehensible. The link was accompanied by a comment: “My friends in Boston take inner city kids scuba diving!” I’d watched the video before posting it. Paul has been refining his film skills, so I was just as curious to see his shots and edits as I was to learn about his cause. He and his newlywed, Sarah, are diving enthusiasts; they are also dive instructors. As I learned from Paul’s narration in the video, and later from checking out the organization’s website, a program called Dive Kulture “offers scuba certification together with jobs in the environmental industry,” particularly to “at risk” kids. Organizers describe it as “therapeutic outreach to youth and their families by trained clinicians.”

Okay, cool. My friends had a chosen philanthropy. Watch the video, learn a bit about their cause, comment, post it on my wall so as to share it passively, done. Granted, I have more “friends” online than those I know in person, but I thought it was safe to assume that everyone who requests or accepts my Facebook friendship falls into what those in the military call “friendlies” — sympathetic, on my side, all that good stuff. Facebook isn’t like other sites, where trolls can pick fights anonymously. Transparency tends to mellow people out; it makes them more civil, especially when they’re on your list of “friends.”

So, I was staggered when two guys on Facebook took offense to this video I posted. These dudes I’d never met interpreted my sharing my friends’ charitableness to be, as one guy put it, “Retarded rich girl talk.” Apparently I’d missed the tweet about trolls coming out from under the bridge.

“Teach them to read, write, and speak the opportunities in scuba diving are minimal, to help ‘at risk kids,’” he went on to say. The other guy wrote, “Teach, mentor and encourage instead of playing at the beach!” The first one shot back, “It’s a very pricey hobby. Why not hiking or something?”

Okay, I thought, I get it. The economy sucks, people are disgruntled, and they’re looking to take shots at anyone they perceive to be among the modern aristocracy. The new retro rage is the French Revolution, and maybe it looked like I was waving a piece of cake before a starving horde. I didn’t think so, but people, including my “friends” (in person or not), are entitled to their opinions.

I decided to bring them back around to the intended spirit of my post. “Did you guys watch the video?” I wrote. “Part of helping these kids obtain their certificates is to give them a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. That goes a long way for them and helps them become active members in their communities.” I didn’t feel the need to mention the part about jobs offered in the field or the five years of continued support the kids receive from their mentors. I figured this would clear things up and mollify the class-war indignation being directed my way.

I was wrong. “This smacks of more trickle down B.S.,” wrote one. “If you work hard enough you’ll be able to afford to party like us, more American dream nonsense. Take the Rwandans to Chuck E. Cheese.” Incited by my comment, he continued a rant that spanned several comments posts. “Teach the inner city kids to grow sustainable crops and install solar power in their homes and this wouldn’t be a liberal’s wet dream puff piece…”

Hopeless, the world is not in their reach, take a sociology class… Inculcating the desired to do wealthy hobbies is not helping anyone,” and so on.

I began to wonder, Who the hell is this guy and why is he in my network of “friends”? Others began chiming in, asking him to calm down, but this seemed to further fuel his fire and brimstone. Again, I tried to manage the situation. In a comment, I wrote that my Facebook wall was not a place for other people’s rants. “Please respect that and desist, I think you’ve made your point, and I respect your opinion.” After which he accused me of not being “democratic.”

“No, my Facebook page is my own little totalitarian regime,” I responded. “No democracy here. People don’t get to vote on what I post, or who I block.”

In the end, I didn’t get a chance to block him. After his last post, the tenor of which veered sharply from commenting on the societal zeitgeist to attacking me personally, his profile disappeared. The only thing that remains is his comments, along with his name, and the ghostly silhouette where a Facebook profile picture would go.

People like an audience, and a media whore like me can totally appreciate that. But it’s called “social networking.” You don’t make friends by showing up at their house and smearing your shit all over their wall.

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Matt:
If our temperature is 98.6, why do we feel hot when it’s 85 or 90 outside?
— WS, San Diego

That 98.6 business isn’t what it appears to be. That’s an average core body temperature — how hot you are on the inside, not the outside. It’s a measure of the heat created as a by-product of all the body chemistry that keeps us functioning. Our outsides play a part in dissipating this heat so we don’t have a body-core house fire and destroy cells. Skin heat wafts off into the air and keeps our outer temperature much cooler than our inners. This means the gradient between air temp and skin temp is much shallower; they’re much closer together. The closer your skin temp and air temp are to each other, the harder it is for radiated heat to be carried away by the air (convection). So our bodies kick into second gear and start producing sweat to carry off even more heat through evaporation. Or you fan yourself to up the convection rate with moving air. A cold drink will also lower your core temp. The whole system is controlled by your brain’s hypothalamus, designed to make you feel “hot” and avoid a grizzly meltdown, in which your core body cells die like shrimp on the barbie.

Hey Matthew:
Is it my imagination, or do TV ads and some TV background music have telephone rings in them? I swear I hear the sound of a phone ringing sometimes when I’m watching TV. It doesn’t fool me into thinking my phone’s ringing, but it gets my attention. Sort of sends a little jolt through me. Or am I just hallucinating and taking the first step on a long trail that leads to schizophrenia?
— Anonymous and worried, via email

Aha! Another tricky advertising trick exposed. Gotta watch those tricky advertising-trick guys. So you’re hanging around watching Dancing with the Stars or Dr. Who or something. You’re also eating a Philly cheese steak and texting your bestie and cruising iTunes. Advertisers and show producers know you’re doing this. How does a deodorant commercial stand a chance in this scenario? They must get your attention! It’s critical! They’ve paid a gajillion dollars for 30 seconds worth of air time in this show, so they can’t waste it! What to do, what to do...

There are certain sounds in the world that attract attention — a siren, a fart, stuff like that. But perhaps nothing compares to the sound of a phone ringing. (Oh, goodie! It’s for me! Some-body wants to talk to me! I must respond! I’m not forgotten! I have friends!) And this is something that tricky advertisers and show producers know, too. Those miserable tricksters.

According to a New York Times story, you won’t find anybody who will outright admit to using those elusive, high-pitched “phantom rings,” as they’re called. But they all admit that high-pitched sounds are becoming more prevalent in today’s carefully composed soundtracks — ads, TV shows, and movies. It’s well known throughout the industry that the human ear gives priority to high-pitched sounds such as babies crying or screams or other sounds of danger. Sounds can mess with our emotions and thoughts. And since our cell phones are now as significant as body parts for each of us, a high-pitched “phone-like” tone inserted into background music or a mix of sound effects will catch our attention every time. Even if, in the long run, we’re not tricked into thinking it’s our own phone, just the generic phone-ring snaps us out of whatever multitasking coma we’re in. With luck, we might pay attention to the TV to see where the sound came from. Mission accomplished.

A physics professor from McGill University further elucidates. These phantom rings and other similar sounds (such as real-life ambulance sirens) are in the 1000 hertz range. This tonal range is the most elusive when the human ear tries to locate the source. Recall the last time you were in traffic, heard a siren, but couldn’t tell where the sound was coming from. Anyway, the sound hijacks our attention. We are a great herd of manipulated sheep, and don’t let anybody tell you different.

Hey Matt:
Why do some people call them “pancakes” while others refer to them as “flapjacks”? And which is the proper terminology in San Diego? I ask because I’ve never heard of an International House of Flapjacks (or an IHOF).
— Shawn Higgins, San Diego

Pancakes are ancient and international. They have dozens and dozens of names, depending on where you are stuck to the globe. Even the U.S. calls them johnnycakes, hoecakes, griddle cakes, and on and on. But if you’re in a strict foodie home, you’ll be told that pancakes are light, fried flour and baking powder thingies, while flapjacks are thick and oaty and substantial enough for riders on the range and lumberjacks. Hoecakes are comical. Johnnycakes might be too, depending on where you live. Here in Sandy Aigo, though, we eat breakfast burritos.
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SD on the QT  
Almost factual news

Occupy San Diego Occupies San Diego Starbucks

Protest Movement Finds Plenty to Protest Over Chai Lattes
“When the revolution comes, there will be no Wi-Fi. Until then…”

WAITING IN LINE FOR AN OVERPRICED COFFEE-RELATED BEVERAGE — Occupy San Diego, the San Diego–based offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street movement to protest corporate malfeasance and general douchebaggery, today decided to move its base of operations into a College Area Starbucks.

“The move makes sense on several levels,” said OSD organizer Levi “Lefty” Ledbetter. “First, Starbucks represents the insidious creep of corporate hegemony better than just about anybody else. I mean, when Walmart comes to town and starts destroying local businesses by undercutting prices, people notice. They complain. Sometimes, they even manage to stop the madness, or at least hold it at bay. But Starbucks? Starbucks opens up across the street from a local, established coffee shop, and nobody makes a peep. Four months later, the local joint is shuttered, everybody’s buying Starbucks’ more expensive, crappier product, and all the profits are headed out of the community and up to Seattle.”

Second, said Ledbetter, “It’s a great place to get the word out. Lots of people coming in and out, many of them with a few minutes to stop and listen to our irrefutable reasoning about why they should join us in rising up against the one percent.”

And, third, “It’s a pretty comfortable place to be. There’s good seating and nice lighting and, of course, Wi-Fi. If you’re going to organize a movement these days, you’ve got to be online.”

Store manager Gerald Fitzler admitted that the presence of the protesters had caused some logistical difficulties. “Sometimes, they try to stay in one spot for more than three hours without making an additional purchase — even if it’s just a refill on their soy frippery shake. But I called corporate about procedure, and you know, those guys are all about the counterculture. So we’re letting them camp out, basically. Plus, they really like to drink coffee — sales are through the roof. I’ve had to hire extra staff. In a small way, we’re helping to rebuild the economy right here, together.”

Local Hipsters Begin to Abandon Occupy San Diego

As Occupy San Diego Stretches on, Downtown Protests Dismissed as “Too Mainstream”
“We’re gonna check out Occupy Fresno.”

Occupied Turf War!
Disgruntled Tea Party Gang Riled Up Over Populist Newcomers Occupy San Diego

“We were fed up with the bigwigs and the plutocrats while you were still updating your playlists!”

SD on the QT Exclusive! Rallying song overheard at Tea Party HQ in preparation for coming showdown. Sung to the tune of the "Jet Song" from West Side Story.

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BACK WHEN in the Reader

Thirty-Five Years Ago
“It’s gotten really bad in the last three years,” says Bob Moore, one of 45 Border Patrol agents patrolling the Chula Vista Sector. “Well, this is just hearsay, you understand, but I talk to a lot of Mexican families and they tell me there’s going to be a revolution in Mexico soon and they want to get out before it happens. A lot of them feel the United States is going to crack down on illegals soon, and they better get in now while they still can.”
— “STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT,”
Bob Hartley,
October 21, 1976

Thirty Years Ago
What does the name “Helix Heights” have to do with the cost of a funeral service in San Diego? You’re probably stumped, but don’t be embarrassed. Until two months ago, eleven local morticians, some of whom have been in the funeral business 50 years, didn’t know the answer either. But when they found out that “Helix Heights” could triple the cost of a grave and perhaps send San Diego families chasing out to Miramar or El Cajon in search of an available plot, the morticians began a fight to defeat Proposition G on the November 3 ballot. That proposition would commit 16 acres of Mt. Hope Cemetery to industrial development.
— CITY LIGHTS: “IT’S YOUR FUNERAL,” Paul Krueger,
October 22, 1981

Twenty-Five Years Ago
KSON-FM...sent nearly 400,000 glossy color flyers to random addresses throughout the county of San Diego.

The front of the mailer said the recipients might have already won $1000: if 97.3 FM, the station’s number on the dial, were already won, $1000: if 97.3 FM, the station’s number on the dial, were flipped open their triple-fold brochure....

The number 97.3 FM was printed not only on the tickets of those excited individuals advanced. The officer tased the suspect. The suspect took a fighting stance as he cursed the officer and yelled at another male and a possum. An officer made contact and the suspect took a fighting stance as he cursed the officer and walked away. The suspect refused the officer’s commands to stop. They went into a yard where a Rottweiler came at the officer. The officer shot and injured the dog.

— CITY LIGHTS: “BATTLE READY,” Matt Potter,
October 18, 2001

Five Years Ago
A male suspect under the influence [was] yelling at another male and a possum. An officer made contact and the suspect took a fighting stance as he cursed the officer and advanced. The officer tased the suspect. The suspect removed the bars and walked away. The suspect refused the officer’s commands to stop.

Ten Years Ago
Just in time for war, the cafeteria at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot has been named “Best Mess Hall” by the “Major General W.P. Hill Memorial Awards Program for Food Service Excellence.” In reporting the honor, Food Service Director magazine quotes the mess manager, Master Gunnery Sergeant Edward Trevino, as saying, “As our customers come through the door, they’re expecting every day that everything will be perfect.”

— CITY LIGHTS: “BATTLE READY,” Matt Potter,
October 18, 2001

Forty Years Ago
IT’S A CRIME: “WARRANT ARREST,”
October 24, 1991

Twenty Years Ago
There exists a post-Hemingway, post–Irwin Shaw cadre of men’s men male writers: the late Raymond Carver, and Jim Harrison, Thomas McGuane, Richard Ford, Russell Banks. These men’s short stories and novels have in common a wiped-clean, plain truth-telling way of putting things, a bluntness, and incline toward character and setting and mood more frequently identified with country music than with literature.
— “NOVELS, THE KIND MEN LIKE,” Judith Moore,
October 24, 1991

Fifteen Years Ago
I hesitate before starting with this particular detail. I want to begin with what for me was a simple fact but what to others may seem a tiresome metaphor. The psychiatrists didn’t invent this metaphor, but I suppose they helped popularize and thereby trivialize it. Psychiatrists have never done me any good, so I’ll hold my present hesitation against them as well. As I said, for me it simply was a fact: At about the same time I discovered my penis, I started writing with a fountain pen.

— “MY FOUNTAIN PEN,” J.D. McClatchy,
October 24, 1996

Five Years Ago
A male suspect under the influence [was] yelling at another male and a possum. An officer made contact and the suspect took a fighting stance as he cursed the officer and advanced. The officer tased the suspect. The suspect removed the bars and walked away. The suspect refused the officer’s commands to stop. They went into a yard where a Rottweiler came at the officer. The officer shot and injured the dog.

— IT’S A CRIME: “WARRANT ARREST,”
Michael Hemmingson, October 19, 2006

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SportingBox
By Patrick Daugherty

Mountain West, Big East, ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big Ten, Conference USA, Mid-America, et al. College conference realignment reminds me of the good old days, circa 2007, when Goldman Sachs sold worthless collateralized debt obligations to clients and then bought positions opposite the positions they had just sold. Goldman made dollars into the tens of billions and used their customers as road kill.

Good times.

Greed beyond measure — no restraint, no end to it until everything falls down. Which brings us to college football. On Friday the Mountain West Conference declared they will join football forces with Conference USA to become one tradition-steeped, academic enriching conference of 122 colleges stretching from San Diego to Uzbekistan. Football will start the moment television contracts are signed and go year-round. All games are scheduled for prime time and will be televised six days a week. Tuesday night will remain football free as an experiment and in recognition of the fact that no one wanted to sponsor Tuesday nights.

Okay, that might not be precisely what happened, but it’s close. The announced setup is, “We’ll start play next year or the year after, depending on money and if we can patch this pig together in time.” The football-only conference will have between 16 and 22 teams unless more teams or, for that matter, less teams seem like a better idea when money is put on the table. Maybe they’ll have a divisional format. Better, maybe they’ll have divisional playoffs and then a conference title game. Best, wildcard playoffs, divisional playoffs, and an East versus West championship game for the Galactic Grand National Super Bingo Championship of All Football. The CUSAMWC will have football teams in five time zones and 16 states. When you think about it, isn’t that what we all want?

Consider the rivalries! San Diego State

Mountain West to join Conference USA — 122 colleges stretching from here to Uzbekistan

gouging, biting, and spitting on our despised arch enemy, the East Carolina Pirates. Or, how about SDSU sucker-punching the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles’ marching band? That blood feud goes back generations. Or, simply, San Diego kicking some University of Central Florida butt. Just the sound, “University of Central Florida,” is like putting your fingers in a door jamb and then slamming the door shut as hard as you possibly can. That’s what the University of Central Florida sounds like to a true San Diegan. How’s that for a grudge match?

I’m talking quality matchups, talking big league football. I can’t wait.

Follows is a scorecard of the backstabbing, money-grubbing, conference-jumping schools. This is offered in time freeze, good for this moment only. Colleges will keep circling the campfire, waiting for the right moment to lunge at your throat. Their positions on the big board will be different tomorrow, but for now:

Eastern Carolina (C-USA) has applied for membership in the Big East.

The Big East would like to invite SMU, Houston, Air Force, Boise State, and Central Florida to join them on the death ship. Oops, I should add Navy and Temple to the list.

The WCC added BYU for all sports, save football, and say they’re done, but — cough — could expand further if Air Force is available. Pittsburgh will leave the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) sometime in the next two years. Unless a better deal comes along. Ditto Syracuse.

TCU remains number 1. Since 1995 they have been members of the Southwest Conference, Western Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mountain West Conference, the Big East, and, lately, the Big 12. TCU is a role model for the 21st Century, the first free agent University. Well done, lads.

The Big Ten says they’re not looking to expand, but, hey, just as an exercise they might consider adding Boston College, Missouri, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, UConn, and Rutgers.

If anybody leaves the Mountain West, Utah State would like their seat. In the meantime, the Aggies would accept an invitation to the WAC. Just saying...

Or, we could give all this up and understand that Division I football is a pro sport. There are 120 Division I football-playing schools, give or take. Since a lot of schools are joining conferences for football only, it’s a small step from there to a true national collegiate football league.

Look, college football is only about money. Let’s admit it and maximize income while providing a better product for the sporting public. See, everybody wins. Yes, some win more than others, but that’s the Goldman Sachs way.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying we should stop screwing college athletes. I mean, come on, we’re getting them for a few bucks under the table and tennis shoes. But, we should put some money into NCAA enforcement in case those arrogant bastards get ideas.
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  - $487

- **Lexi Sofa**
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  - $387

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  - $487

- **Khaki Sofa**
  - $397

- **Galaxy Cocktail Table**
  - $77

- **Black Futon Sofa**
  - $147

- **Pub Dining Set**
  - $167

- **Bar Stool**
  - Choice of Black or White
  - $47

- **Accent Table**
  - $37

- **Modern Chair**
  - $127

- **5 Pc Pub Dining Set**
  - $297

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  - $197
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  - $267

**TENDER REST**

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  - $177
- FULL SET
  - $217
- QUEEN SET
  - $257
- KING SET
  - $387

**AVALON EURO PLUSH**

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  - $177
- FULL SET
  - $217
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  - $257
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  - $387

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Game of the Week: #5
St. Augustine at Mira Mesa

Mira Mesa — St. Augustine isn’t just running with bigger schools this season — they are running past them. The fifth-ranked Saints, sparked by 272 rushing yards from running back Aaron Anderson, beat Mira Mesa 28-14 on Friday night, October 14.

St. Augustine (6-0, 1-0 Eastern) had a 21-7 lead early in the fourth quarter when Mira Mesa (3-3, 0-1) made it a one-possession game on a Dominic Richardson 25-yard touchdown pass to Addison Morrow. St. Augustine responded with an Anderson-heavy touchdown drive that drained nearly seven minutes.

Anderson rushed for 79 yards on the scoring drive, capped by a Joe Kennedy 15-yard touchdown pass to Patrick Dixon that put St. Augustine ahead 28-14 with less than three minutes to play. The bruising senior Anderson finished with 38 carries and punished Mira Mesa defenders late into the game.

mission Bay Storms Back in Second Half to Upend Serra

Pacific Beach — Mission Bay started slowly against Serra on Friday afternoon, October 14, but finished just fast enough. The Buccaneers erased a 14-point halftime deficit with a big third quarter and hung on to beat the Conquistadors 17-14 in a Western League contest.

“It was the halftime speech a lot of the seniors gave,” said Mission Bay senior Chris Byrd. “We weren’t going to let the Western League think we were a bunch of slack-offs, and we knew if we got a spark we could win.”

Byrd provided the initial jolt for Mission Bay in the third quarter, taking the opening kickoff to the Serra 38-yard line. That return led to the Buccaneers’ first score of the game, a 10-yard touchdown pass from Nate Long to Jaquean Maydun with 8:07 left in the third quarter.

Later in the third quarter, Byrd tied the game at 14 with a twisting, weaving 48-yard touchdown run that lasted 17 seconds and featured multiple direction changes.

On the ensuing drive, Mission Bay linebacker Donshay Bandy intercepted a deflected Correll pass and returned it to the Serra 20-yard line. The Buccaneers took a 17-14 lead on a Bryan Granda 31-yard field goal with 48.5 seconds left in the quarter.

Fast Start Propels Christian to Rare Win over Francis Parker

El Cajon — After going winless in Coastal League play last season, Christian started league play on the right note on Saturday night, October 15, at Granite Hills High School. The Patriots simply had too much offensive firepower for Francis Parker to keep up. Christian started fast and rolled to a 42-23 victory — its first win over Francis Parker in four seasons.

“It was definitely one of the biggest games of the year,” said Christian quarterback Shane Dil- lon. “Our seniors have never beaten Parker, and this week we wanted to focus on making this the start of our run and the end of theirs.”

Red Zone Top 10

1. Helix (5-1)
2. Cathedral Catholic (5-1)
3. Poway (5-0-1)
4. Oceanside (4-1-1)
5. St. Augustine (6-0)
6. Eastlake (5-2)
7. Madison (6-0)
8. Mount Miguel (5-1)
9. San Pasqual (5-1-1)
10. Westview (5-1)

Best Buys

My friend Erica wants to make her daughter Elsie’s tenth birthday a special one, and Elsie is on an artsy kick. “But do I dare let a whole party’s worth of kids just cut loose with the art supplies?” she asked. I saw her point and suggested a more controlled option.

Teena Cafiero of Teena’s Custom Crafts (619-258-5914; teenascustomcrafts.com) was ready to help. “If you offer mobile parties where children paint a custom wood craft — I cut them all myself. I have a work- shop in my home, but I bring the party to you: wood, tables, chairs, acrylic paint, and smocks. I can set up at your home or in a park. Most hosts choose to do it outside, just because it’s paint, but I can do it inside, too. I’m there the whole time. I bring a finished sample; some kids will copy what I’ve done, and some will want to do their own thing.”

For preschoolers, Cafiero suggests something such as yard decorations. “I have butterflies for girls, frogs for boys, things like that.” Older girls, meanwhile, “really like the dress-shaped jewelry holder or the necklace holder. For a boy, I have a baseball bat that you can hang on your wall with a hook on it for a coat or hat.” She’ll do custom work. “I just got a call from a mom who is doing a cupcake party for her daughter. I said, ‘Why don’t I cut out some wooden cupcakes and put hooks on them for hanging jewelry?’” Cafiero charges $175 for up to 12 children.

Tami Reidman of Paint It On Parties To Go in North County (760-943-1800) also offers a mobile service, but she deals in ceramics. “I’ll go to homes or to a park. I can set up inside or outside. The unique thing about ceramic paint is that it’s water-based, and it wipes right off. I’ll set things up kind of like a restaurant, with placemats and brushes set out and little sponges. And because I have a low overhead, I can offer a little bit nicer or larger piece for the kids to paint for $20 per child; $200 minimum. I also offer ‘kit parties,’ where I put everything together for the host. The host picks it all up at my home studio and brings it back to me when everything’s painted. I glaze and fire the pieces and deliver them to the host for $15 per child.”

She described a recent party at a park. “I set up a variety of pieces on the picnic bench — dolphins, cats, dogs, snakes, footballs, tinke aly boxes. The kids all chose a piece, brought it over to me in the painting area, and chose their colors. I poured the paint, and they did the painting. The ses- sions usually last around an hour.” Reidman caters to kids rang- ing from one year to middle school. “Middle-school girls really like the tinke boxes. For one-year-olds, I suggest doing eight-inch plates. The kids go crazy with the paint, and then I put their handprints over all of it in a darker color. I’ll put each child’s name and age on the plate, and they’ll have a keepsake.”

Ashley at Color Me Mine in Carlsbad (760-494-0763; carlsbad.colormemine.com) offered a party room. “It holds up to 25 peo- ple, and it’s decorated with a giant mural of a mystical land. It’s great for photographs. The birthday child gets to sit in a throne, and there’s an extra table for presents and pizza or cake. Our package party is $20 per person for 90 minutes or $24 per person for two hours. You get your pick of our $15 items — things such as panda bears, unicorns, or mermaids. We can also do themes such as, say, a tea cup party. We’ll glaze and fire the pieces, and the birthday mom can pick them up in about a week and deliver them to the kids. We also provide a birthday plate — the owner paints it herself.”

Ceramicafé Art Lounge (Grossmont, 619-466-4800; Del Mar, 858-259-9958; ce- ramicafé.com) also offers a party space. “There’s a $35 fee to reserve it, and the cost is $15 per child. That gives you 90 minutes, which is usually plenty of time; you can get an extra half-hour for $15. We also provide cupcakes and punch for the kids, and you have an employee working with you the entire time.”

Find Best Buys online at SDReader.com/best-buys

1. Birthday plate at Color Me Mine
2. Wooden crafts from Teena’s Custom Crafts
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Greybeards, beware
continued from page 2

and you’re opening your own practice, you don’t have cash flow. I have eaten quite a bit of humble pie in the last four years.

Florida-based White Law Group is investigating possible securities claims against brother Ray Lucia. The subject: the appropriateness of a nontraded real estate trust investment recommendation. The sale occurred back while Ray was still in the business. White says that the problem is that such investments “are often illiquid, and investors cannot readily access their money for unforeseen expenses (like medical expenses).”

That’s Jim Ketchum’s problem. He wonders if these long-horizon investments are really good for retirees. He will be 81 next month. “I bought these when I was in my mid-70s,” he says. He would like to think he will be alive when the 15-year period ends, but he is not putting any bets on it. Of course, Ray Lucia doesn’t recommend that retired people put all their money in these trusts that will be illiquid for 10 to 15 years. People should put their funds in three “buckets,” he says. One can provide immediate income and liquidity. A second would concentrate in intermediate vehicles such as liquid bonds, and the third would be in the nontraded trusts, among other things.

However, Ketchum took a beating in the stock bear markets of the past 11 years, and he needs the funds in that last bucket but can’t tap them without taking a big loss.

Under the radar
continued from page 2

agent and Ruby Ridge veteran who won office last year against Jim Duffy, the son of the late sheriff John Duffy, and a raft of other opponents. Gore began the year with a balance of $19,744 and, during the first six months, collected $14,523 in cash and $1756 worth of in-kind contributions.

In addition to Danon, who gave $100, donors included developer Scott McMillin ($300); public defender Henry Coker ($250); Dale Wineter of Road One West Towing ($250); Harbor Pest Control president Greg Augustine ($100); Marco Sessa, vice president at Sudberry Properties ($230); and Donovani’s restaurant owner and Chargers stadium backer Daniel Shea ($500). Gore used $500 of the funds to pay down a $23,000 personal loan he made to the campaign last December. — Matt Potter

The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.

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same concerns. Last week, she filed a complaint against McCann with the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission, alleging, “Mr. McCann protected Dr. Gandara from accountability...and withheld information to manipulate Board approval for a lucrative severance package he negotiated at tremendous lucrative severance package.”

When asked if morale is low because of the district’s ongoing problems, Brand answered, “I know that the controversial items in the district don’t help people to feel good about themselves, but the way I look at it...Muhammad Ali got hit in the face a couple of times, but they still call him the champ. In my mind, we’re gonna get our swagger back.”

**NEWS TICKER**

continued from page 3

**Shoo-in Passed Over**

Southwestern College Names New Superintendent

Chula Vista — The trustees of Southwestern College named a new superintendent on October 12 — Melinda Nish, which came as a surprise to some who felt that interim superintendent Denise Whittaker was a shoo-in for the position.

In her brief stint at the college, Whittaker was instrumental in rectifying a number of problems, including assisting in getting the college removed from probationary accreditation status. However, others at Southwestern had expressed concern that Whittaker would be another short-timer, as she indicated during candidate forums that she would only be available for two years.

Nish comes from Orange Coast College, where she has served as vice president of instruction since 2005.

By Susan Luzzaro

**Thursday, October 13**

**Duffy Worried About Children**

U.S. Attorney to Target Media Outlets for Printing Medicinal Marijuana Ads

San Diego — U.S. attorney Laura Duffy and other federal attorneys are set to inflict another blow to the medical marijuana industry. This time on media outlets that run medicinal marijuana ads in their papers.

“I’m not just seeing print advertising,” Duffy told California Watch. “I’m actually hearing radio and seeing TV advertising. It’s gone mainstream. Not only is it inappropriate, one has to wonder what kind of message we’re sending to our children. It’s against the law.”

In recent years, more and more publications throughout the state have grown accustomed to printing ads for local dispensaries — the Reader being one of those.

By Chad Deal

**Wednesday, October 12**

**Party Time**

John Boehner Makes Good for Brian Bilbray

Coronado — The spat with President Obama over the national deficit kept house speaker John Boehner tied down in Washington the last time he tried to come to San Diego to raise campaign cash for fellow GOP congressman Brian Bilbray.
Now another fundraiser, called the “Congressional Circle Roundtable Reception” with Boehner, according to the Sunlight Foundation’s PartyTime website, is set this Saturday in Coronado and hosted by “Scott & Susan McMillin and Mark & C’Ann McMillin” of the locally famous real estate development brood.

The host committee includes General Atomics owner and Predator builder Linden Blue, weight-loss maven Jenny Craig, lobbyist Ben Haddad, developer Tom Sudberry, and various other local GOP donors.

By Matt Potter
Wednesday, October 12

Failure Is Impossible
Tragedy and Consensus at Occupy San Diego
Downtown — The celebratory mood of Occupy San Diego turned somber when a man fell to his death around 3:15 p.m. yesterday from a parking structure directly adjacent to the Civic Center concourse.

The 42-year-old man’s death was deemed a suicide with no known connection to Occupy San Diego. San Diego occupiers held a candlelight vigil in the man’s honor, cut-ting somber when a man mood of Occupy San Diego ment brood.

C’Ann McMillin” of the locally famous real estate development

Cox Wants Retired Judges
County to Push for Independent Redistricting Commission
San Diego County — The San Diego County Board of Supervisors agreed to establish an independent redistricting commission during a hearing on Tuesday.

Currently, the county’s charter allows boardmembers to hear recommendations from a citizens panel but gives them the final say in drawing any political lines. Under the new proposal, introduced by supervisor Greg Cox, a panel of retired judges appointed by a court official will conduct public hearings before etching out the political landscape.

“There’s no doubt if you ask people on the street, ‘Should elected officials be designing their own districts?’ the substantial majority is going to give a resounding no,” Cox said during the meeting.

Despite concerns from boardmembers, the board voted 4-to-1 in favor of the commission.

By Dorian Hargrove
Tuesday, October 11

Unaccomplished Mission
Navy Makes Losing Bet on Solar
San Diego County — The Navy has admitted it failed to consider whether various solar projects it awarded contracts for at several California bases were cost-effective. At least, not when spending money received under President Obama’s 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Officials incorrectly concluded that cost effectiveness was not required for planning Recovery Act energy projects,” says a report by the Pentagon’s inspector general.

So the Navy proceeded to green-light numerous projects that will cost far more than the power they’ll generate is worth. Locally, Naval Base Coronado had the most efficient projects — it will generate enough energy over the next 20 years to pay 28 percent of the installation costs. Naval Base Point Loma expects to get back only 21 percent of what it invested into solar, and Naval Base San Diego will recoup only 16 cents on every dollar invested.

Overall, the Navy expects to lose about $25.1 million of its $50.8 million investment.

By Dave Rice
Monday, October 10

Home Values Down
San Diego Slipping Faster Than Nation
San Diego — Zillow’s August report shows San Diego home values dropping faster than the nation’s — although local home values remain among the highest. Only New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco are higher among the top 25 markets.

San Diego prices dropped 0.3 percent in August, versus a 0.1 percent rise for the nation. San Diego prices are down 5.8 percent over the year, versus minus 4.5 percent for the nation. Foreclosure rate: 12.6 per 10,000 homes in San Diego; 9.2 nationally.

By Don Bauder
Tuesday, October 11

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Here we’ll show you how to find the neighborhood restaurant with the great food at a reasonable price, or grab a burger and a pint, or a burrito, or a slice of pizza, or a cocktail and a nibble, in every corner of our fair county.

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— ED BEDFORD
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Sanfilippo's Restaurant: $15 for $25 worth of Italian cuisine
Trattoria La Bocca: $15 for $30 Gift Certificate
Tre Porcellini: $15 for $25 worth of Italian Food
Villa Capri 2: $25 for $50 worth of food

MEXICAN

El Comal: $20 for $40 at El Comal
La Querencia: $20 for $30 worth of authentic Mexican food and drink

BBQ

Chamorro Grill: $20 for $30 worth of food
Coop’s West Texas Barbeque: $18 for $25 worth of food

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Michael’s Grill: $20 for $40 worth of Food
Santa Ysabel Casino: $4.95 for $15.95 worth of Prime Rib Dinner
Waterfront Grill at Pier 32: $12 for $20 at Waterfront Grill

PIZZA

Devine Pastabilities: $20 for $25 Gift Certificate!
Long Island Mike’s Pizza: $9 for $12.75 worth of Pizza
NYPD Pizza: $10.95 for $17.50 Large Pizza
Ocean’s Pizzeria: $20 for $30 Gift Certificate

ASIAN

Iron Wok Bistro: $15 for $30 worth of food
Station Sushi: $20 for $40 at Station Sushi
VIP Oriental Buffet: $18 for $20 buffet
Pink Noodle: $15 for $30 worth of food

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Burger Time

Rocky’s Crown Pub
3786 Ingraham Street, 858-273-9141, rockyburgers.com
PACIFIC BEACH

half-pound cheeseburger, $6.25

The champion bar burger, certainly for the money. It starts with the beef: fine grind, loose pack, super-juicy, good grill seasoning that keeps you taking bite after bite. A medium rare that flirts more with medium than rare but still keeps things pink. Top that with a riper tomato than most, gooey cheese, and — surprise! — mayo, and it doesn’t much matter that the bun is standard supermarket grade, the lettuce is rationed as though it’s wartime, and the red onion is thick as a certain diva’s thigh. Plus, the low ceiling and close environs make the place surprisingly cozy for a sports-minded beer bar in deepest P.B.

— AMBROSE MARTIN

Nicky Rottens
560 5th Avenue, San Diego, 619-702-8068, nickyrottens.com
GASLAMP

Nicky Rottens is a pleasant, nay, luscious surprise in the midst of touristville. Very much a Gaslamp bar (hey, look, gangster photos on the walls!) with food. But such a burger. Bun a bit sweet but still wheaty, topped with genuinely crunchy sesame seeds — toasted? Who knew that sesame seeds could matter? A generous pile of shredded lettuce provides another fine textural counterpoint, cool and crunchy throughout. Tomato is nothing special, onion sliced thin enough to blend in, bacon smoky and plentiful. Beef is properly pink, but still slightly mushy in the center: that raw, steak tartare sort of mush. Meat flavor floods the sinus cavity, tickling the olfactory bulb — not salt, not fat, but meat. Maybe skip the sauce on the side. This one doesn’t need lube.

— AMBROSE MARTIN

Jayne’s Gastropub
4677 30th Street, 619-563-1011, jaynesgastropub.com
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Half-pound cheeseburger, $6.25, at Rocky’s Crown Pub in Pacific Beach

The onion: pickled and complicatedly sweet. The setting: white octagonal tiles on the floor, dainty-quaint tables and chairs, interesting old-timey cocktails. The bun: a hugely buttery, toasted roll. The cheese: sharp enough to cut through everything and make itself known. The greens: wilted, in that British-style wilting way. And so to the patty: micro-ground, not as rich as Nicky Rotten’s, not as wet as Tractor Room, but maybe more beefy (and more seasoned) than either. The elements achieve a happy harmony without sacrificing individual character.

— AMBROSE MARTIN

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Capsaicin-laced lava oozes from the heart of the mountainous Goliath known as the Spicy Reed. A half-pounder is stuffed with jalapeño cream cheese before being cooked up and adorned with grilled onions, bacon, mushrooms, and Swiss. Too pedestrian? Carnivores who come to this cozy, kitschy neighborhood hideaway in search of unbridled outlandishness will find it in the off-menu Three Sheets to the Burger, a patty topped with barleywine-soaked onions, bacon, gorgonzola, and Sriracha. But wait, there’s more. The weird-gearred topper on this oddity is that all of these unique burgers are squished between two toasted PB&J sandwiches.

The center is where everything works best — the cool shred of the lettuce against the warm chew of the burger against the bold strength of the white onion, all shrouded in the white thickness of a toasted bun.

Enjoy either at a bar stocked with regulars, or out on the chill patio, or eating off a vintage pinball machine in the bar’s secluded lunchbox-museum wing.

Chief’s Burgers and Brew
124 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, 858-755-2599, chiefsburgersandbrew.com

Cheeseburger with french fries, $9.99

No doubt the place gets rowdy when the Broncos are playing and every blessed one of the TVs is showing the game, but at other times, the place has a proper low-key North County beach-town vibe, tweaked by the kid-friendly picnic tables to the right of the bar. The burger is broad, like a kiddie pool, and almost as wet in the center. Actually, the center is where everything works best — the cool shred of the lettuce against the warm chew of the burger against the bold strength of the white onion, all shrouded in the white thickness of a toasted bun. At the edges, things are drier and more disparate.

Amboise Martin
Anny’s Fine Burger
9862 Mission Gorge Road, 619-258-8288, annysfineburger.com

Bacon cheeseburger, $5.99

Cheerful, colorful, and clean, Anny’s looks like the flagship store of a future chain. They will put almost anything and everything on a burger (pastrami!), but we kept things simple. A crusty, kaiser-style roll surrounds a patty that drips grease but still comes across a bit like lean sirloin — maybe it’s the chew, or maybe it’s the steak-y taste. There’s a solidity to the beef, as opposed to a grind. It’s not bad, just different. The bacon hits a sweet high note, but the cheese doesn’t even play second fiddle. Lettuce and tomato reminded me of In-N-Out, but Anny’s...
Danny’s Palm Bar & Grill
965 Orange Avenue, 619-435-3171
CORONADO

Half-pound burger with American cheese, $7.50

Look, grill genius “Nacho” Madera is gone — gone to North Park and El Sol and Mexican food. But Danny’s remains, a Coronado institution under a narrow barrel roof, displaying its photos of fallen soldiers on the wall above the bar, serving up burgers and booze with an air of gruff geniality (or maybe genial gruffness). Yes, something’s been lost along the way: we detected too much steel and not enough seasoning in the tang of the grill. But the grind is good and pebbly, the lettuce is thick enough, and the American cheese gums things up the way it oughta. From top to (soggy) bottom, this is a burger that resists gentrification as stubbornly as the rest of the joint.

— AMBROSE MARTIN

The Tractor Room
3687 5th Avenue, 619-543-1007, thetractorroom.com
SAN DIEGO

Apropos of the gay district, a camp version of an Old West meatery. Cowhide barstools, a jackalope on the wall above the red-leather banquette, etc. Smart wine list, if you’re into that sort of thing. Bun is actually more of a roll, eggy and toasted. Lettuce, tomato, and cheese are not the point here, and bacon gets noticed only for its salty parry to the overwhelming thrust of wet, melty meat.

The grind here yields long, thick strands — not stringy, but soft, almost like busted-up breakfast sausage. Forget seasoning, forget the grill: this is meat that does not play well with others, but instead turns in a powerful, complicated star turn.

— AMBROSE MARTIN

Daddy-O’s
3960 West Point Loma Blvd, 619-222-3122, daddysdelux.com
SAN DIEGO

The slogan at ’50s-style diner Daddy-O’s — “Where cool people and big, juicy burgers meet” — is only partly true. While the cool-people parameter is totally up to you, the burgers ($5.99–$11.99), which are big, tend toward the dry side. Eclectic toppings (jalapeño cream cheese and jelly, gorgonzola, brie, Thai peanut sauce, raspberry chipotle) make up for the unremarkable beef and languorous service. The real saving grace here is happy hour, 3:00–6:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday, when pints are $2.50 and 32-ounce mason jars of local, craft, and import beers go for $5. Add a $5 sampler of seasoned fries, onion rings, jalapeño peppers, and mozzarella sticks, plus $2 chili dogs (steamed frank, bland beans, nothing special), and you’ve got a painless night on the town.

— CHAD DEAL

Chief’s Burgers and Brew
124 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, 858-755-2599, chiefsburgersandbrew.com
SOLANA BEACH

Cheeseburger with french fries, $9.99

No doubt the place gets rowdy when the Broncos are playing and every blessed one of the TVs is showing the game, but at other times, the place has a proper low-key North County beach town vibe, tweaked by the kid-friendly picnic tables to the right of the lettuce against the warm chew of the burger against the bold strength of the white onion, all shrouded in the white thickness of a toasted bun. At the edges, things are drier and more disparate.

— AMBROSE MARTIN
What first drew me in here was Starlite’s informal, relaxed atmosphere, illuminated by a sparkly, starry sky-like chandelier hovering over the sunken bar. Though atmosphere played a significant role, it was the consistent deliciousness of both the cocktails and the food that have made me a regular.

Lately, I’m all about the Holly Golightly, which is a Manhattan with a splash of maple liqueur. The Mule (Rain Organic vodka, ginger beer, lime, Angostura bitters) is a crowd-pleaser, both for its taste and the way it’s served — in a large copper mug. But I prefer the Kentucky Colonel, which replaces the vodka with Buffalo Trace bourbon, and the Angostura with house-made cherry vanilla bitters. I find it deeper, richer, boozier, and a bit sweeter. Dmitri, the man who makes the bitters and falernum (a sweet, mixed-flavor syrup), devises most of the liquorific mixtures.

I can’t go to Starlite and not get a burger — Brandt beef, melted Gruyère, those caramelized onions... However, I do occasionally sample chef Kathleen Wise’s regular dishes and weekly specials (new every Thursday). Her mission is to obtain 90 percent of produce from in and around San Diego and to use mostly “sensibly raised and/or harvested proteins” from “sustainable sources.” Plus, I recently heard they’re now opening earlier (5:00 p.m.) on Saturdays.

— BARBARELLA

Quality Social
789 6th Avenue, 619-501-7675, qualitysocial.com
GASLAMP

When I happen upon a place like Quality Social, where the cocktails are carefully crafted and the food is sourced locally, I am as surprised as I am delighted. The space is capacious, but once you slip into a booth or pull up a stool at the bar, the dim lighting and dark wooden walls create a cozy atmosphere.

My favorite cocktail is the Dirty Old Man, with Buffalo Trace bourbon, Benedictine, lemon, and peach bitters. If you get the right bartender (two out of three, in my experience), your drink will be garnished with a singed orange peel. It’s not always on the ever-changing menu, but if you request it, they’ll know what you mean. All cocktails are $10.

Chef Jared Van Camp is always happy to show off his curing cooler, a small room where he creates salted, smoked, and cured meats, such as potted rillette (duck and cognac) and mortadella. All the condiments (ketchup,
Chef Paul's New Menu Creations

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humphreysbythebay.com

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888.212.6571 Fish-Boutique.com
Like any French bistro worth its beret, the steak frites — rib-eye with fantastic shoestring fries — is spot-on. If you’re looking for something fun and far from the classics, I suggest the Woodstone Oven flatbreads. These are huge, so you definitely want to share. My favorite is blanketed in roasted beets, goat cheese, curry-onion jam, crushed red peppers, and sliced fresh jalapeños scattered on top.

— BARBARELLA

Lately, I’m all about the Holly Golightly, a Manhattan with a splash of maple liqueur.

Wildly popular North Park sushi spot Urban Solace has a sizable Encinitas spin-off. The cocktaiuls here follow owners Adam Stemler and Matt and Young-Mi Gordon’s all-things all-natural ethos — artisanal-organic spirits versus big-label booze. The flavors in Fair, a quinoa-based vodka made in France’s Cognac region, and High West, the world’s only oaked vodka, make a compelling case for going clear. Meanwhile, rums and brandies from L.A. ‘s GreenBar and port-cask-aged whiskey from Oregon’s Big Bottom brighten up the dark side. The unique, lesser-seen spirits make a cocktail list 20-plus deep that delivers distinctive taste profiles. Even a line of skinny cocktails (created in collaboration with local mixmaster Adam Stemler) delivers despite 130 measly calories. The Jasmine Sour, Celery Elixir, and the Receipt (a rosemary-spiked tequila tipple) all make great palate cleaners for fresh oysters or an herbaceous pseudo-ceviche of yellowtail enjoyed on Solace’s second-floor indoor-outdoor bar.

— BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

Solace and the Moonlight Lounge
25 East E Street
760-753-2433
eatatsolace.com
ENCINITAS

Grey Goose, Beefeater, Captain Morgan — who needs ‘em. Not Solace.

Beaumont’s
5662 La Jolla Boulevard,
858-459-0474
beaumontseatery.com
BIRD ROCK

It’s what every neighborhood needs — a cozy spot with friendly servers who remember your name and a bartender who’s at the ready with a Santa-like list of adult beverage concoctions. At last count, they had roughly 40 cocktails on the menu, few of which are standard fare. The selection of nine martinis includes the Kiwi Cosmopolitan, with Midori melon liqueur, white cranberry juice, lime, and fresh kiwi; and the Smokey Martini, with chipotle pepper-infused Grey Goose, Beefeater, Captain Morgan — who needs ‘em. Not Solace...

— BARBARELLA

San Diego Reader
October 20, 2011

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Riviera Supper Club and Turquoise Room
7777 University Avenue, 619-713-6777, rivierasupperclub.com
LA MESA

So here’s Matt, Ernesto, and me lined up at the bar, waiting on Ashley to deliver the goods. Strictly cocktails.

This being round one, we’ve decided we should each have something different. Me, it’s the Riviera Sangria; Matt, a Turquoise Sour; Ernesto, an Art Snob.

Blame Ernesto for this. “We’ve gotta go. It’s so Sinatra, it’s hip,” he said. He’s not kidding. Tuesday night, the place is packed like it was the weekend. And I totally get it. The Riviera hits all the notes. Cocktails, bar appetizers, live retro music, guys wearing porkpie hats, cook-your-own grill, rock walls, turquoise walls studded with big star shapes… what a package.

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

We have two cocktails each. Or was it three? Thank goodness for the bar food. Ernesto goes and grills a little rack of ribs and orders some onion rings and potato wedges.

We end up all having Infidels (rum, lime, syrup), Hemingway’s drink, in the hope it’ll make us better writers.

— ED BEDFORD

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Build your own Pasta!

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Buy one entrée at reg. price, get 2nd of equal or lesser value 50% Off
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“Great Homemade Coconut Ice Cream!”

The flavors in Fair, a quinoa-based vodka made in France’s Cognac region, make a compelling case for going clear.

I bet this is like doing lunch at Musso and Frank’s in Hollywood. You’re eating the legend as much as the steak. Marcel Lamaze, friend to the stars, built this in 1940 as a halfway house for Hollywood en route to TJ’s Caliente Race-track. It still has a hidden gambling room upstairs.

Seventy years later, the classic steakhouse with its full cocktail bar and half-round red booths doing a waltz around the big room is intact and fashionable again.

Marcel’s friends — Marlene Dietrich, Carole Lombard, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Jane Russell — watch you from the walls. Your cocktails are their cocktails: martinis, daiquiris, old-fashions, Manhattans. Judean the barista mixes me a sweet-and-dry vermouth martini with gin. Steaks are staple, but there are also bar-top appetizers like jumbo shrimp cocktail, beef bones in barbecue sauce, prime rib bites.

I take the sautéed mushrooms ($6), then the petite cut prime rib (about $18) with baked potato, veggies, horse-
**Best Cheesesteak. Hands down.**

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Spicy yellow tail, spicy tuna, cucumber roll topped with salmon & spicy scallops.
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Chef’s choice, nigiri style sushi.

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A traditional Japanese noodle stir-fry with your choice of chicken or strips of filet mignon.

Choice of Dessert Course
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Tahitian Creme Brûlée
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Ed’s Eats

Letty’s Bean Shack
4229 Front Street (at West Arbor Drive), 619-295-9900
Hillcrest

You might call this place Hillcrest’s secret. It’s an old house beside an open field in Hospital Land. All the UCSD nurses and doctors come here to avoid their own cafeterias. Plus, prices are low, subsidized-cafeteria range, so the joint is always run off its feet.

That doesn’t mean it’s not fun and the food ain’t good. It is. Letty’s has been serving coffee and more since the 1940s. It has only a small room inside but plenty of space out on the wooden decks built around the house, with tables and green umbrellas and lots of flowerpots. Interesting food specials change daily to keep those white-coats coming back.

The Bacon Breakfast Burrito is a steal. The Hawaiian Salad with mangoes, pecans, blue cheese, is really good for around $6. So’s the BBQ pork sandwich.

But mainly I come to sit, to eavesdrop on all the ER talk, look across the open field, and have a Hillcrest meal without paying Hillcrest prices.

— ED BEDFORD

Grant’s Marketplace
2953 Beech Street, 619-231-0524
South Park

It’s not just the patio (great at sunset!) and the excellent sandwiches — Grant’s Marketplace is special because these are the guys who got this part of town off its backside, made it okay to settle around here with your kids and to start bringing all these great turn-of-the-century houses back to life.

When Joe and Kim Grant took what was a crummy corner liquor joint and turned it into a classy grocery-winery-café with seriously good sandwiches, people looked again at this end of South Park.

Sandwiches to try: the hot pastrami, Joe’s Favorite (turkey, Gruyère, avo), the Californian (turkey, avo, bacon), and, yes, the BLT. All standard fare, but the bread’s great, and the stuffings are generous. Plus, you feel a part of the community; everyone hangs out here.

The one pity? This liquor store isn’t allowed to let us sip a beer or a glass of wine on their deck. That would mean dropping into the bureaucratic labyrinth for months on end.

— ED BEDFORD

Letty’s Bean Shack in Hillcrest

Stout Public House
1125 6th Avenue, near C, 619-702-7933, stoutsd.com
Downtown

There’s something about the way Mark Prendergast and Dave Toth (Mark’s Irish; Dave’s Canadian) have set up this pub that gives it a magical camaraderie; the place is a haven for downtown’s lost souls. Regular-hour food prices are a bit high (dishes like shepherd’s pie run in the $10–$12 bracket), but the daily happy hour from 4:00–8:00 p.m. offers plenty of cheap options, such as the Canadian staple Poutine (fries, gravy, fresh cheese curd), or sophisticated little numbers like mussels.

— ED BEDFORD
**Seafood | Sushi Bar | Dim Sum**

(Oysters, dungeness crab, ribs & jumbo shrimp served after 4 pm)

**Lunch Buffet** $7.99
- Ages 3-6 $3.49
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- Mon.-Sat. 11am-4pm

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- Fri. and Sat. (Dinner)
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**10% Off Total Bill**
- Early Bird Dinner
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  - Per person. Max 5 people.
  - Expires 11/30/2011. With ad. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays.
  - Cannot be combined with other offers. Dine-in only.

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- Lunch or dinner
- Minimum $15 purchase.

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- Lunch or dinner
- Minimum $30 purchase.

**Free Birthday Meal**
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in white wine and garlic sauce, both around five bucks. The Stout Burger’s a beautiful half-pound mess at around $8.

But the main reason to come is the chat; a lot of these guys and gals make you use your little gray cells. Sports are big, especially hockey. When Stanley Cup season’s on, watch out. The place fills with Canucks, East Europeans, Russians, and East Coasters.

— ED BEDFORD

Jake’s Tiki Bar at Mission Bay Deli
1548 Quivira Way, 619-223-5056, missionbaydeli.com
MISSION BAY

This is the place with signposts such as “Pago Pago, 4942 miles”; “Mustang Ranch, $100 from Vegas”; “Dog Beach, 50 Butt Sniffs” — though it’s really just an ordinary sand which/snack joint, set up to keep Mission Bay boatyard workers from starving.

What makes it a must-visit is what happens on weekends, when they shift the operation outside. They sell brewskis, really sloppy dogs (try the spicy sausage hotdog), excellent burgers from the palapa, and during the summer, have jammin’ live music from bands like Swamp Crit-

The beans I have with my roast chicken, the squash, the parsnips, chopped and sautéed beautifully with potatoes, all have come down the mountain.

— ED BEDFORD

The beans I have with my roast chicken, the squash, the parsnips, chopped and sautéed beautifully with potatoes, all have come down the mountain.

— ED BEDFORD

Buy 1, Get 1 50% OFF!*

*on any sandwich, salad or wrap of equal or lesser value with this ad.

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(near the corner of Ray Street, one block south of University)
San Diego, 92104

Free Breakfast or Lunch Entrée
with purchase of entrée of equal or greater value.

Serving Breakfast and Lunch
Expires 11/3/11
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3739 Adams Ave
(619) 284-1819

Buy 1 Dosa, Get 1 50% Off!
10 kinds of Dosa's from $5 to $8
5 different chutney sauces. Offer expires 04/20/2012
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9474 Black Mountain Rd., Ste. D & E, San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 997-6946 • www.sdcopperchimney.com
He used to drive his own gastro truck around town, cooking up not just Indian but South Indian food that everyone could afford. Problem was, most people couldn’t find him. So Allen Sem found a place (Spice Court) in Little India where he could set up in the back. Little India where he was plucked from France’s garden, you can bet.

“It’s a meal,” she says. With a chunk of eight-grain bread, it cost her $3.77. In La Jolla? Go figure. — ED BEDFORD

Fielder’s place is modest — four tables in a grocery shop, no giant golden elephants — but he is the real thing.

Allen’s place is modest — four tables in a grocery shop, no giant golden elephants — but he is the real thing.

Hey, if this place is good enough for Tiger Woods… Seriously, he used to come down with

50% OFF!
Buy one entree and get the second of equal or lesser value half off.

The Taste Of Homemade Organic Food At Affordable PRICES!

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10% off San Diego’s Best Hawaiian, Filipino and Guamanian Cuisine!
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Pitchers $9.75 • 25oz Pour $6 • Pints $4

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During any NFL game, Bud/Bud Lite Pitchers $7.50

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Fine Indian Cuisine

(Buy 1 entree get the second of equal or lesser value for 50% off)

At Bombay Coast we bring you the same wonderful culinary experiences and tastes of India.

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Stc. C, San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 280-2000
ChamorroGrill.net

THE SHORES
DINE ON THE BEACH
Located next to Kellogg Park at La Jolla Shores Hotel
877.822.6043 | TheShoresRestaurant.com

Tax and gratuity not included. Menu items subject to change.
his buddies for paintball war games at the military range nearby, then pop into the Campo Diner. Always had a cheeseburger, medium rare, with fries.

Debbie Benjamin and Carmen DeLaGuerra-Sylva, two gals who grew up around Campo, bought the place a couple of years ago and now run it for what it is: a for-real down-home country diner. It’s like the glue that holds the scattered people in this rural area together. Heck, there’s pretty much nothing else for 20 miles either way.

It’s hard to miss, too.

Bright paint outside, right at Cameron Corners on Highway 94. Inside has that traditional counter with squishy red stools. Most breakfasts, like omelets, are around the $8 to $10 mark, but you can get two eggs with home fries and a biscuit and gravy for $5.95. Burgers — and they guarantee they’re certified Black Angus beef — go from $7 (for a quarter-pounder) to $8 (for a half-pounder with fries or coleslaw).

Warning: watch out for the triple-decker Clubhouse Sandwich. It is truly ginormous. For snake-jaws only.

— ED BEDFORD

Meijo Sushi
600 Palm Avenue,
619-429-4373
IMPERIAL BEACH

In this location, they have no right to succeed. It’s the graveyard of a bunch of previous brave wannabe eateries. But Meijo Sushi, the Vietnamese-owned Japanese place on the edge of I.B., is a wild success. Something about the owners’ fun-loving personalities has endeared them to locals.

Like, they have masu, wooden sake boxes, dangling, each with the name of a customer. Guy comes back from a WestPac, first thing he does is fill his personal masu with sake and down it. Then he’s really home.

Yes, main dishes can get up there, but the place has daily specials, such as sushi mix, fried gyoza (dumpling), tiger eyes (calamari stuffed with salmon), or dream rolls (with tempura shrimp, avocado, and cream cheese inside, and tuna, shrimp, and spicy crab outside) — all falling between $5 and $9.

And they don’t skimp. The sushi mix has five different kinds of fish on rice, plus nine sushi rolls. And it comes on china with a beautiful Japanese motif. And yet, somehow they keep it light-hearted and down to earth.

They even have tacos — except they spell it with a k. Tako in Japanese means octopus. Tako salad is chopped and seasoned octopus with vegetables.

— ED BEDFORD

The Yellow Deli
315 East Broadway,
760-631-1888,
yellowdeli.com/vista.html
VISTA

In this location, they have beef and nuts-and-twigs, but they have beef and lamb sandwiches. And salads come direct from their garden in Valley Center, picked today. And wonderful wholesome soups. The potato-cheese soup’s to die for. You can get a cupful for four bucks and change. And the veggieburger would fool even my dedicated carnivore Carla.

But don’t expect TV screens. “TV has replaced the hearth,” says one of the crew. “‘Hearth,’ ‘heart,’ same word.”

Instead, they have live bands of guys playing mandolins, zithers, and drums, and they hold discussions on subjects like “Should spanking be allowed?”

— ED BEDFORD

I come to Letty’s to eavesdrop on all the ER talk, look across the open field, and have a Hillcrest meal without paying Hillcrest prices.

The people who run Yellow Deli are a community of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. They try to live like the early Christians.

Their house-restaurant is a collection of rooms, caves, alcoves, barn doors, raw wood, and poles, like a ship (an ark, maybe?).

And, man, they deliver on the food.

— ED BEDFORD

50% Off
Buy 1 combo get the 2nd half off!

The Best Teriyaki in San Diego!

Natural Style Chicken

3944 W. Point Loma Blvd.
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619.223.9887

1/2 Price Entrée
Purchase any entrée and any two beverages and receive a second entrée (of equal or lesser value) for half price. Coupon good for up to two discounts per party of four. Dine-in only. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount or coupon. No cash value. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by guest. Valid at participating locations only. Not valid on holidays. Offer expires 12/31/11.
POS Code: MKTG Promo 2.

Free Lunch or Dinner Entrée
Buy one entrée get one free of equal or lesser value up to $13. Dine in only. Not valid with any other offer or promotion. Expires 11/2/11.

Serving Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Amazing Pastries!

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**50% off 2nd Breakfast Entree**
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**FREE ENTRÉE!**
Buy 1 entree get the 2nd entree of equal or lesser value for Free. Offer expires 11/2/11.

- **The Waffle Spot**
  Serving Breakfast and Lunch
  Daily 7am-2pm
  Delicious Omelets, Mexican Breakfast, Sandwiches and More! Not Just Waffles!

- **The Amigo Spot**
  Happy Hour 7 days a week 4pm-7pm!
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  Authentic Baja Mexican Cuisine,
  Sizzling Fajitas and Tasty Margaritas.
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Located in the Lobby
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619-297-2231

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**HALLOWEEN CAKES, COOKIES, PIES & MUFFINS**
$5 OFF Any Halloween Cake.
Starting at 1/4 sheet size. With this ad.
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FREE Pumpkin Pie
Buy any pie at regular price and receive a free pumpkin pie. 8 pie flavors to choose from.
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**Free entrée in a beautiful historic setting in Old Town!**
Enjoy a free lunch or dinner entrée with purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages.
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Happy Hour specials excluded. Limit one per table. Max value $14.
Exp. 11/3/11.

We offer American grill, seafood, and Mexican favorites in the heart of Old Town.
Our 1870’s Bed and Breakfast is the perfect romantic getaway for local residents or out of town guests.

Enjoy our orchard patio for Happy Hour Daily 3-6pm.
Appetizers from $3.50
House Margaritas for just $4.50

2660 Calhoun St.
Old Town
619-297-1874
www.OldTownCosmo.com

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**10% Off Healthy, Fresh, Inexpensive Vegan Food.**
Not valid with other discounts. Expires 11/3/11.

Open lunch & dinner Monday to Saturday. Closed Sunday.
330 West Felicita Ave., Suite C7-9, Escondido, CA 92025
Just off I-15 in Escondido
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**Free Crepe**
Choose from over 30 sweet and savory crepes all under $8.
Free parking with validation.

Buy 1 crepe and get the second crepe of equal or lesser value FREE, or 50% off a single order.
Not valid with any other offers Expires 11/2/2011

Find out how you can get $30 worth of crepes for only $15 on SDReader.com/coupons

Horton Plaza
Top Floor (above food court)
San Diego, 92101
619-702-9156
Passing by this constantly packed spot in the East Village, one would never guess the perseverance it took for owner Arsalun Tafazoli to force it down downtowners’ gullets. His goal was to provide the perfect environment for a good time. To him, that translated to casual-yet-heightened cuisine (gourmet burgers, comfort classics, upscale snacks) and lots and lots of beer. But not just any beer... the good stuff, IPAs, Belgian Trappist ales, sours, and everything in between.

Sounds ordinary by today’s local standards, but he was way ahead of the curve in 2007, and locals were less than receptive. The place almost closed down, but Tafazoli refused to change course. Thankfully, beer by beer, visitors were swayed to his way of thinking, and now Neighborhood is thriving and has earned a reputation as a must-hit destination for beer travelers headed to San Diego.

For entrepreneur Scot Blair, it was all about creating a craft-beer bastion with an outrageous selection, where people from all walks of life could come for the best ales and lagers the planet has to offer. Today, he has an empire that’s four bars (Hamilton’s, Small Bar, Eleven, Monkey Paw) and one food-truck strong. Still, the South Park flagship is his and San Diego beer-lovers’ baby, a prototype craft-beer bar. Close relationships with local brewers (and big names from beyond) have been huge for Hamilton’s. Case in point: their Second Saturday events, to which Blair and company invite guest brewers, roast whole pigs and pack the house to capacity. It’s hardcore craft-beer pandemonium.

Nowadays, San Diegans know all about Pizza Port’s Carlsbad outpost, America’s 2011 Large Brewpub of the Year. But the smallest of the local chain’s four locations is legendary: the original Pizza Port, in Solana Beach, won Small Brewpub of the Year not once, but twice, in 2003 and 2004. It’s also the birthplace of many of the most popular award-winning beers at Pizza Port and Port Brewing — the production brewing arm of the company, including the Lost Abbey line. Ditto for legendary brewers. Tomme Arthur, director of brewing operations for the Lost Abbey; Jeff Bagby, head brewer and director of brewpub operations for Pizza Port Carlsbad; and Tom Nickel, owner of O’Brien’s Pub and head brewer at the soon-to-open Julian Brewing Company, all got their start here. And you thought it was just some beach-bum-chic pizza place. Well, it is...and so much more.

Most craft-beer spots have a built-in culture. Newbies walk in, order up, and acclimate to the flow of the bar. But SD Tap Room is wonderfully inviting, devoid of unwritten rules and the judgmental glares of self-important regulars. That shit don’t fly in P.B...but alcohol sure as hell does. There’s a full bar here, but local craft beer is this establishment’s hooch of choice. What’s more refreshing than watching the Padres or Chargers on the plasmas in what is one of SD’s sportiest craft-beer spots? Fans of variety can choose their own beer flight at $2.50 per six-ounce sample, and fans of beers that aren’t on the tap or the bottle list can go online, request a beer, and set up an alert to find out whether and when it gets added to the inventory. Cask nights and LAB (local art and beer) events up the craft-beer ante, while Taco Tuesdays complete the Garnet experience.

In case you missed it...

99% of socks were knocked off.

The Hoodang 2011 was a great success. We helped reforest Guaymaca State Park with 1,100 newly planted trees. Louis XIV and Sprung Monkey sounded great. Craft Beer was drank. Blackjacks were paid. Oh, and that remaining 1% were wearing sandals.

Stop by and get half off a taster flight and free 5oz. souvenir pilsner with this ad.
No bar in San Diego has as long a history of doing right by hop-heads as this inauspicious sanctum. Nestled in the heart of Kearny Mesa’s miracle mile of Asian delights, the Irish pub sticks out like a sore thumb. The self-proclaimed “happiest place on Earth,” O’Brien’s has been known as one of the finest craft-beer venues in America for the past decade. When big-name brewers come to town, they stop in for special events and drop off plenty of rare one-off brews. But, thanks to owner Tom Nickel and his constant pursuit of quality beer, there’s always an exceptional selection of draft, bottled, and cask brews to be had — particularly single and double IPAs. Add house-made beer cheese from Tom’s wife, Lindsey, and a genuine appreciation of regulars (“mug-gers”), and you’ve got a solid archetype for a top-notch beer bar in America’s number-one beer town can and should be.

If you’re doing Yard House math, all it takes is a boatload of taps to make for an exceptional beer venue. But what’s the use of having a bank vault’s worth of beer if most or all of it’s run-of-the-mill? Craft-beer fans have learned to opt for quality over quantity, but at this San Marcos standout, suds enthusiasts get both. Even seasoned beer scavengers feel gobsmacked making draft picks from the 30-plus beers on tap and sifting through a lengthy bottle list peppered with hard-to-find craft beers from San Diego and around the world. A menu stocked with ambitious dishes that go beyond basic pub fare (some featuring herbs, veggies, and exotic chili peppers from the backyard garden), frequent in-house festivals, and meet-the-brewer dinners help this tenured gem continue to sparkle despite the emergence of solid newcomers throughout North County.

Densely populated with beer-swilling denizens, El Cajon might be equally stocked with craft-beer spots. Alas, it’s a virtual wasteland of macrobrew dives — with this single sterling exception. Equipped with 24 taps — most devoted to local liquid refreshment, but all siphoning out fine craft beer — Main Tap has swung for the fences since opening three years ago. Casks, an expensive rarity for most bars, are a Wednesday-evening amenity here. They’re always local, and recent cask-conditioned offerings have included Coronado Brewing Company Stoopid Stout, with cocoa nibs, vanilla bean, and mint leaves; and Airdale Altitude Stout, with sea snot, and a firm, palatable texture. Live music on weekends offers another reason to take a ride out I-8. A place like this shouldn’t stay secret.

Affordable, organic, locally sourced meals (fresh basil pasta from Seeds @ City Urban Farm at City College, anyone?) and a rotating selection of 12 San Diego craft beers, including one cask ($5.50–$6.50), make Local Habit a strong presence within America’s Finest City’s world-famous gastropub scene. A joint venture of Barry Braden (Pizza Fusion) and Eco Caters in Ocean Beach, Local Habit specializes in gourmet pizza, house-cured meats, and inventive small dishes. The grilled oysters are a risk-free introduction to the medium — no sea snot, and a firm, palatable texture. Gouda Mac is heaven. The pork belly is bacon’s Buddha nature. Add charming waitresses, Edison bulbs, Stone Double Bastard, growler lampshades, and dark hardwood everything, and you’ve got a classy but pomp-free drink-and-dine experience.
Neighborhood Restaurants

Café 21
750 5th Avenue (between F & G), 619-795-0721
DOWNTOWN

2738 Adams Avenue, 619-640-2121, cafe21.com
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Café 21 began as a lunch joint in University Heights, moved to a larger location there, and has now accepted the dare of downtown. It’s the zesty creation of a young couple from Azerbaijan, a former Soviet Republic in the southernmost Caucasus (between Russia and Persia). But this is no amateur mom ‘n’ pop shop: the service lives up to the cooking.

Host Alex (who came to San Diego to study hospitality) and chef Leyla both have turned thoroughly pro, offering an always-interesting culinary mixture of Azeri specialties, along with Ukrainian, Russian, Mediterranean, and California-inspired cooking. Leyla produces the fresh-baked breads and desserts.

The menu changes weekly; specials that have proved patron favorites often go into the rotation. Highlights include stuffed vegetables and huge and vivacious salads (the strawberry salad is unforgettable, the roast grape salad a Renaissance painting). Azeri ground-lamb kebabs and stews, and the national dish, are revelatory. Easy to do a grazing dinner, as appetizer and salad portions are ginormous and easy to share, but then you’d miss enjoying a unique entrée.

Breakfasts are even more popular than dinners downtown, and no less creative. Consider Tiramisu Pancakes. Judging by the apricot crêpes sometimes served as an appetizer, they’re probably less sweet than they sound.

Five different sangrias are offered. The bottled and by-the-glass wine list is cursory, but corkage is minimal.

Lacto-vegetarian friendly, vegan-okay.
— NAOMI WISE

Kous Kous
Moroccan Bistro
3940 4th Avenue, 619-295-5560, kouskousrestaurant.com
HILLCREST

All the fragrant seasonings of Morocco await here, happily free of that sit-on-the-floor-pillows nonsense of most Moroccan restaurants in California. The simple room is handsomely decorated with Moroccan fabrics, but it’s the food that takes center stage, along with the warm hospitality of witty host/chef/owner Moumen Nouri and his cordial crew. Moumen has expanded the menu over the years, adding the requisite b’stilla (minced chicken with all manner of goodies in a phyllo mini-pie) to the preexisting irresistible harissa lentil soup, plus a host of intriguing new salads and vegetable appetizers. Cocktails are available; the ones to try are those featuring rose water.
The Perfect Accompaniment to your Fine Dining Experience

The clear compliment for your lifestyle.

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Our artistic glass bottles are collector-quality, but as part of our commitment to zero waste, they are refilled and reused and cannot be purchased. Admire them each time you order your Palomar Mountain spring and sparkling water.

Palomar premium spring and sparkling water... The clear compliment for your lifestyle.
2 for 1 Entrée*
(with purchase of 2 beverages)
Where creative California cuisine meets fresh Baja seafood. Two fabulous Coronado restaurants, just steps from the ocean.

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Best value, Highest rated Barbeque in Town!
Rib Tips
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1lb. of Rib Tips
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1lb. of any meat for $8.99. Best rib tip excluded.
Pre payday meal
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$2.00 Off
Any regularly priced combo meal.
4 1/2 stars in 228 Yelp reviews
- “Best Barbeque” San Diego Magazine Critic’s Choice

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2625 Lemon Grove Ave., Lemon Grove
(619) 589-0478 • www.coopsbbq.com

FREE PRIME RIB
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011
STARTS AT 12:00PM
FOR ALL OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
Born in the month of October? Join us on Thursday, October 27th and enjoy a FREE Prime Rib Dinner on us. (purchasable, 21 & reservations required)

1LB MAINE LOBSTER
FREE PARKING
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
$9.99
Served with rice pilaf. Additional purchase required. No coupons.

100% VEGETARIAN, HEALTHY & FLAVORFUL
Voted “Best Vegetarian” San Diego Magazine 3 years in a row!
“Best Vegetarian” Channel 9A List
Open 7 days a week

50% OFF ENTRÉE*
Buy one entrée & two boba drinks at regular price and get 2nd entrée for 50% off.

20% Off all Vegan Desserts*
Now offering many Vegan Cookies, Cupcakes, and other desserts! Excluding whole cakes

*Some restrictions may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 11/30/11. Limit one coupon per table.

YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS
Results of our online poll:

DOWNTOWN
Favorite: Crossroads at House of Blues
2nd pick: Croce’s

UPTOWN
Favorite: The Range Kitchen and Cocktails
2nd pick: Hash House A Go Go

MID-CITY
Favorite: Urban Solace Restaurant
2nd pick: Sea Rocket Bistro

BEACHES
Favorite: OB Noodle House
2nd pick: Hodad’s (O.B.)

MESAS
Favorite: Lit’l Pepper Gourmet
2nd pick: Aladdin’s

SOUTH BAY
Favorite: Pier 32 Waterfront Grill
2nd pick: “That awesome taco stand in Tijuana” ???

EAST
Favorite: Casa de Pico
2nd pick: La Palapa Mexican Restaurant & Cocktails

LA JOLLA/DEL MAR
Favorite: Del Mar Rendezvous Restaurant
(most votes, too — 88)
2nd pick: Kitchen 1540

NORTH COUNTY
Favorite: Stone Bistro and Gardens
2nd pick: Tommy V’s Urban Kitchen

Farm House Café
2121 Adams Avenue
(at Mississippi Street),
619-269-9662,
farmhousecafedsd.com
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

This is the sun-dappled, utterly non-snoopy side of French cuisine. No scary prices, no snobby service, no heavy sauces, and the wines are priced moderately enough to dive into. This unpretentious bistro is more genuinely French (in all the best senses) than a lot of the fagup-French higher-priced spreads around town. This isn’t Paris; it’s the southern-countryside, age-old source of much of the best Gallic food. Look at all those cute little wooden ducks marching around the restaurant walls. No intimidation here.

The food is blithe and sunny, too, and often surprisingly light. (This is not a heavy sauce brun place.) The ingredients are fresh, seasonal, and mainly local, in true country style. Chef-owner Olivier Bioteau obviously loves cooking; he constantly learns new techniques and skills. A few years ago, he became a chocolatier. Now he’s taken up charcuterie and is making his own creative sausages, served as entrées on select weeknights (see website) and at weekend brunch. But don’t miss his earlier creation, a supernal chicken-liver mousse.

The weekend brunch is noteworthy, especially for ethereal ricotta-citrus pancakes and true French “french toast.” Larger appetites might consider the braised oxtail with three-egg omelet and the soft polenta with corn and house-made sausage. This might just be the perfect neighborhood French restaurant, whether here or in Provence. The restaurant
The menu opens with a huge, heartbreaking array of tapas.

Costa Brava
1653 Garnet Avenue (between Jewell and Ingraham), 858-273-1218, costabravasd.com
PACIFIC BEACH

Costa Brava, along with Pata Negra, its adjacent Spanish deli, is San Diego’s center of authentic full-flavored Spanish cuisine and culture. Some nights, there are musicians; on other nights, loud soccer plays on the TVs in the bar. (The website shows the soccer schedule.) All nights, the kitchen is open in true Iberian style until midnight.

Owned and hosted by the personable Javier Gonzales, the restaurant is set in a former residence, with riotous flora all over the front and tall palms shading the balcony, where you can lunch outdoors.

The menu opens with a vast selection of tapas, both hot and cold. Anchovy lovers will swoon over a dish that Javier claims comes from his hometown: Spanish anchovies and sweet, lightly smoked piquillo peppers. Among the hot tapas are irresistibly creamy croquetas, both of chicken and salt cod, dates wrapped in bacon, and moist morcilla (black sausage) sautéed with onions. Lots of easier choices there, too — cheeses, seafood, and ham plates, including, sometimes, prized Iberico ham from free-range pigs raised on acorns.

The several paella variations have real integrity, the best in San Diego. But don’t overlook other pleasures, such as braised rabbit, oxtail braised in Rioja wine, and fresh sea bass cooked in sparkling Cava with dates and figs.

The wine list is mainly Spanish and affordable, with an excellent sangria if you’re not inclined to gamble. Desserts, or a dessert wine, are worth enjoying. Even the flan here is good.

— NAOMI WISE
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Buy one entree and two beverages and get second entree at 50% off not valid weekend or holiday not to be combined with any other coupons, discounts, or special offers.

Point Break - The locals’ choice!

Wa Dining Okan
3860 Convoy Street, Suite 110, 858-279-0941, okan.us.com
KEARNY MESA

Tucked in the corner of the strip-mall that houses Nijiyama Market is a tiny, warm little restaurant called Okan. I realize that the word “tapas” is used to describe almost every type of appetizer or small plate these days, and indeed Okan uses it to describe simmered, homey, Japanese comfort dishes served from the large plates that line a U-shaped counter.

There is quite a bit to choose from, as the menu covers a lot of ground, with everything from grilled dishes to sashimi. I’d recommend going with a couple of the small plates from the counter, perhaps a salad; my favorite is the gobo salad, shaved, fried burdock root piled high on a bed of mizuna (mildly peppery greens). It not only tastes good, but makes a statement. While noshing, you can satiate that soju craving by picking one of 30 choices on the list. The sake list is smaller but has everything from good everyday sakes such as Kikusui and Otokoyama, to the wonderfully floral Kubota Manju. You can top off your meal with onigiri (rice balls), a soba or udon dish, or one of a number of rice dishes.

The vibe is fairly relaxed; there’s usually a bit of jazz playing in the background. The whole shop holds about 30 people max and gets crowded, so reservations are recommended.

— KIRK K.

Nozomi Japanese Fusion
3050 Pio Pico Drive, 760-729-7877, nozomicallsbad.com
CARLSBAD

Outside, beneath a bamboo bridge, koi meander in a rivulet that flows alongside the restaurant. Inside, on the lowest floor, a turtle pond occupies a darkly atmospheric lounge. The main dining room, a floor up, resembles a cheerful village inn.

Chef-owner Ken Lee is a graduate of Sushi Ota, and his sushi is beautiful. But he also offers a full and sometimes fusiony menu, including soups and salads (Cajun Tuna Tataki Salad), specialty tapas (e.g., Mushroom and Leek Dumplings), and Japanese-titled entrées. Don’t miss the wonderful Ankimo (monkfish pâté — a piscine version of foie gras), the tuna poke, sashimi sampler, or huge, tender Hamachi Kama (baked yellowtail collar). Or, if you love oysters, the Kumamoto plate (five oysters for $15).

Entrée choices consist mainly of sushi and sashimi platters, including the tempting Caviar Sizzler topped with tobiko, ikura, and uni with a butter sauce resembling a maritime version of Korea’s bibimbap. Meats include sirloin sukiyaki and several teriyakis. The Taste of Nozomi platter ($28) is an excellent choice for a group, with regular sushi, “party sushi” (hula rolls), sashimi, and salad.

The wine list is smart and serviceable, the sake list divine (but potentially expensive). And even strict vegans will find enough rabbit food and tofu to fill them.

— NAOMI WISE

Del Mar Rendezvous
1555 Camino Del Mar, Street level of Del Mar Plaza, 858-755-2669, delmarendezvous.com
DEL MAR

Chef-owner Mark Sun (from a long line of chefs in China) was a founder of Dumpling Inn and several other popular Chinese restaurants. Just when he was on the verge of retiring, he realized how frustrated he felt with local second-rate Chinese food and misconceived fusion restaurants and opened Del Mar Rendezvous as an antidote.

It’s one of the prettiest, most comfortable, most hospitable Chinese restaurants in the area, with glimpses of the ocean from many tables and a chance to watch the family-run kitchen from others. The ambitious food hints lightly at fusion but from an Asian perspective, with forays into Singapore and Thai food, as well as numerous culinary regions of China. It’s spicy or not spicy, depending on the cuisine. Ingredients are rigorously high quality, i.e., even the beef will be tender.

The menu is huge. Best visit the website and draft your dinner plan before you arrive. A “tapas” section goes on and on, filled with delicacies usually found only on brunchtime dim sum menus, if even there. Some choices seem like chef originals. The possibilities include the semi-legendary Shanghai soup dumplings (xiao long bao) filled with rich pork broth that bursts from the noodle coatings when you bite in. Entrées, sides, noodles, and rice dishes are equally cornucopian, including a special noodle
(konnyaku) made from a relative of taro that is low-carb, low-cal, fiber-rich, and gluten-free. Of course, vegetarians and even most vegans will find plenty here.

The serious wine list is mostly moderate, with half-price specials certain days (check website for particulars) and low corkage for BYO. And for dessert, the outrageous Xango banana fantasy is a must! — NAOMI WISE

This is the neighborhood Italian restaurant every neighborhood longs for. You don’t have to dress up (and get tomato stains on your white shirt) or pay a mint. You can relax in a sprawling series of informal, comfortable rooms where the cooking epitomizes the indulgent joie de vivre of southern Italy’s sunny cuisine.

Chef-owner “Frankie” Basile is from Sicily, but he cooks dishes (from scratch and with the best ingredients he can get) that he loves from all over the boot — perhaps not so much the austere entrées of Tuscany as the exuberant flavors of the southern coastal regions.

The menu is a little shorter now that chef Basile has gone in with the Osetra people and others to open a smaller (and, alas, less stellar) place in Hillcrest. Still, there’s so much to enjoy here, such as a greaseless Frittura Mista (mixed seafood fry, still good the next day as leftovers), fresh bocconcini mozzarella with prosciutto (which is off the menu, but they’ll make it if you request it), and a frequent special of crab-stuffed portobello, Penne Mazzini (with artichokes and green olives), and veal with porcini in a cream sauce. Nobody’s worried about fat calories, much less carbs: this is a realm where if you want cream sauce, you can savor exuberantly flavored cream sauces with pastas or entrées to your heart’s content, or peril. Italian happiness.

The menu opens with a huge, heart-breaking array of tapas — far too many to try in a normal small dinner group. (You want to come back with your friends the next day to try more.) You can choose lush tostadas filled with ahi tuna, guacamole, cream, and greenery or rare king top shell (an abalone cousin) escabeche. Beef tongue in red pipian sauce is not an everyday dish, nor is Salt Crusted Baked Pear salad, where the “everyday” salad of pears and blue cheese is transformed by a light crust of sea salt.

One house original is Grandma’s spaghetti taco plate, with cream, cheese, chorizo, and salsa verde. And quails, available several ways, are a must — they’re Baja-raised and delightful, especially the version with the tamarind glaze (Codornices Asadas Tamarind).

Among the entrées, the paella is celebrated (it’s won an award), but the unusual Spanish pasta version, fideua, is worth notice. And then there are numerous less-esoteric choices, such as duck breast with roasted fig risotto. To drink: plenty of affordable wines, especially those from Baja wineries such as Cetto.

— NAOMI WISE
Gordy Davis first put me onto this place. He has helped supply tomatoes to restaurants for maybe 30 years. “Best pizza? Follow the tomatoes. Papa Raso knew his tomatoes,” he says. “He knew how to bring out their flavor. He was good people.”

Papa Raso died recently, but his sons and grandkids are carrying on. And, man, Friday night, Papa’s place is hopping. The old section’s mostly adults chowing away. The new café behind is filled with electronic games and pool tables and has all the families. This must be the most crowded pizza joint in town. You just kinda want to be here.

— ED BEDFORD

Knockout Pizza
2937 Carlsbad Boulevard, 760-434-4468
CARLSBAD

It’s a New York–pizza experience in North County reminiscent of Bronx in Hillcrest — pizza by the thin, crispy slice; whole pies; spicy garlic knots; basic green salads; and decent beer (Stone IPA on tap!). Knockout has a casual, beachy vibe right in the heart of Carlsbad Village. Boxing photos on the walls account for the name.

The basic but somewhat spicy red-sauced, cheesy, garlicky pies made with homemade ingredients can be eaten at one of eight tables or
Each style has its own personality: the Chicago shines when it’s loaded with meat, especially the Master, which features sausage, pepperoni, green peppers, and onions.

Crust: Well crisped on the edges with a pleasantly salty flavor.
Sauces: peppery red sauce made fresh on the premises.
Toppings: standard veggies and meats could be more extensive, but the ingredients are fresh and tasty. — EMMA GOLDMAN

Lido’s Italian Foods
7252 Broadway, 619-469-9901, lidositalianfoods.com
LEMON GROVE

Here’s the incredible thing. Just like La Bella down in Chula Vista, Lido’s, in Lemon Grove, opened in 1955.
“My dad bought it 33 years ago — 1978,” says Marco Simi, the chef-owner. “He came from Tuscany. He liked the New York style. Thin crust. More like the home country. We still do it that way.”
Lido’s is definitely old-school. The walls have fluted white columns with Italian scenes between.
My favorite pizza is the Works, with onions, pepperoni, mushrooms, sausage, bell peppers, and, yes, anchovies. So-o rich. And at $11.85 for the 12-inch, not a bad deal.

A baseball’s throw from Petco Park, Bar Basic is a great place for pizza fans to share huge thin-crust pies with friends. Using a brick oven, Basic creates New Haven, Connecticut-style pizza with your

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EL COMAL
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3946 Illinois Street 619.294-8292

El Comal
3946 Illinois Street
619.294-8292
choice of red- or white-sauced pies (the white is Parmesan, garlic, and olive oil). You can add all the toppings you want (at a cost), from classic meats and peppers to more exotic mashed potato and fresh little neck clams. Hip and casual, the restaurant allows pizza to be served wherever you sit, on low chairs in the lounge area or at the bar. During happy hour, you can sample signature pies for free! — BARBARELLA

Pizzeria Luigi
pizzerialuigi.com
1137 25th Street, 619-233-3309
GOLDEN HILL
It was a dough-throwing, pizza-peeling segment with Food Network’s Guy Fieri in 2008 that opened many a pie lover’s eyes, hearts, and stomachs to Luigi Agostini’s Golden Hill pizzeria. But folks who knew this Italian-born doughboy back when he was putting out pies off the grid in Poway know he’s been doing right by his homeland’s pride and joy for some time now. His trick — keep things simple. He’s been around the block and knows the key to any pizza, whether it’s a classic Margherita (fresh tomatoes, basil, and mozzarella) or a more contemporary Frenchie (honey ham, pears, bleu cheese, and caramelized onions) is the crust. His is thin, but by no means communion-wafer-like. There’s crispness from solid oven-firing, but also the slightest bit of inner chew around the edge, which adds substantiality and makes Luigi’s all-Italian recipe extra appealing to American palates. Enough so that both locations continue to thrive without the assistance of TV shout-outs. — BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

Newport Pizza & Ale House
5050 Newport Avenue, 619-224-4540, obpizzashop.com
OCEAN BEACH
Great pizza, “no crap on tap,” and unparalleled people-watching, all in one spacious spot on the sandier end of Newport Avenue in O.B. On a recent trip, while waiting for my slices to be heated up and made extra crispy in the oven, a guy named Mitchell took minutes to make sure my Old Rasputin Imperial Stout was perfectly poured. The pizzas have humorous, cheeky names, such as the Ron Jeremy (aka meat-lover’s) and Patchouli Pie (vegan). From Chuck Norris and M.C. Hammer (cheese, pepperoni), to the David Hasselhoff (garlic, basil, ricotta, tomato) and the Happy Hippie (all veggies), each slice is delectably chewy, all of the toppings thoroughly cooked and delicious. — BARBARELLA

Long Island Mike’s Pizza
5250 Murphy Canyon Road, 858-569-7499, longislandmikespizza.com
CLAIREMONT MESA
It doesn’t get any better than a big slice of real New York-style

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pizzerialuigi.com
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CLAIREMONT MESA
It doesn’t get any better than a big slice of real New York-style

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pie, and Long Island Mike serves up just that. The crust is soft and chewy but holds up beneath creative toppings such as eggplant parmigiana and buffalo chicken (white strips of chicken, generous drizzles of ranch dressing, and buffalo sauce). I usually get a slice of the Sicilian pepperoni (a square deep-dish pizza slathered with oregano-flavored tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, and pepperoni) and a slice of BBQ chicken (thin crust, mozzarella, chicken, drizzles of sweet and savory barbecue sauce, and bits of bacon hidden in the cheese). The combo of two slices of any kind, with any toppings, and a drink costs a palatable six bucks. — BARBARELLA

Agostini’s been around the block and knows the key to any pizza, whether it’s a classic Margherita or a more contemporary Frenchie.

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Burrito Especial

Lucha Libre Taco Shop
1810 West Washington Street, 619-296-8226, tacosmackdown.com
MISSION HILLS

At this Five Points hot spot, hefty helpings of flavorful carne asada and shrimp are packed into flour tortillas like a past-his-prime wrestler into fluorescent pink Spandex. It’s a fitting analogy for a venue that pays equal homage to the food and wrestling culture of our neighbors to the south. Every inch of wall space from the entrance to the restrooms is plastered with mano a mano memorabilia, and hungry customers flock here at all hours, as have national TV shows such as Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives and Man v. Food. Most come for the Surfin’ California, a heavyweight sea-meets-land take on a California burrito that’s punched up with the addition of camarones (shrimp) and “super secret” chipotle sauce. Six house-made salsas punch up solid base flavors. Each of those spicily formidable contenders makes a good case for partaking of the variety of Mexican cervezas or American craft beers on hand.

— BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

Bahia Mexican Restaurant
1985 El Cajon Boulevard, 619-542-0540, bahiamexicanrestaurant.com
NORTH PARK

Sure, Bahia is wedged between a 7-Eleven and a beauty-supply store, but don’t write off this family-owned—since-1984 hole-in-the-wall as your average strip-mall Mexi-slop. The Ibarra family prides itself on their lard-free menu, which touts highlights such as the world’s greatest chile relleno burrito (seriously), chicken flautas, menudo (pure magic on hangovers), and a nopales breakfast burrito. Their extensive low-fat vegetarian menu includes a delightful veggie ’rito on a whole-wheat tortilla and “super secret” chipotle sauce. Six house-made salsas punch up solid base flavors. Each of those spicily formidable contenders makes a good case for partaking of the variety of Mexican cervezas or American craft beers on hand.

— CHAD DEAL

Tommy’s Mexican Food
4145 Voltaire Street, 619-223-5225
OCEAN BEACH

Try the California Best West burrito. That’s juicy carne asada or chicken, diced potato, sour cream, pico de gallo, guacamole, and an acidic house red sauce on a fresh, homemade tortilla. (The tortilla recipe was reportedly bought from the original owner for $3000.) Established nearly 20 years ago, and formerly labeled Tex-Mex (don’t worry, it’s not), Tommy’s makes huge tacos, burritos in...
the $5 range, and amazing rolled tacos, all prepared with 100 percent veggie oil. The salsa bar holds exceptional mild and hot reds, an invigorating tomatillo-garlic blend, and a cilantro sauce that looks and tastes like wheatgrass. Delivery is free on orders over $25. Sidewalk patio seating comes with a cool ocean breeze.

— CHAD DEAL

Cocteleria La Playita
5185 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, 858-565-2300, laplayitaseafood.com
CLAIREMONT

Advertising itself as “mi adicción,” the 16-year-old La Playita is habit-forming. Peeling paint, wall-mounted shark jaws, and a sign indicating that oysters from the Gulf Coast “may cause severe illness or even death” assert the restaurant’s no-frills ambiance. Regardless, “the oyster soup saved my marriage,” a regular informs me, the only gringo around. Taking a tip from the locals, I tried the mixed ceviche tostada ($5), which rivals the best of Ensenada street carts. The breaded shrimp tacos ($2.50) are first-rate, though the fish proved lackluster. Spice things up with a house chile de arbol and garlic sauce (very hot), and a slew of Tapatio’s lesser-known cousins. Tecate micheladas provide bliss on sweltering Indian summer days.

— CHAD DEAL

Don Carlos Taco Shop
737 Pearl Street, 858-456-0462, eataborrito.com
LA JOLLA

Touting the T-shirt slogan “Ugly, gaudy, and looks like Mexico” — a quote from a neighbor complaining in 2005 about the shop’s myriad banners — Don Carlos is a well-kept hole-in-the-wall that has been a staple ‘rito joint in La Jolla since 1984 and is purportedly the oldest in the area. Thirty-four types of burrito include the utilitarian Hungover (breakfast meats and eggs), Scripps (Soyrizo!), a few variations on the classic California, and what just might be the greatest shrimp burrito on the planet. They offer plenty of veggie options with no lard or chicken stock. Sal-
sas come in smoky red, complex green, and the occasional stray bottle of Cajun Power garlic sauce. Choose from a selection of Mexican and craft beers in the bottle, and post up on the patio overlooking Pearl Street.

— CHAD DEAL

Mariscos German
(loncheria trucks)
29th Street and Ocean
View Boulevard
LOGAN HEIGHTS

Fern Street and Grape Street,
Gala Foods parking lot
SOUTH PARK

3515 University Avenue
NORTH PARK

Mariscos German is known for its San Felipe-like fish tacos, but try the fish and shrimp burritos. If you’ve been looking for seafood crisply fried in a tempura-like batter, loaded with cabbage and a tangy Mexican white sauce (not tartar), and stuffed to overflowing in a fresh, chewy, yet supple flour tortilla, these big boys are your ticket. The salsa lends a smoky, piquant note, but watch out for the pink stuff in the squirt bottle — it’ll make your mouth catch fire. Some trucks have stools or plastic chairs for customers. If you stay to eat, the dripping sauce lands in a parking lot rather than in your lap, and you can strike up conversations with folks from the neighborhood.

— EMMA GOLDMAN

Juanita’s
Taco Shop
290 North Coast Highway 101 (at Marcheta Street),
760-943-9612
ENCINITAS

Is this where the Mex-Cal culture was born?

Juanita’s sits on Highway 101, a tiny shack among surf shops, eateries, bike shops, and airbrush tanning salons. It’s famous for its rolled tacos, carnitas tacos, and flautas.

But you’re here for a man’s meal: the burrito. More than that, two special burritos: the chile relleno burrito and, yes, the California.

“These guys are why we make them,” says Alex, one of the two sons of Juanita, who started this in 1984. He’s looking at the surfer kids filling the place.

“Call it MexCal culture. Surfers are crazy for them.”

And, boy, guilty pleasure. Burst open your California burrito, chew down. You may say it’s not the real thing, but what else can beat that combo of marinated carne asada and juices-soaked fat french fries and sour cream?

The chile relleno burrito? Beautiful battered poblanos chiles stuffed with jack cheese, wrapped in a tortilla. Make a nice hot mess all over your face. Wash it down with a milky chufa nut and cinnamon horchata.

Sigh. Almost as perfect as the perfect wave.

— ED BEDFORD

Ranas Mexico City Cuisine
9683 Campo Road,
619-589-1792,
ranasrestaurant.com
CASA DE ORO

Ranas offers Mexico City specialties taken from the recipe books of server Alan Acosta’s mother, uncle, and grandpa. In its seventh year, Ranas honors the role of cactus in traditional Mexican meals, preparing fresh nopales in-house and incorporating them into 14 of the dishes. Anticipate oddities such as peanut butter chicken, the super-spicy Entomatado Pork, slow-cooked in roasted tomatillo chili sauce with nopales, and a green-pumpkin-seed mole that Alan says “contains about 25 ingredients.” Local white and blue corn tortillas define a whole new echelon of quesadilla stuffed with sautéed black mushrooms and zucchini blossoms. The creamy chipotle is the best in town. Have a michelada on the patio and enjoy the view of Mount Helix.

— CHAD DEAL

February’s
Mexican Food
844 Market Street,
619-234-8256 (website nonoperative)
EAST VILLAGE

Located walking distance from the Gaslamp Quarter, Valentine’s clean and spacious dining room is ideal for late night (open till midnight weekdays, 2:30 a.m. on weekends), post-club munchies. Their juicy carne asada fries, California burrito, and substantial al pastor taco lend themselves well as nightcaps to the booze-filled belly. The seafood, especially shrimp, is exceptional, but steer away from veggie options, which lean toward the bland, with canned mushrooms, too-crisp produce, and heavy-handed lettuce portions. The spicy carrots are on the softer side, and, while not bad, the salsas are generic. However, most burritos go for around $5, foosball is 25 cents, and everything is made big.

— CHAD DEAL

$10 off
Moroccan Cuisine

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Quitting Smoking isn’t easy...
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Once he leaves a California state prison, a man gets (at max) 200 bucks "gate money," a set of "dress outs" (post-prison clothes), and his freedom. An unmarked white van drops him and a handful of other former prisoners off at a bus depot or public-transportation hub and, from then on, he’s on his own.

The total number of current parolees is unknown, as this year’s statistics on prisoners and parolees have not been calculated. But figures for 2007 are available. According to data from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 121,286 parolees were male.

In San Diego County alone, there were 8,145 total males on parole; that’s 6.7 percent of the total number of males on parole in California in 2007.

These men, known as "parolees," generally fall into one of two categories once they are released from prison: those who return home to a supportive network of family and friends, a good meal, and a spot to lay their heads…and those that return to little or nothing at all.

S.N., 60, is a tall and stately army veteran originally from New York City. He was a decorated staff sergeant when he discharged, having served three tours in the Vietnam War. Seated at his favorite bar in San Diego, the name of which has been withheld at his request for privacy reasons, he speaks about the seemingly insurmountable loss he faced after returning from his last stint in prison.

“I had a beautiful place,” he says, eyes wistful behind his glasses. “I lost my brand new car, everything. They repo’ed [it]. After three months of nonpayment, they came and picked it up.”

He pauses.

“I lost a great deal. My big thing was clothes. I love clothes. I had thousands of dollars’ worth of wardrobe. And I lost all of that. TV set, furniture…And then, most importantly, mail and pictures that I can never get back again. They threw it all away. But they didn’t throw away my clothes, trust me. [They kept them.] And they didn’t throw my TV and DVD player away…”

S.N. says he contemplated suicide.

“[I’ve] never been without money like that...continued on page 60

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- Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes
- Between 18 to 65 years old
- Currently treated with an insulin pump

If you qualify and complete all parts you may be compensated up to $3,627 for time and travel. Up to 8 overnights will be required.

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If you have Iron Deficiency Anemia and cannot take iron pills, talk to your doctor about a clinical research study with intravenous (IV) iron.
and without a ride, and I always used to dress nice," he says. Then he smiles. "I'm old, I'm ugly, so I like to look nice. And I don't have any of that."

S.N.'s most recent sentence, for parole violation, was five months long. He served it at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego. His original offense was for "getting into a little scrape," as he describes it, with someone in El Cajon, an incident that ended, ultimately, in a shooting. S.N. held the gun. The result was a 24-year sentence.

The catalyst for the parole violation was, according to S.N., murky, until he spoke with his parole officer. "When I did get out, I [told him], 'You didn't have to violate me. I had 29 days to go.' Then he told me, 'I violated you because you didn't open the door when I'd been knocking.' He said, 'You pissed me off, so that's why I violated you.' With that violation, I was not only out of work, but I lost everything I owned. Everything. My daughter, I reunited with [her] in 2006, hadn't seen her since she was five, she finally gave me pictures of my son and her growing up and we connected again, and now I have none of those pictures."

In contrast to S.N.'s experience, T.C., 46, who did his most recent time at the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison — also on a parole violation — has had an easier time post-release. "For me," T.C. says, "it's always just a relief to get out of there. I just can't stand being in there. My friends came to pick me up. It was a good thing. Saved me a lot of money, and we went to the tramway [in] Idyllwild and had a good time. It was nice. So, for me, I had a good release this time."

T.C. is a lanky guy in a white shirt; he is quick to smile and just as fast with a quip or joke. Glasses on his nose, he furrows his brow in concentration as he dips the tip of his needle in a small puddle of ink and, delicately, applies it to the back of the woman he is tattooing.

For T.C., prison was a familiar landscape; he's been in three times prior to his parole violation, booked for his first offense in 1994, which landed him two years in the Level Two (Level Five is the most dangerous) section of the California Correctional Institute (known simply as "Tehachapi") in Tehachapi, California, for the transportation of methamphetamine. His second time in was in 1998; he served one year in the Avenal State Prison in Avenal, California, for possession of stolen property. His third incarceration, in 2002, was, T.C. says, technically for trespassing — according to him, a case of being "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

“They ended up getting me on that one for three years,” he says ruefully. “Because that’s what they do. Once you have a prison record, it really doesn’t matter. What they did is they gave me 16 (extra) months for prison priors. Every time you’ve been to prison, they can give you an extra year on top of it.”

While each of his offenses have been different, and each time he has been at a different facility, the process of being released, T.C. says, is fairly uniform everywhere he’s been.

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ment], and they check you out, ask you a bunch of questions [to make] sure you’re the right person,” he says. “Because there are people who have escaped that way. And then they give you 200 dollars” gate money “to get yourself home and to live on while you’re out there.”

It takes about four hours in total to be released, according to S.N. “They will come to you the night before and let you know that you are to get up at 4:00 in the morning and you’re going to what is called ‘R and R’ [Receiving and Releasing]. And then you’re in a cell until they process your release. They also [give you your clothes], if you have any change of clothing, if anybody sent you a package with a change of clothing — they’re called ‘parole clothes.’ ”

At R.J. Donovan, released prisoners are driven to the Iris Avenue trolley stop, says S.N., in an unmarked van — “as if everybody don’t know.” S.N. chuckles.

This last time, though, S.N. caught a ride with a friend who happened to be released on the same day. Without a set of “dress outs,” he was provided with the prison’s standard-issue duds for those being released: beige pants and a white shirt, a telltale sign, to those in the know, of where one has been.

S.N.’s first order of business post-release was to ditch the state clothes. The second was to get a good, filling meal with his buddy. “We went to eat and everything like that,” S.N. recalls. “And the first thing I did was go have me a beer. When you get out, you want to do what you’re not supposed to. So I went to get me a beer, and then I went to the porno shop on 30th Street and stayed in the booth for a couple of hours.”

Not always does a release run so smoothly, S.N. cautions. Generally speaking, it takes four hours from wake-up time to hitting the streets, but… “That’s only if you don’t piss them off. If you make them angry, they’ll take you to the trolley whenever they feel like it. They can take you down at one minute to 12:00 at night, knowing that no trolleys are running anymore.”

The drive to whatever transportation stop is nearest — gratis — is normal at most prisons, but Chuckawalla, where T.C. was detained, is the exception. Instead of driving the newly released to a bus depot and paying for tickets home, they must either be picked up or catch a bus along the dusty desert roadside. The bus company,
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To possibly qualify for the study:

• Men and women over 35 years of age
• X-ray evidence of Osteoarthritis of the knee
• Symptoms for at least 6 months
• Willing to go off present medication for 7 days prior to starting study drug

Participants may receive at no cost:

• Exam and consultation by a board-certified physician
• Labs, X-rays, all study-related medications or placebo
• Compensation for your time and travel for 4 visits

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Desert Transport, which services former prisoners exclusively, charges $50 to travel from Blythe to San Bernardino, and if there are enough people, will go to San Diego for a total of $76. There is an alternate route, which involves taking the Metrolink line to Oceanside, then getting on the Coaster to San Diego, for $69. With $200 in their pockets, that leaves released prisoners with an average of $120 dollars.

“If you don’t have [anything] on the streets, then you’re pretty much screwed,” says T.C. For S.N., this was almost the case (though he was not detained at Chuckawalla). While he knew where his friends lived, he says, he didn’t know the exact addresses and could not write to them after he’d been arrested, telling them he was “inside.”

To make matters more difficult, part of the conditions of his parole (which he is no longer on) for a prior crime required him to wear a GPS ankle bracelet so that his whereabouts were known 24/7. The prior offense classified S.N. as a sexual offender — he wasn’t comfortable divulging additional information about the nature of what happened — under Jessica’s Law, which states that registered sex offenders in California must wear ankle bracelets that track their every movement. They are also not allowed to live within 2000 feet of any place that children congregate — schools, parks, etc. — which makes it practically impossible to find “compliant” housing. For S.N., there were few viable options.

“I was actually sleeping behind the parole office,” he says. “Me and a lot of parolees [were there] because of the nature of our crimes and the restrictions that they put on us, or else [we’d] be violated. So they allowed the parolees [to be there]. They even called it ‘Tent City’ because a lot of parolees had their tents. [There were] about 30 of us. I had a sleeping bag and a blanket.”

Luckily, S.N.’s parole was nearly up and, after three days behind the parole office, the GPS was cut off and S.N. was free to stay with friends or family. He’s found someone to bunk with temporarily.

“Most of the parole offers say that you must tell [potential employers] that you have been convicted of a felony,” he says, “whereas I have never told any of them that I’ve been convicted of a felony. With the nature of my crime... As soon as they run a background check, they don’t want to hire [me].”

F.B., 23, on the other hand, managed to find work while still in prison. A St. Louis native, he came to San Diego with his family four years ago. He’s fresh-faced and still dressed in a button-down shirt and tie from church as he sits at a secluded table at a coffee shop downtown.
If so, your child may be eligible to participate in a research study if he or she is between 12 and 17 years of age and generally healthy. Those who qualify will receive study-related mental health assessments, physical exams, lab services and an investigational medication or placebo (inactive substance).

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not far from where he lives. In a low, even town, he tells the story of how he met his then-future boss, the head of a property-management company.

“He’s part of the prison ministry,” he says. “I met him through the chapel inside the prison, about a year into my sentence, but I never really talked to him. I met him, shook hands, and introduced myself. He was just coming in as a volunteer. He’s still a volunteer, I think.”

F.B. was picked up in 2006 for robbery; he served his time at R.J. Donovan and did two years in their level-three facility. His boss, F.B. says, sometimes recruits R.J. Donovan prisoners to work for him. He helps out with finding them housing within the properties the company manages.

“[His business] is not government-funded, it’s out of his own pocket,” says F.B. “So he can [only have] a select, chosen few, which is based on people recommending them, or going off of his own judgment.”

F.B. speculates that a friend of his, an inmate with a life sentence who works as a clerk under the guidance of the prison pastor, spoke to his boss on his behalf. As a result, F.B. was guaranteed temporary work with the property-management company until he found another job, but lucked out when a permanent position became available.

The boss offered him the job, and now he works in the maintenance and janitorial department. He reports that it has been going well.

Before securing the position, F.B. was under the impression that he would have to seek other work. Still, he wasn’t particularly worried.

“I wasn’t really stressing over it,” he says. “Something inside was telling me, ‘I’m going to be all right.’ Regardless of what’s going on. But that anxiety was there. I had my moments where it would get to me, and then I would just talk to myself and say, ‘All right, you’re going to be all right, just push through.’ All you have to do is push through it, and I use that AA saying, ‘Take it a day at a time.’”

T.C. also experienced no problems finding employment; he was able to return to the construction job he had before he was arrested.

“My boss actually sent me a lot of money while I was in prison,” he says. “I told him I’d pay him back. I tried to tell him not to send money, but he wouldn’t hear of it. He kept sending me money, sending me money, and I finally told him, ‘You know, I’ll pay you back.’ And he said, ‘It wasn’t a loan, it was a gift.’ It was cool.”

S.N. speculates he will find work soon as well. At the time of this writing, he is about to attend a job fair that taps San Diego’s population of veterans. He also has an apartment lined up through Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (or VASH), a government-supported program that provides veterans with affordable places to live.

“If I receive a job tomorrow [at the job fair],” he says, “I already have a senior-living place that will house me. Five hundred dollars a month, three meals a day, cable TV, and your own phone.”
Though S.N. found his apartment quickly, locating a place to live can be difficult for ex-prisoners, depending on their circumstances, as T.C. explains.

"Somebody that doesn’t have any support system or any type of family or anything, they’ve only got 100 bucks left out of their gate money, and they have to resort to using that 100 bucks. Instead of getting food, or getting a place to stay, what a lot of people do is they’ll buy a bag of drugs and they’ll sell drugs, try to make their money."

T.C., who is a lifelong resident of San Diego, had family to pay his rent and keep his apartment and things safe... which has not always been the case for him. F.B., as previously mentioned, received housing from his boss. Until he gets a job, S.N. will be staying with his friend; then he will move into his VASH-provided home.

Usually, though, it’s not so easy. Because of this, S.N. says, once he’s in his own apartment, he will lend a hand to friends that have recently been released.

“Someone that wants to do well when they get out, I want to help them out if I can,” he says. “If I have a place, they have a place to come to. Because the biggest thing about getting out of prison is where the hell you’re going to lay your head that night. Sleeping in Balboa Park is certainly not an option. I’ve done it.”

All three men say that making and maintaining friendships with people they knew in prison is beneficial to them, even when their pals are still inside. Phone calls and letters from friends and family help as well.

“To have contact with the outside world is very important,” says F.B. “It feels good to have it in there, because in there, you feel like you’re all by yourself, alone, nobody cares about you. Those are the types of thoughts that go through your head.”

F.B. also valued his prison friendships, ones based on mutual goals of self-betterment.

“I guess you got to surround yourself with people who are on the same type of deal you’re on,” he says. “It’s kind of like high school, who influences you. So if everybody has the same mind to do right, everybody has an influence on each other to do right.”

On the outside, choosing with whom you associate, according to S.N., is equally important. Those he deems “negative,” in personality and in influence, he does not want within his circle, which mostly consists of former prisoners and parolees.

“I only deal with parolees that work and who are responsible and want to stay off parole,” he says. “You go with a positive attitude and stick around positive people, you don’t go back to prison. I am never going to commit my crime again; that I know. And these guys never want to go back. I don’t parole to get rid of an old prison number [only] to pick up a new one. I hear guys brag, ‘Oh, damn, this is my third number.’ I don’t want to brag about something like that! You should be shot! My goal is all positive, that’s all.”

His dark eyes are round.

“And I’m going to achieve it,” he says. — Rosa Jurjevics

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A Grant Writer’s Story: I live and work in San Diego, but sometimes I have to put myself in a fictitious world to do my job. I take on the persona of a character in the book I’m reading at the time. This week I’m reading *The Maltese Falcon,* and I’m Sam Spade, private detective. Spade goes about San Francisco in pursuit of a jewel-encrusted gold statuette of a falcon. The bird’s worth millions. And a lot of folks — mostly opportunists — are also trying to get their hands on it.

In my line of work I’d be depressed if I didn’t fantasize occasionally. It’s the opportunists, wanting something for nothing, who bring me down from my otherwise noble profession. Sure, I get the sincere client once in awhile, but most of the time I’m approached by chumps. If I didn’t put a little spin on the day-to-day — like wear sunglasses, fake an accent, or imagine I’m Sam Spade — I’d go bonkers.

I’m in the grant biz. You know, the go-between for donors and hard-working charities. It’s no job for the unimaginative or the easily irritated. The phone calls can drive you up the wall. Like the guy who suddenly realizes his mission in life and wants me to find a grant to finance it.

“I saw on TV that the government is giving money away so people can study in Europe, write a book, or start their own business. I want to do all those things. How much money can you get me?”

Or the guy who comes up with a new-found sense of charity: “It says right here in the paper that Qualcomm gave a million bucks to a local charity. I’m gonna start a charity. Can you get me a couple hundred thousand?”

“I don’t know. What’s your charity going to do?”

“I’m not sure yet. Got any ideas?”

Those are the knucklehead calls I get daily. I’d go postal if I didn’t occasionally replace reality with fantasy. So right now I’m Sam Spade. Sam Spade with some differences, of course: Spade wears an overcoat and a fedora; I sport flowered shirts and I don’t own a...
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hat. Spade rolls cigarettes and tosses back shots of whiskey; I chew gum and drink coffee by the bucket. Spade gets around on foot; I'm a public transit geek. Spade works the streets of San Francisco; I do San Diego.

I'm at my home office reading with my feet on the desk when the phone rings. I put down the Maltese Falcon, annoyed by the interruption. What's this guy gonna want? A grant for a yacht to study fishing? The voice is a kid's.

"We need your help, Mr. C."

I sit up in my chair and tell him to give me the facts. He needs a trombone. Other kids at his school need musical instruments, too. They attend a non-profit music academy after school in Southeast San Diego. These days, the kid says, the academy hardly has enough money to pay the rent, much less buy musical instruments. Sounds sincere. I'm interested.

"What's your name, son?"

"Kareem Fonseca Langenhurst Nygueng."

"Right. Mind if I call you 'Kid'?"

"That's okay."

"You got transportation?"

"I can take the bus."

"Good. Meet me at Denny's in Mission Valley. Take the 928 and get off at Friars and Frazee. Four o'clock."

Sam Spade would roll a cigarette at this juncture, toss back a whiskey. I drain my coffee cup, pop a stick of gum in my mouth, and head out.

My neighbor Hank has his door open and he hears me in the hallway.

"Hey. Can you give me a hand. My printer's stuck."

"Not right now, Hank. On a case."

"Who are you this time?"

"Sam Spade, private detective."

"Wait a sec." I hear him rummaging in a closet. He returns with a fedora. "This'll help." I take the Green Line to Hazard Center and walk to Denny's. I expect to see some kid so short that his eyeballs rest on the table. But the only kid I see is black kid, sitting upright, wearing spectacles. He sees the fedora.

"Mr. C?" he says, and sticks out his little hand. We shake hands.

I order a cup of coffee for me and a Coke for the kid.

"So how do you think I can help you?"

The kid tells me...
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Soft Touch DENTAL

San Diego Reader October 20, 2011 73
about the after-school music program at the academy. It gives him and a lot of other kids something to do after school and keeps them safe. Best part is they can learn to play a musical instrument, to sing, to dance. I can see he loves it.

“Sr. Jorge started the academy 14 years ago,” the kid goes on. “He says money is always tight, but he’s never seen times so tough. Even for kids that need musical instruments. I peruse the academy’s website. It’s a non-profit in a tough part of town. And judging from the kids’ smiles, doing a damn good job. I begin to draft a narrative with needs statement, program description, brief history, success stories. I’m building a case for the kid’s school.

Shortly before sunrise I’m ready to hit the street. I pull out the flash drive and catch the trolley to the 35 bus from Old Town. There’s an all-night diner on the corner of Rosecrans and Midway, where I got an eye on the waitress, who always ignores me.

“Coffee?” she asks when I sit down.

“Yeah.”

“Cream and sugar?”

“Nah. I like my coffee the way I like my women.”

“Oh. I get it. Black. Right?”

“No. Bitter.”

Corny, I know. But Sam Spade would have liked that.

After breakfast I walk to Liberty Station and the San Diego Foundation Library. Their computers have search engines for philanthropic foundations, corporations, and individuals, and using them is free. My contact there is Mitzy, sharp as a tack. She could write the definitive book on grant writing if she weren’t so busy giving free advice and helping grant seekers navigate the search engines. She’s heard all the stories, including the absurd and the sincere. Her heart of gold is guarded by a jaded attitude.

She both groans and smiles when she sees me walk in.

“First thing in the morning? Must be something hot, Mr. C.” She notices the fedora. “Or is it Mr. Spade?”

“I got a bunch of school kids in Southeast San Diego who need musical instruments.”

“And you’re the...”

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San Diego Reader October 20, 2011

76
the kid and I are waiting in the Lindbergh terminal as the disembarking passengers come down the corridor. Sam Spade private detective would be wearing an overcoat, but I’m standing there in a flowered shirt, cut-offs, and fedora. I look like a lost Hawaiian. Under my arm I got a manila envelope bulging with documents. The kid’s holding a sign the size of Mission Bay that reads “Here we are, Mr. Biggs.”

A man in a suit walks toward us with an apprehensive grin. “I’m Mr. Biggs. What’s all this about?”

I let the kid do the talking, and when he’s finished he hands Biggs a flyer.

“There’s a concert tonight, sir, if you have time.”

Biggs smiles. “I would if I could, young man. But I’ve got to make a speech downtown.”

I hand the manila envelope to Biggs, who accepts it with genuine interest.

“I’ll look this over in the limo.”

Then the world takes a fortuitous turn. A transformer somewhere downtown sparks and hisses, then explodes.

The kid’s concert begins on time and rolls along on schedule. The choir’s singing its heart out and the band, despite missing several instruments, plays its heart out, too. When the show concludes, Mr. Biggs gets up from the back of the auditorium and comes backstage.

“I thought you had a speech to make,” I say. “Got cancelled. Power outage.”

The kid shakes Mr. Biggs’s hand vigorously, then introduces him to Mr. Jorge. Mr. Biggs and Mr. Jorge have a chit-chat at the edge of the stage for about 15 minutes. Then Mr. Biggs takes out his checkbook.

Yesterday we’re all sitting at that academy. Mr. Jorge, the kid, his mom, Mitzy, Jack, Hank, me. Mr. Jorge slides an envelope over to me. “Here’s for your work, Mr. C.”

“Keep it. Buy another trombone or a snare drum.”

“But you got us a grant.”

“Actually, the kid got the grant. I just wrote the proposal. Always works when you have a good program that matches a philanthropist’s heart. Most folks want to help a worthy cause.”

Sam Spade would have liked that.

Next week I think I’ll read Robin Hood.

— Louis Carufel

When the Power Goes Out

Twelve hours now, the power’s been out. And I’m writing by candlelight in the kitchen. The only thing technologically enhanced about this is my .7mm mechanical pencil (do I have enough lead?). I’d be writing on my iPhone, except it’s gone. Kaput. The battery is, anyway. And that’s the issue. Reliance on technology. Or the addiction to it. I also need glasses. Hadn’t realized it.
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In summary, the words made their impact on my phone! People move about outside, more pleasant with one another than I’ve heard, well, ever. Not that they were ever unpleasant — just lacking the warmth I can hear on the other side of the window.

We just finished reading to our daughter, drawing upon the Bard from Stratford’s Robin Goodfellow (we daren’t address him as Puck for fear our little girl might misinterpret it in preschool): “if we shadows have offended, think but this and all is mended; that you have but slumbered here, while these visions did appear.” She thinks Shakespeare is silly for naming a character Bottom, something with which the playwright would be quite pleased, I believe. “Silly Shakespeare,” she coos as she slips into her late-summer’s dream.

With beer getting warm, my wife and I relax with a brew and the sound of crickets, and...nothing else. No electric whirring. No air conditioners cycling. Simply a singular focus on what matters. Us. Our family and our community. Our neighbors are grilling. We poke our heads out and chat for a bit. Our daughter slumbers.

It’ll be light soon. Parting shot: As the power comes back on, mere moments after I concluded writing, my wife and I look at each other — can we pretend the power is still off?

— Lance Arthur Smith
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via voice mail

The Will
I would like to comment on your “Tattoo Boo!” story in the September 1 Reader (“City Lights”). I don’t have anything against Mrs. Fausto and her tattoo school, but I would take exception to a remark she makes that you go to a swimming pool and everybody has a tattoo. She says, “You’re going to see every mom, dad, teacher, banker, doctor.” I would disagree with that. Nobody in my family, living or dead, that I know of has ever had a tattoo. None of my inlaws that I’ve ever met has ever had a tattoo. If any of my children or grandchildren ever got tattoos I would disown them; I would disinherit them from my will, believe me.

Most of the people I’ve ever seen with tattoos — I’ll leave out South Sea Islanders, Samoans, whatever; if they want to tattoo themselves, that’s their business, I don’t care — but the other people, the Americans I see — oh, yeah, I think the king of Norway or Denmark or someplace had himself covered with tattoos — but the Americans I see with tattoos I would classify as freaks or jailbirds or Mexicans I would classify as gangsters. And I can’t think of any exceptions.

When I was a kid about 14 years old, which would have been 65 years ago, I had a summer job as a locker boy at a swimming pool, and I didn’t see too many boys or men with tattoos, maybe one or two, and they fit into the category of jailbirds or freaks. I think maybe one was in the military.
Thursday | 20

PECHAKUCHA NIGHT
See what inspires a collection of notable locals in the arts and architecture field. Presenters have 20 images — and only 20 seconds per image — to convey their passion. The list so far includes Allard Jansen, Dana Springs, Gary Walker, David McCullough, James Brown, and Peter Soutowood.

WHERE: Til-Two, 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-232-1385; pecha-kucha.org/night/san-diego/
WHEN: 8:20 p.m.

Saturday | 22

HAUNTED BIRCH AQUARIUM
“Shipwrecked” is the theme for this year’s event, with “close encounters of the fishy kind.” Wander the aquarium for tricky treats and discover a sea of glowing creatures while having a monstrous good time.

Entertainment by Billy Lee & the Swamp Critters.

WHERE: Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla. Reservations required: 858-534-7336; aquarium.ucsd.edu
WHEN: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (also on Friday)

Monday | 24

SEIZURE
Author Kathy Reichs (the inspiration for the Bones TV series) visits with her son, coauthor Brendan Reichs, to discuss their young-adult novel, the second in the Virals trilogy. Reserved seating available with pre-purchase of book from Warwick’s.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-454-0347; warwicks.com

Tuesday | 25

TENTACLE SESSIONS: ETHEL
Hailing from New York, the ensemble acclaimed as “America’s premier post-classical string quartet” will perform adventurous music of the past four decades with an emphasis on works composed since 1995.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: The Loft at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. 858-534-8497; artpwr.com/events/821

Friday | 21

BORREGO DAYS DESERT FESTIVAL
The 46th annual festival gets under way with a parade of marching bands, floats, decorated golf carts, and equestrian groups through town at 10 a.m. After that, the weekend is replete with artist and vendor booths, live entertainment, and children’s activities.

WHERE: Christmas Circle, Borrego Springs. 619-233-5008; borregosprings-chamber.com
WHEN: noon to 8 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Sunday | 23

HARVEST FESTIVAL
It’s just not October without fun, food, and plenty of pumpkins. The 39th annual festival returns with more than 300 exhibitors offering arts and crafts. Plus, entertainment, food, edible arts, demonstrations, and a kids’ zone.

WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 800-346-1212; harvestfestival.com
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (also on Saturday)

Wednesday | 26

ART AEROBICS
“Let the music move you to play with color at an aerobic pace to get your blood pumping, creative juices flowing, and stress releasing!”

WHEN: 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Expressive Arts Studio, 3201 Thorn Street, North Park. expressiveartssandiego.com
Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Cannes, France
By Bryant Le

Cannes is a scenic resort town on France’s southeastern coast — a stretch of Mediterranean beach cities known collectively as the French Riviera. This busy destination features endless sunshine and gorgeous stretches of sand, so it’s no wonder it’s a popular draw for tourists.

Our first impression of the city was its sparkling harbor, dotted with luxurious yachts and towering transatlantic liners. We were here particularly for the Cannes Film Festival.

There are several casinos, museums, and castles within walking distance of downtown. Cannes is also known for certain similarities to Hollywood. We were surprised to see the Cannes Walk of Fame, where the handprints of dozens of movie legends have been set in stone outside the Palais des Festivals. Look, there’s Clint Eastwood! Here’s Sharon Stone! And over yonder is Anthony Quinn!

As you might imagine, this is the best time to visit if you’re a movie buff, but the worst time for everyone else — streets are congested and restaurants are packed.

Water sports are plentiful here. The Mediterranean is ideal for sailing, swimming, kayaking, and windsurfing. But if you prefer to crash on the sand and soak in the sun, that works, too.

We fell in love with the beauty and innocence of nearby St. Marguerite Island. From the Cannes harbor, it’s a 15-minute boat ride. Most of the island is covered in forest. It’s unusually quiet and pleasant, since there are no cars on the island. Grassly paths lead off in all directions, beneath giant pine trees where birds flutter high in the branches. It’s a great romantic escape!

The Balsamo Coast of El Salvador isn’t heaven — but if you surf, it may be the nearest thing to it here on Earth. Plus, it’s a whole lot easier to get in.

A four-hour flight from L.A. lands you at the nation’s international airport. From there the Pacific lies less than an hour away. The best-known surf spot is the world-class right break Punta Roca, off the town of La Libertad. Unfortunately, the close proximity of the capital, San Salvador, attracts members of the notorious Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13) gang to the seaside community. It makes the nightlife in this port the most dangerous part of El Salvador.

The highway turns west here and meanders for approximately 16 miles through several beach hamlets with friendly citizens and excellent surf. We chose Playa Tunco — a right-angle two-street village — as our base. Small

Other Adventures

misshottie45: A view of the valley from Duck Pass in Mammoth Lakes, California

tubetop: Vietnam was beautiful. The people very poor but very happy. This was a picture of a villager in the hills of Sapa, Vietnam.

russlevi1: This is a photo of Hong Kong Island’s famous skyline from the Avenue of the Stars.

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Balsamo Coast, El Salvador
By Joe Tuborg

The ocean at Playa Tunco is a heaving siren, offering warm, uncrowded waters.
ROAM-O-RAMA
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | by Jerry Schad

FROM THE TRAILMASTER’S FAVORITES FOLDER
Discover unauthorized public art on San Diego’s trails. The artist, Nina Karavasiles, has participated in various public art projects around San Diego in the past decade.

Originally published: October 7, 1999

Coming soon to a vandalized scenic overlook or trailside destination: public art of ambiguous intent and questionable legality. Art scaled to the exact dimensions of missing historical plaques and interpretive markers. Art with a cynical, wry, or whimsical message... depending on who’s viewing it.

Last autumn, a shiny gray plaque suddenly appeared on the site of the forlorn and long-vandalized Imperial Highway (County Highway S-2) historic marker at the San Diego/Imperial County line. Where once there resided a heavy bronze plaque commemorating the opening of a paved link to the Imperial Valley in the ’60s, there now rests a graphite-rubbed plaster replacement, with words solemnly proclaiming, “This is the desert. There’s nothing out here. Nothing.”

Ironically, this unauthorized expression of a local artist’s creative impulse may prove more resistant to opportunistic vandals than the original bolted metal plaque. A rift now runs through the middle of the replacement plaque — probably the result of a vandal who tried to pry a seemingly valuable piece of metal out of its frame, only to hear the disappointing crack of plaster beneath the plaque’s shiny gray patina.

Another unauthorized piece of art is (was?) found on Stonewall Peak in the Cuyamacas, perched squarely atop a stone-and-mortar pillar that once held a direction-finder. “Crying Wolf,” as the artist calls it, a welded-rod sculpture of piled-up houses reminiscent of the voracious new construction on San Diego’s fringe, uneasily looks out over thousands of acres of pristine woods and meadows. “Development could never happen here,” the artist states (or asks?) on a Plexiglas-coated sign next to the sculpture. Echoing further comments about overpopulation is a single word scratched into the plastic: “rabbits.”

The artist’s “canvas” also includes a number of trailside or mountaintop locations where small, vaguely female figures (“female action figures,” according to the artist), derived from a twisted piece of tree root and duplicated in the form of gray concrete casts, have been placed conspicuously or inconspicuously amid their surroundings. The artist hopes that passersby might notice the odd material, neither stone nor wood, and that they will appreciate in each figure the qualities of strength and femininity. Some casts have been picked up right away, while others have remained in situ for weeks or even months.

NOTE: The information in this archived article may not be current.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam

“Crying Wolf,” atop Stonewall Peak
OUTDOORS

Beach Cleanup: Coasterkeeper hosts cleanup at lifeguard tower by entrance to north parking lot. Bring work gloves, reusable bag or bucket, reusuable water bottle; 619-758-7743. Saturday, October 22, 9am; free. Torrey Pines State Beach and Reserve, North Torrey Pines Road. (DEL MAR)

Kumeyaay Lifestyles: Learn about seasonal harvests, venerated animals, religious and social structures of native San Diegans on guided nature walk. 619-668-3281. Saturday, October 22, 8:30am. free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN DIEGO)

La Mesa Park Appreciation Day: Volunteers welcome all at La Mesa parks. Bring gloves and a rake (trash bags available). To sign up ahead of time: 619-667-1300. Saturday, October 22, 8am; free. La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive. (SAN DIEGO)

Learn Ten Native Plants: Califormia Native Plant Society hosts native plant walk. Bring sturdy shoes, water. 619-297-2957. Saturday, October 22, 10am; free. Cedar Ridge Park, Pentucket Avenue at Juniper Street. (SOUTH PARK)

River and Nature Preserve Cleanup: San Diego River Park Foundation hosts trash and debris cleanup from riverbed in Mission Valley Preserve. Tools, supplies provided. Park in police department parking lot; meet across street at west end of YMCA parking lot. No experience necessary. RSVP: 619-297-7380. Saturday, October 22, 9am; free. San Diego Police Department Western Division, 5215 Gaines Street. (MISSION VALLEY)

SPECIAL EVENTS

“A Day with Shiva Rea” “Yogini firekeeper, sacred activist, global adventurer,” yoga innovator Shiva Rea leads mixed level classes. Topics: “Rhythmic Vinyasa-Synchronizing with the Flow of Yoga” (noon-2pm); “Take Me to the River — Fluid Energetic Vinyasa with Blues Kirtan by Steve Gold” (2:45-4:45pm); yoga trance dance and “ Sahaja Pulse 108” with DJ Nagaraja (5:30-7:30pm). Fee: $50 per individual class, $120 for all 3 classes 1 day, $245-452-2616. Saturday, October 22, 12pm; La Jolla Yoga Center, 7741 Fay Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

“Celebrating the Art in Youth Voice” View “inspiring, pieces of art created” by youths in San Diego County Children’s Mental Health Services foster and residential care during event hosted by Fam- ily and Youth Roundtable. Local artists donated time, materials to lead classes. 619-546-5852 x211. Saturday, October 22, 4pm; $40-$520, Space 4 Art, 125 Street Street. (EAST VILLAGE)


“Exhibit Ambush” “Multi-sen- sory fashion and art show” featuring Haux of Estrada Collection by Jesus and Antonio Estrada and Yara Sofia from RoPaul’s “Drag Race” as fashion show host. Event brings “together emerging fashion design- ers and artists (visual and perfor- mance)...who are pushing artistic boundaries.” 818-400-6508. Saturday, October 22, 7pm; $29-$100. 1st and up. Horton 9 Event Center, 97 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

“Make a Difference” Day Rebuilding San Diego hosts “painting, landscaping, carpentry, electrical, and other repairs” at four homes in 2000 block of Julian Avenue. Free. 619-231-7873. Saturday, October 22, 8:30am; free. Make a Difference site, 2000 Julian Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

“Pechakucha Night” Presenters: David McCullough, Gary Walker, Allan Jansen, Dana Springs, James Brown, Peter Soutowood “show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images forward automatically and you talk along to the images.” 619-232-1385. Thursday, October 20, 8:20pm; Toll-Free, 476 El Cajon Boulevard. (INTELLIGENT MACHINERY)

“Seeds @ City Urban Farm Fundraiser” Help save this urban farm during “young farm- ers fundraiser” beginning with farm tours (4, 5pm). Pizza from outdoor pizza oven and food from Roots Kind Food and Peace Pies for sale (5:30pm). Music by Red Giant. Raffles. Bring desert for potluck. Buy and print an art-block T-shirt to take home. Requested donation: $20 general, $10 for students. 619- 388-3712. Saturday, October 22, 4pm; Wild Willow Farm Foundation Education Center, 2551 Sunset Avenue. (NESTOR)

“Street Beat” Using household items, found objects, “just plain junk for drums and percussion,” six-member company of drum- mers, musicians, dancers presents “A Theatrical Drum and Dance Show.” 858-748-0550. Saturday, October 22, 4pm; $10-$40. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

“The Jaws Are Talking” What secrets can jaws and teeth reveal? Celebrate National Fossil Day and discover “secret desert treasures” during Paleontology Society open house. Many of these fossils have never been displayed and include carnivores, herbs, ommовites that inhabited this region over past 5 million years. Meet at Anza-Bor- rego visitor center for short walk to Stout Research Center Paleontology Laboratory and Collection Hall. Saturday, October 22, 1pm; Sunday, October 23, 9am; Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Can- yon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

“Is This Halloween!” Encore Vocal Ensemble performs songs from stage and screen, with Night- mare Before Christmas, Sweeney Todd, Little Shop of Horrors, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Phantom of the Opera, others represented. 619- 226-3153. Saturday, October 22 and 23, 7:30pm; $10. San Diego Woman’s Club, 2557 Third Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

“Understanding Cold” Donald Ross addresses Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in community room. Coffee, refreshments to be served and discussed. Help complete a “Postcards for Peace” project. All welcome. 858-350-9112. Saturday, October 22, 11am; free. La Jolla Village Square, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Yoga for Healthy Bones” Mar- guerite Tyrell leads series blend- ing “ancient wisdom of yoga and the knowledge of modern science to provide a holistic approach to bone health.” Topics: yoga postures and sequences for healthy bones, nutrition recommendations, role of stress in health, lifestyle factors. 858-622-9642. Sunday, October 23, 3:30pm; $45-$180. 18 and up. La Jolla Yoga, 3211 Holiday Court #203. (LA JOLLA)

(Serious) Sugar Skull Deco- rating: Learn professional tricks to create “beautiful works of art” with pastry chef Veronica von Borstel. During workshop, discover royal icing piping techniques, sanitation, color and composi- tion, more. No previous piping or pastry experience required. Students receive two medium-sized pre-assembled sugar skulls. Reg- istration: 619-280-8408. Saturday, October 22, 1pm; $25. 12 and up. Vintage Religion, 3821 32nd Street. (NORTH PARK)

50 Acres of Fun! Autumn tractor show promising unique equipment demonstrations, N scale model trains, weaving demonstrations by urban artists, more. 619-231-7873. Saturday, October 22, 8:30am; free. Make a Difference site, 2000 Julian Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

El Salvador continued from page 64

boutique hotels and hostelns abound, with prices and amenities ranging from a hammock for $10 to a two-bed, ocean-view, air-conditioned room for $65. The coast is a surprisingly “wired” area, with Wi-Fi in abundance. Pilsner beer is the local cerveza mas fina, and seems to be the only product in the entire country with an advertising budget. When cold, the only thing better than the flavor is the cost — if you paid more than a $1.50 for a bottle, you paid too much. The food is somewhat uninspired, with all sides consisting of beans and rice. But the seafood is excellent and fresh; it’s truly the catch of the day. As for the waves: the ocean here is a heaving siren, offering warm, uncrowded waters — but with an under- tow so strong, it is hard to escape its grasp when it’s time to exit Adjacent to the breaks at Playa Tunco, a strong rip current provides a natural channel that, if ridden correctly, makes the quarter- to half-mile paddle out seem much quicker than normal. Here there are three dis- tinct breaks with well-shaped, continu- ous sets all day.

The waves attract surfers from around the globe. Although the majority had traveled from Australia or Brazil, we met some from the U.K. and even two women from the landlocked Czech Republic.

Rental shops offer a plethora of surfboards, making it unnecessary to bring your own unless you’re planning an extended stay.

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Composting Workshop
Master composters teach composting workshop including instruction and demonstration in building, maintenance of a backyard compost pile, vermicomposting. 7:30-9:30am, Saturday, October 22, 8:30-10am, Sunday, October 23, 8:30-10am. (ESCONDIDO)

Diwali Festival of Lights
Enjoy arts, music, dancing, food, family activities, sunset lighting of lamps. Tickets: $5 per person, or $15 per family of four. Tickets include admission to Mingei International Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Man (until 7pm). 619-239-0003. Sunday, October 23, 4pm; Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Do We Need a Value Added Tax?
How would you reform the tax system? Present your plan when Civilized Conversation forum meets. 8:30-21-6209, Thursday, October 20, 7pm; free, 18 and up. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Día de los Muertos Celebración
Party promises community altar, music, tequila tastings, MHO Gastrotruck, pan de muertos, sugar skull decorating. Day of the Dead models, mucho más. 619-544-1011. Saturday, October 22, 6pm; free. Casa Artexila, 2149 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITLY)

Fall Book Sale
New stock put out for sale each day. 858-573-1399. Saturday, October 22, 9:30am; Linda Vista Library, 2160 Ulric Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Fall Festival
Family fun includes carriage rides, climbing wall, petting zoo, face painting, pumpkin patch, Taste of Point Loma (1-11am), 619-849-2298. Saturday, October 22, 10am; free. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Fallbrook Pumpkin Patch
Unique and unusual old-fashioned organic pumpkin patches welcome you and your family. Cradled in a grove of pecan trees, Lavender Hill Pumpkins range from 1 to 300 pounds! Come for the sights and surroundings, leave with a pumpkin of your choice. Open the month of October. Monday to Friday: 2pm–5pm / Saturday and Sunday: 10am–5pm. www.LavenderHillPumpkins.com. 760-715-8495. Fallbrook Pumpkin Patch, 1509 East Mission Road. (FALLBROOK)

Halloween Ghosts in Old Town
Meet “real ghosts and learn their stories” during 60-minute walk-tour with performers starting at Robinson-Rose Visitor Center. Hear scary, funny, tragic stories of people who lived in San Diego during the 1800s. Help answer the question “Whoaoo the Wickedest Ghost?” 619-220-5422. Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 10am; $5-$15. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

Harvest Festival
The 39th annual festival returns with more than 300 exhibitors offering art and crafts, entertainment, food, edible art, demonstrations, kids zone. Tickets good for entire weekend. 800-346-1212. Friday through Sunday, October 21–23, 10am-9pm. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Haunted Hotel Boy Scout Troop 2000 presents its 11th annual Haunted Hotel in two-story, 126-year-old Hotel Germania, built by Olivenhain’s original German settlers in 1885. Select from two different scare levels: tame and scary. 619-544-1011. Saturday, October 22, 6pm; free. 760-754-8266. Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 6:30pm; $5. Olivenhain Meeting House, 423 San Lucas Road. (POINT LOMA)

High School Choral Showcase
Oceanside Music Festival continues with annual recital of “the best of the best from local high school choral music” in Concert Hall Building 2400, 760-433-3632. Saturday, October 22, 7:30pm; $10-$15. Mira Costa College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

La Jolla Gallery Wine Walk and Taste
Explore 15 galleries, 20 restaurants, wines during event. Start evening at ticket will-call site next to La Jolla Visitor Information Center. 619-233-5008. Thursday, October 20, 5pm; $40-$45. 21 and up. La Jolla Visitor Information Center, 7966 Hershel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Lowrider Gospelfest
See “the very best in lowrider vehicles,” enjoy music by Priesthood, Voice of Fulfillment, Lordside G. 619-384-6579. Saturday, October 22, 10am; free. Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3733 38th Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

North County Photography Society’s 16th annual members’ exhibition, boasting “94 entries in eight categories.” Closes Saturday, November 26. Sunday, October 23, 1pm; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Nourish Day in San Diego
Head to Liberty Station for outdoor screening of Nourish, featuring food activists Michael Pollan, Jamie Oliver, Alice Waters (6pm). Event includes farmers’ market with local farmers “speaking on how they bring farm-fresh produce to San Diego County stores, schools, and restaurants” (3:30pm). Physical activities for kids; Panel discussion on local food and nutrition with Seth Nicholson, U.S. field director for Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution (6:45). Bring blanket for seating. 619-392-5201. Friday, October 21, 3:30pm; free. High Tech High, 2861 Womble Road. (POINT LOMA)

San Diego Family Expo
Enjoy family activities, vendors promoting ways for families to spend more time together.

Largest Climbing Gym in San Diego
Largest indoor gym in San Diego! Over 30,000 square feet! Countless activities from bouldering to top rope and auto belays; Gift certificates available.

* Scenic flights over the ocean and downtown San Diego
* Jump from altitudes over 2 miles above the ground
* Ask about RVT video technology

Call or go online for reservations. (619) 661-0194
www.pcskydiving.com
Open 7 days a week • MC/Visa
Gift certificates available.

* Must purchase $70 video ($195 total cost), Weekdays only. Add $20 for weekend jumps.
time together. 619-663-9769. Saturday, October 22, 10am; free. San Diego Community Concourse, 202 C Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, October 23, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

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-perience” maze. 619-696-7227. Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30pm to 11:45pm; Sundays through Thursdays, 7pm to 11pm; through Monday, October 31. (BAY HILL)

This year, check out “the X-perience” maze. 619-696-7227. Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30pm to 11:45pm; Sundays through Thursdays, 7pm to 11pm; through Monday, October 31. (BAY HILL)

Halloween Psychic Festival Featuring an afternoon of Spirit with James Van Praagh, internationally renowned Medium, creator of hit TV show The Ghost Whisperer, author of Ghosts Among Us. 60+ exhibitors, psychic readers, healers, 25 free presentations, music. Call 831-239-6835 for more information. October 29, 6:30pm to midnight. Friends Of We ChineSe, 11525 Sorrento Valley Road. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Tempered Glass Mosaic Using paint, sparks, text, photos, and colorful grout, create one-of-a-kind collage applied to shattered glass on a picture frame with instructor Beatrice Barabas. Complete two projects during workshop ending October 30 (second meeting: 9am-noon). Registration: 619-223-0058. October 30, 10am to 6pm. La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

**ART MUSEUMS**

“Art of Fashion” Exhibition created in partnership with Fashion Careers College, features five creations inspired by artwork at the Timken. Through October.

“See/Saw: Annual Youth Exhibition” is a juried exhibit of photography and film by young artists. Closes Sunday, January 29. Daily, except Mondays, 10am–5pm; free. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface” Enjoy 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 col-

Museum features Saint Bartholomew, 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)


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**GETTING AROUND SAN DIEGO IS A BREEZE – A COOL, ELECTRIC BREEZE**

Welcome to a better way to carshare. car2go is bringing 300 electric vehicles and a completely revolutionary concept to San Diego – just take a car2go when you need it, and park it when you’re done. Look for cars starting in November.

*Must be 18 years or older to register. Must have valid U.S. driver’s license.*
BOOK SIGNINGS

Captain Charles Moore & Plastic Ocean
The scientist who discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch will speak about his research and sign copies of his new book Plastic Ocean. Wine & cheese reception with great door prizes! This event will benefit Algalita's education programs. RSVP by 10/20: writeoutlowsd@gmail.com. Signed copies available.

Coffee with a Former Mayor
Patch will speak about his research and science-based education programs. This event will benefit Algalita’s ocean conservation efforts, to benefit wounded soldiers of the Warrior Foundation. Saturday, October 22, 11am-3pm. Mission Brewery, 1441 L Street.

Comedy Night at Doc’s Saloon
A night of stand-up comedy with a variety show with headliner Alonzo Bodden (Last Comic Standing winner), Pearl Street Players, host Kurt Swann. 951-929-3586 or 760-720-2460. Sunday, October 22, 8pm; $20-$25. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2282 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

The End
Is the world coming to an end? Come find out!!! Ongoing Bible Prophecy Seminar End Time Mondays
7:00-8:30 pm Every Monday. Hosted by the Fallbrook Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1200 Rainbow Valley Road, Fallbrook CA 92028 • Call 760-723-7733

FOR KIDS

"Reaching for the Top" San Diego Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation hosts conference for 6th-12th graders to "motivate, inspire, and equip students with skills to improve their learning and achievement." Improve math, writing skills. Reservations: 619-463-1702. Saturday, October 22, 8am; free. Christ United Presbyterian Church, 3025 Fir Street. (SOUTH PARK)

"The Big Read: Shades of Poe" Write Out Loud hosts workshop to help students (12-18) "re-imagine" works of Edgar Allan Poe into an art form of their choice, with "classes in music, dance, visual arts, writing, and film." Participants receive copy of Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe. Lunch provided. All creations considered for inclusion in "Shades of Poe" celebration in April. Registration: 619-297-8957 or writeoutloud@ gmail.com. Saturday, October 22, 9:30am; free. Joe and Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue. (EMERALD HILLS)

"Wonderland of Treats, Eats, and Drinks" Third annual fundraiser for Poway School District families boosts Willie Wonka theme, with food, drink, dessert vendors, kids’ activities and entertainment such as petting zoo, laser tag, face painting, balloon art, more. 858-668-2273. Saturday, October 22, 11am; free $30.
DIANA LEÓN JERPSETH, a member of the clergy?
4. I think about what kind of world we're leaving them. What does it mean when there are fewer people who believe or act in a compassionate manner than to those around us? What does that imply for our world, especially as we become a diverse country? So many different levels! The gospels seek to unify and build realities and talks about forgiveness. We live in a country that is bent on dividing itself into different colored states and different political parties; yet we're called to a completely different message. It's harder to get that message across and transmit it to the next generation.

SDR: Why is “sin” still a valid concept in your congregation?

Pastor James Jerpseth: I think the main concern I have is really for my children and their generation. I have kids that are 13, 11, and 2. I think about what kind of world we’re creating traditional art, games in bilingual setting. 619-900-4690. Sunday, October 23, 2pm; $5-10. Growing Place Montessori, 13242 Pomerado Road. (POMP)

Halloween Cookies for Kids
Join Chef Joy for Halloween-themed “cookie baking extravaganzas.” Participants (8-13) learn to make dough, shape cookies into ghosts, goblins, witches, bats, 760-233-2433. Saturday, October 22, 10am-1pm. Alchemy of the Earth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Halloween Treats of the Ship
Wear a costume and enjoy creepy treats, ghost stories, tours around the Star of India, and eerie legends from ship’s past. Reservations: 619-234-9153 ext. 110. Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 6pm; $12-$17. Birch Aquarium at Scrpps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

MORAL COURAGE
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$15
Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages, 35 words or less, 50 cents for each additional word. Call Andrea Gormerad (619) 235-3000 ext. 226 or email her: aormerado@SDReader.com. Or — easiest of all — go to SDReader.com/SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH
Halloween Psychic Fair
Sunday, Oct. 23: Meditation/Auric Healings, 10:00 am. Lecture Service/Messages, 11:00 am. Lecture Guest Speaker: Rev. Beatrice Balice. Rhonda’s Halloween Psychic Fair, 1:30-4:30 pm. Monday, Oct. 24: Spiritual Healing Classes, 6:30-8:30 pm. Tuesday, Oct. 25: New Moon Meditation, 7:00- 9:00 pm. Friday, Oct. 28: Meditation/Message Circle, 6:45-8:00 pm. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

SAN DIEGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
“Celebratory Pipes”
Enjoy theSchantz pipe organ, organist Janice Stewart in a Schantz pipe organ, organist Janice Stewart. Playing the Schantz pipeorgan, organist Janice Stewart plays “celebratory pipes.”

FREE WEEKLY SATSUN/SATURDAY
And Monthly Free Vegetarian Meal. Sundays, 10:00 am to 12 noon Science of Spirituality—San Diego. (619) 884-3791.

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And Monthly Free Vegetarian Meal. Sundays, 10:00 am to 12 noon Science of Spirituality—San Diego. (619) 884-3791.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO
Saint John’s Bible Print Exhibition
The Saint John’s Bible is the first commissioned hand-written, illuminated Bible in over 500 years. Discover its beauty and splendor at this exhibition of 25 reproduction art prints, Sundays, Oct. 2 to 30, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Saturdays, Oct. 8 to 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. MISSION VALLEY 2111 Camino del Rio South (619) 297-4368

FREE WEEKLY SATSUN/SATURDAY
And Monthly Free Vegetarian Meal. Sundays, 10:00 am to 12 noon Science of Spirituality—San Diego. (619) 884-3791.

SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE
First United Methodist Church of San Diego
Saturday, October 23: 10:00 am. Lecture Service/Messages, 11:00 am. Lecture Guest Speaker: Rev. Beatrice Balice. Rhonda’s Halloween Psychic Fair, 1:30-4:30 pm. Monday, Oct. 24: Spiritual Healing Classes, 6:30-8:30 pm. Tuesday, Oct. 25: New Moon Meditation, 7:00- 9:00 pm. Friday, Oct. 28: Meditation/Message Circle, 6:45-8:00 pm. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

SAN DIEGO UNIVERSITY
Symposium on Moral Courage
Sunday, October 30, 1:00–5:00 pm. San Diego State University, EUMC 333. Edwin Black on the Holocaust; Richard Hovannisian on Armenia; and Rose Mapendo on Genocide and Survival in Congo. Co-sponsored by SDSU Initiative for Moral Courage and SDSU Common Experience. For details: http://moral- courage.sdsu.edu. SDSU 5500 Campanile Drive (619) 594-5200

CELEBRATION CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING
Spiritual But Not Religious

LA JOLLA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
A Church Alive Is Worth the Drive!
Sunday Worship 10 am. Dr. Clayton Ford, Pastor. Corner of Center and Draper. www.lajollacf.org. LA JOLLA 627 Center Street (858) 454-9638

RENEWED LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bible Classes Sundays and Wednesdays
9:45 am Sundays join us for the study of Matthew. Wednesdays at 10 am we are starting a new study on Prayer. Sunday worship times are 8:30 am Traditional; 11 am Praise and Worship. For more about us and our ministries, visit our website: ourrenewedlutheran.com. CITY HEIGHTS 1370 Euclid Avenue (619) 282-0757

SAN DIEGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
“Celebratory Pipes”
Enjoy theSchantz pipe organ, organist Janice Stewart in a Schantz pipe organ, organist Janice Stewart. Playing the Schantz pipeorgan, organist Janice Stewart plays “celebratory pipes.”

Free Weekly Satsun/Saturday
And Monthly Free Vegetarian Meal. Sundays, 10:00 am to 12 noon Science of Spirituality—San Diego. (619) 884-3791.

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And Monthly Free Vegetarian Meal. Sundays, 10:00 am to 12 noon Science of Spirituality—San Diego. (619) 884-3791.
GALLERIES

“Paint + Sculpt” Opening reception for exhibition of paintings by Pat Kelly and sculpture by Yigal Ben-Aderet. See exhibition, which includes Ben-Aderet’s mixed-media constructions created from Oaxacan sugar skull with colorful royal icing, feathers, foil, sequins, more. Participants learn about Dia de los Muertos customs and leave with a completed, decorated skull class led by Ana Ibarra and Maryann Last. Saturday, October 22, 6:30pm; $5-$20. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Siliness Interrupted” Opening reception for exhibition of works in a variety of media by six local artists curated by Mesa College Museum Studies Program. Closes Saturday, October 22, 6:30-21:30. Thursday, October 20, 20; free. Space Art, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

“The Ireland Paintings” Unveiling reception for exhibition of paintings by Paul Strahn. Saturday, October 22, 5pm; free. O’Dunn Fine Art, 8325 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Nature Photographs Reception for Thomas Mangelsen, who will share “stories from his recent travels,” signs his works. 858-551-9553. Saturday, October 22, 2pm; free. Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

“A Taste of the Mediterranea” Wine historian Barbara Baxter focuses on the “diverse art, culture, history, and wine” of Mediterranean Sea area. No food or wine served. Thursday, October 20, 20; 6pm; free. La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

“Art and Architecture, Sustainability and the Social Realm” Catherine Herbst (Woodbury University), Chris Genik (New School of Architecture), Rob Quigley (architect), David Antin (author, poet, scholar) speak for “Dialogues in Art and Architecture” series. This year’s theme: “Then, Now, and Beyond: The Evolution of Dialogues in Art and Architecture over 20 years toward Interdisciplinary and Social Practices the Environment and Sustainability.” 858-454-5872. Thursday, October 20, 7:30pm; free. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)


“Masterpieces in Miniature: Illuminated Books of the Middle Ages” Elizabeth Morison, curator and acting head of manuscripts at the Getty Center, speaks for “Lunch and Learn” class presented by San Diego School of Christian Studies. Registration: 619-297-4366. Sunday, October 23, 12:30pm; $10. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South. (MISION VALLEY)


“Tattoo Me” Artist Diana DeAu- gustine demonstrates traditional tattooing techniques, discusses “her focus on the hybrid art form of tattooing and painting with the intent to move fluidly between both mediums to create…” dialogue about the body, skin, and metaphorical images. 619-280-8408. Thursday, October 22, 4pm; free. Vintage Religion, 3821 32nd Street. (NORTH PARK)

“The Wandering View: Jewish Immigrants in World Cinema” SDSU professor Lawrence Baron speaks for Mandelbaum Family Lecture Series. 858-362-1327. Thursday, October 20, 10:30am; free. Concordo Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

“Amazonian Shamen Share Wisdom” Ansuara yoga founder John Friend hosts “Elder Amazonian Shamen,” sharing “wisdom, understanding of natural plant medicines, indigenous living,” threats to “their lives due to destruction of rainforest and technological advancements.” Donation: $10. 858-456-2412. Thursday, October 20, 2pm; $10. La Jolla Yoga Center, 7741 Page Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Beginning Surveys for Wildlife Trackers Prepare to participate in surveys with San Diego Tracking Team monitoring wildlife in preserves and other critical areas. Classroom time supplemented with field time in hand. Bring sack lunch. Fee includes reference materials. 760-715-4102. Registration: sdttinfo@gmail.com. Saturday, October 22, 8am; $35. Los Peñasquitos Ranch, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

End Time Mondays Is there the world coming to an end? What is the Mark of the Beast? Will there be a Rapture? Discover what the Bible says about Last Day Events at our ongoing Bible Prophecy Seminar every Monday! Questions? Call 760-723-7733. Monday, October 20, 27pm; $12. Vintage Religion, 3900 Vermont Street. (NORTH PARK)

The Mission Valley Craft Beer and Food Festival is proud to announce the most frightful holiday at San Diego’s premiere Halloween block party. The 11th Annual Dos Equis XX Monster Bash will take over more of its 300,000 square foot of Presidio Park. We award two Ultrastar movie passes for your travel story (plus $10 for photo) to run in the Reader’s Gather No Moss section. Just want to send photo? We award two award-winning movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. To submit a story and/or photos: Scroll down Reader homepage (SDReader.com) and click on Travel.
The Bach Collegium recently performed Mozart’s A Beautiful Requiem stained for more.

A BEAUTIFUL REQUIEM STAINED

The Bach Collegium recently performed Mozart’s Requiem at St. James by the Sea in La Jolla and at Crill Auditorium on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University. I caught the Point Loma rendition.

Both the orchestra and chorus were tight the entire evening. There were a few minuscule missteps but nothing worth mentioning.

Bach Collegium founder and music director Ruben Valenzuela conducted. His tempos were quick and exciting. I found the rhythmic energy of the orchestra and chorus to be thrilling.

In San Diego, we rarely get the chance to hear a chorus that is composed exclusively of competent singers. The chorus was confident and clear. There were no sections that were musically murky.

The music-making was first rate, and this was almost an extraordinary concert. Except...

The quartet of soloists were all from out of town. The soprano and tenor were from Los Angeles, the mezzo-soprano was from Chicago, and the baritone was from the East Coast.

The Bach Collegium is a local ensemble and has no business flying soloists in from across the country. This type of activity drives me nuts.

The biographies of the soloists were impressive, but the same composers and arias were included by nine singers. Of those nine, three were “Quando me’n vo” (“Musetta’s Waltz”) from La Boheme. For some reason, this Puccini aria is allowed without question. No one included Wagner.

Mozart, Handel, and anyone else who was pre-Verdi are in. Verdi and Puccini, caution. Wagner? You’d better blow the doors off the building.

Them’s the unwritten rules.

I’m not sure why this standard exists. There is no evidence that Mozart wrote music for young, unaccomplished singers. I’d say it’s the other way around. I think to sing Mozart, a singer must have the ultimate musical and vocal technique.

After lunch, the level of singing was different. We were no longer hearing singers with potential, we were hearing accomplished singers with a few layers of polish, to boot.

The three singers who passed on to Los Angeles were, in alphabetical order, Sasha Hashemipour, Christen Blair Horne, and Karin Michelle Wilcox. Ms. Hashemipour went to Rancho Bernardo High School and is currently at the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Ms. Horne is an undergraduate at Point Loma Nazarene. Ms. Wilcox graduated from Point Loma Nazarene, spent two years as a “core” chorister with San Diego Opera, and has been accepted into the graduate program at USC.

Remember I mentioned that youth rules? Their respective ages were 23, 21, and 25.

For myself, the best overall performance was by Sarah Eve Brand. Her singing of “Steal Me Sweet Thief” from Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief contained a level of emotional content that moved me.

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY PHYRRIFIC

The San Diego Symphony is on fire. Their opening weekend was an orchestral tour de force.

The first half of the program was Berlioz’s Roman Carnival Overture and Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G Major.

After intermission we heard Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G major for the Left Hand and Respighi’s Roman Festivals.

The Ravel Piano Concerto in G, particularly the second movement, is a piece of music that holds a special place in my life’s soundtrack. After the Berlioz and the first movement, I knew my precious second movement was in good hands but I didn’t expect it to bring me to tears. There was nothing more I could have asked of pianist Jean Yves Thibaudet.

According to the program, the San Diego Symphony is now a Tier One orchestra. No doubt. In the Ravel G Major, several of the principal players had exposed solos, and they delivered perfectly. Benjamin Jaber (principal horn) and Sarah Skuster (principal oboe) particularly caught my notice.

I remember the days when the symphony’s strings were penurious and the brass shamed themselves at least once during the course of the concert. Those days are long gone.

Find more classical reviews online at SDReader.com/classical.
CLASSICAL MUSIC

“Celebratory Pipes” Playing the Schantz pipe organ, organist Janice Stewart “celebrates newly added ranks with a variety of musical genres.” 760-753-6542. Sunday, October 23, 7pm; free. Star of the Sea Parish, 609 Pier View Way.

“Missa Brevis” Kodály’s work is on the program when 150-voice San Diego Master Chorale performs. 619-297-4366. Sunday, October 23, 7pm; free-$10. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Mozart – Prague” Mozart wrote more than 30 piano concertos, performed many of them himself. Pianist Ines Irawati joins Orchestra Nova to perform his “Piano Concerto No. 20.” Program includes La Clemenza di Tito overture and “Symphony No. 38 (Prague Symphony).” 858-350-0290. Saturday, October 22, 7:30pm; $26-$46. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

“Song of Fate” Palomar Symphony, Chorale, and Chamber Singers joined by Miracosta College Masterworks Chorale to perform the Brahms “Chicksalised (Song of Fate),” Tchaikovsky’s “Roméo and Juliét,” and “Symphony in C” by Bizet. Donation. 760-744-1150 x2453. Sunday, October 23, 4pm; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15489 Espola Road. (POWAY)

“Ten for Ten” Ten amateur pianists each perform classical selections for ten minutes during Amateur Pianists of San Diego recital. Spectators welcome. 619-850-1669. Saturday, October 22, 12pm; free. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS BANCH)

Global Spirit Oceanside Music Festival concert of medieval and liturgical music by the Goliards, showcasing musical treasures of Europe’s medieval, Renaissance, baroque periods performed on period instruments. Program includes Tri-City Christian School Praise Singers. Offering. 760-433-3632. Sunday, October 23, 2pm; St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, 609 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

Hugo Wolf Quartett The young, Vienna-based quartet performs selections by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Hugo Wolf for ArtPower concert. 858-534-8497. Friday, October 21, 8pm; $50. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Music on the Mesa Recital by classical and jazz guitarist Bill Jones. 858-573-1396. Sunday, October 23, 2pm; free. Serra Mesa Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KE- ARNY MESA)

Spanish Brass Fallbrook Music Society hosts concert by ensemble hailing from Valencia, Spain, performing music spanning the centuries with “something for every taste.” 760-451-8644. Sunday, October 23, 3pm; $38-$10. Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts, 2400 South Stagecoach Drive. (FALLBROOK)

U.S. Premiere Orchestra Event Thai composer S.P. Somtow will conduct the Montage Civic Orchestra in the U.S. Premiere of selections from his opera Mac Naak, with Mozart’s “Violin Concerto No. 3,” and Haydn’s “Symphony No. 104.” Additional performance October 30 at Fullerton College Campus Theater. Ticket prices: $20 in advance, $25 at door. Contact for tickets www.montagearts.org, or 760-681-6616; 619-623-1875. Saturday, October 29, 7pm. College Avenue Baptist Church, 4747 College Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)
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That's Not Rockabilly.

Newly appointed Del Mar Fair trustee David Lizerbram says he wants the fairgrounds to host more major music events. That’s just not going to happen, host more major music events. He wants the fairgrounds to trust me. He had to pay $17,000 to the fairgrounds, which included rent and security. Although Thayer paid for the guards, he says some didn’t care about doing their job. “I know a lot of people snuck in the back gate. They just said they were vendors and they’d let them drive right through. And even though we had wristbands, they would just let anybody backstage [without wristbands].” Thayer estimates hundreds got in for free.

Thayer says the good will from those who attended will help him pack his fest next year, but, he says, the way the fairgrounds does business makes it impossible for outside promoters to make money.

“They have a 100 percent control over everything. They control all the food and beer concessions. No one else can come in. I just wanted a couple food booths, but they told me that all these other people had to come in who took up a bunch of my prime real estate. I didn’t have any say, even though I rented the space.” Thayer says the unwanted food stands took valuable space away from his sponsors and other booths.

But Thayer says the biggest racket was the beer garden, which was slammed all day long. “They killed it. Those people were drinking hard. Pabst Blue Ribbon was my sponsor, but the fair is sponsored by Coors. I had to fight with them just to get them to carry 16-ounce PBR cans, which cost them, like, 75 cents and which they sold for $8.50. I tried to get them to sell tall boys, but they wouldn’t do it. They stocked so little PBR that they sold out by 1 o’clock. So, all these people had to drink Corona or Heineken, which is not rockabilly.

“On top of the $17,000 I gave them in rent, they must have made another $30,000 in alcohol sales. This chick in San Diego put on an anti–Hellbilly festival with attendance in the thousands. I had one guy who was a big Junior Brown fan who wanted to come down from San Francisco and cook 21 lobsters for Brown and his friends backstage, but the fair said no.”

And then there was the Mojo Nixon dictum. “Mojo was the MC. They told me I couldn’t have a T-shirt vendor sell ‘Lucky Fuck’ T-shirts. It’s, like, ‘What the fuck am I paying you all this money for?’

The event was supposed to raise money for charity. “St Jude’s [Children’s Hospital] got screwed because there were no proceeds. All I got for them was a hollow-body guitar donated by Gretsch and signed by Wanda Jackson and Junior Brown.”

Thayer says he would like to have a local casino host the 2012 Hellbilly Fest. “I had over 2500 people who had the most amazing time.”

— Ken Leighton

TV Skews: Singer-songwriter Kevin Martin, frontman for Get Back Loretta, is best known for his Beatle-esque melodies. Indeed, the Vista resident’s new solo album is titled Throwback Pop. However, the Occupy San Diego movement has inspired Martin to make the video for his song “TV News” a political statement.

Ongoing since October 7, Occupy is centered on activities at Civic Center Plaza downtown. According to Kayla Ward, an event organizer with Occupy, performers who have taken part in the rally were chosen from a list of volunteers, in order of their availability. “The policy — ours and the city’s — is that the musicians must play acoustic music,” she said.

Artists who have performed include ‘Todo Mundo, Liquid Blue, and Martin, whose appearance October 8 was more impromptu.”

The live footage was captured by photographer Steven Brannen using a hand-held camera. The finished video, which was posted to YouTube the same day, incorporates the studio version of the song with footage of the NYC Occupy Wall Street protests. At press time, the clip had garnered more than 1600 views in three days.

The reason for Martin’s visit to Occupy San Diego was his belief that news media had not done a fair job of covering the events. “The Occupy movement has gotten a lot of negative press, and I wanted to...”
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Mr. Martin says performers have a duty to speak out. “I think music has a great capacity to inspire people. That’s the main reason I wanted to have my music video linked to the movement. I really want to empower people to stand up for what they believe in and be fearless while doing so.”

Though Martin considers the Occupy movement to have merit, he’s also realistic about change. “Protesting is great, but at the end of the day we need to get involved with our local government and vote. Our real power is going to come from exercising our democratic right to vote. So the protests should really just be to get the word out that things need to change.” — Bart Mendosa

**The Nice Godfather.** “I’d been living in pain and without health insurance for about six years,” says Cathryn Beeks, who nonetheless managed to promote over 500 local concerts during that time period. “I finally got insurance and had an MRI, which showed a fairly large, presumably benign tumor called a schwannoma growing on my spinal nerve, in and out of my L4 and L5.”

Beeks underwent surgery in late July to have the tumor removed.

“It took almost eight weeks for me to be able to walk normally again, but I’m getting better every day and am out of the horrible pain. I’m finally sleeping…back to work hosting my shows…and I’m looking forward to performing again in the near future.”

A Cathryn Beeks Appreciation concert happens November 11 at downtown’s Hard Rock Café, with proceeds going around which anyone is invited to have my blessing, you’re going to have my blessing, you’re going to have my blessing, you’re going to have my blessing.”

— Josh Damigo

**Summer Mencher.** “Cathryn was the first person to give me a show outside the coffeehouse scene,” says Josh Damigo. “I was nervous knowing the local scene. “She’s the one person every beginning singer-songwriter has to know when they start playing music in San Diego,” says Kellyn Eng, who began performing for Beeks’s events at downtown’s Dublin Square in 2007. “She’s like the nice version of the Godfather. If she gives you her blessing, you’re good to go.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Film Trailer puts the Focus on Hocus

*By Dave Good — Oct. 17, 8:59 a.m.*

Jamie Shadowlight Quintet at Dizzy’s

*By Robert Bush — Oct. 16, 7:44 p.m.*

Nug Radio: “We’ll Still Be Around”

*By Dave Good — Oct. 14, 11:10 a.m.*

San Diego Brainbomb Two Festival of Sound and Visuals

*By Chad Deal — Oct. 13, 5:49 p.m.*

NY-LA Connection at the Saville Theatre

*By Robert Busch — Oct. 12, 7:03 p.m.*

Mike Keneally’s Potato Is Baked

*By Dave Good — Oct. 11, 1:18 p.m.*

Hargo: Phil Spector’s Final Hit Record?

*By Dave Good — Oct. 10, 1:10 p.m.*

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GAME
OCT 20
B-Side Players

CANE13
OCT 21

Dj Shadow
OCT 22

Halloween
OCT 28

Dead Man's Party

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La Vida Boheme
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NOV 18

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10/27: California Dream - A Fashion Show feat. Mr. Dubie
11/03: Local Hip Hop Showcase
11/05: Baile De 12 Corazones
12/02: The Springsteen Experience
Thursday 20
A couple NorCal indie hits bring it south to Belly Up, as garage-punk's rising stock Ty Segal takes the stage with slack-rock icon Stephen Malkmus. I saw Segal at this year's FYF and dreads. Melted fuzz-pop show tout showhouse the sun and swallowed dance dust in his unknown-hit parade caught the crowd of kids by surprise, inspiring soda-pops smiles and silly dances. (Yeah, me too.)

One-time Pavement great Stephen Malkmus is now a jester for Portland troupe the Jicks. Word on the wire is that after this troupe the Jicks Malkmus is now a jester for Portland and silly dances. (Yeah, me too.)

Friday 21
Dateline: Philadelphia — Kurt Vile leaving the War on Drugs was like splitting the atom. Vile, the free radical, finds his voice and composes Matador masterpiece Smoke Ring for My Halo. Look for it in your local indie music store...hope and on many or most indie cats' year-end lists. It's one of four absolute keepers released this year. I'll give you the other three for Christmas.) Meanwhile, War on Drugs cofounder Adam Granduciel was readying his excellently Secretly Canadian set Slave Ambient. When I saw the hype on this disc, I was very ready to hate it. It's unutterable. Unless you hate on Dylan, man, and trinkle-down musicnomics. Slave follows Smoke Ring in my truck's carousel, which gets me to Carvel Peak and back nicely, thanks. It's driving music, on several levels. The War on Drugs' barb is on Soda Bar, or Philly friend and neighbor Mike Polizze, aka Purling Hiss, who's out to tout his new psych-rock offering Lounge Lizard...if you miss the show at Soda Bar when this show sells out, and it will, your night's not totally lost: you got San Diego's garage-pop throwbacks Nashiville Ramblers rolling into Ti-Two, which according to Mapquest is exactly 1.4 miles east on El Cajon Blvd...and SanFran-shout-out punk band Wax Idols touring with Terry Maltes through Tower Bar, which according to Dora the Goth Explorer is just through Cannibal Land, about three and a half miles southeast...and-school is on the Business shakes down the Shakedown...4th&B stages Latin hip-hop-n-dance bands Calle 13 and 2 Side Players...Mexican death-metal act Brujeria brings witchcraft music to Brick by Brick...while country-fried singer-songwriter Lewis Royalull„inducted this year into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, wheels his baby grand into Belly Up.

Paul Simon, winner of 12 Grammy Awards, including Lifetime Achievement Award, will revisit his extensive songbook out at Viejas Arena. He's my mom's absolute fave, and my revisit his extensive songbook out at Viejas Arena including a Lifetime Achievement Award, will reportedly bring down the Shakedown...4th&B stages Latin hip-hop-n-dance bands Calle 13 and 2 Side Players. Mexican death-metal act Brujeria brings witchcraft music to Brick by Brick...while country-fried singer-songwriter Lewis Royalull, inducted this year into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, wheels his baby grand into Belly Up.

Saturday 22
Saturday, September 17, marks the release of the new Teddy Bears album, "Lone Desire." The band will be playing at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach to celebrate the release. The show will feature a setlist of new songs, as well as some of their classic hits.

From NYC, one of “the big four,” thrash-metal scourage Anthrax hits House of Blues behind this year’s Worship Music. The makershift band’s tenth proper and first in nearly a decade has been a critical hit across the metal-media universe. And just because I know you want to know, it’s Joey Belladonna manning the mic Monday night. The replacement’s replacement’s replacement’s replacement John Bush has left the building. Again. Testament and Death Angel up first...Bunch of fun sleeper sets around town, too, which is weird for a Monday night, but check it out: Hotlanta band Gringo Star will drop their new collection, Count Yer Lucky Stars, on Tuesday — like, tomorrow, so you know they’ll be it. The garage-rock quartet plays Casbah with Subsurfer and New Kinetica...Silverlake’s up-and-coming-alt-pop act Voxhaul Broadcast is out at Bar Pink behind debut Timing

Sunday 23
Get some laundry done, your room sinks

Monday 24
From NYC, one of “the big four,” thrash-metal scourage Anthrax hits House of Blues behind this year’s Worship Music. The makershift band’s tenth proper and first in nearly a decade has been a critical hit across the metal-media universe. And just because I know you want to know, it’s Joey Belladonna manning the mic Monday night. The replacement’s replacement’s replacement’s replacement John Bush has left the building. Again. Testament and Death Angel up first...Bunch of fun sleeper sets around town, too, which is weird for a Monday night, but check it out: Hotlanta band Gringo Star will drop their new collection, Count Yer Lucky Stars, on Tuesday — like, tomorrow, so you know they’ll be it. The garage-rock quartet plays Casbah with Subsurfer and New Kinetica...Silverlake’s up-and-coming-alt-pop act Voxhaul Broadcast is out at Bar Pink behind debut Timing

Tuesday 25
Tuesday, it's got to be San Joe rootsica band the Mumlers at Casbah with He's My Sister. I know that's not their name, but it's a way better name, like Kera & The Lesbians, who are also on the bill. Mumlers are still touring behind good and ghostly Don’t Throw Me Away.... San Dago’s own Joshua White finished a finalist in this year’s international Thelonious Monk-a-thon thing. You can check out some of Josh’s original comp at Dizzy’s downtown.... Ahoy, polio! from NYC, “past-classical” string quartet Ethel at the Loft at UCSD.

Wednesday 26
I got a couple humpnight hits, as Ramones tribute Hey! Ho! Let’s Go! plays an early show at the Stage downtown. And if you’re not into the hairband thing they got planned afterward...House of Blues hosts a load, as the Pac Sun PacTour takes the downtown stage featuring big-time alt-pop acts Manchester Orchestra, White Denim. Dear Hunter (not Deerhunter), and Little Hurricane. You remember them... — Bamby Monk

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### Upcoming Shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Show</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>BLUSS IBC Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>LED Zeppelin 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>See &amp; featuring members of Thievery Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Judy Collins - Seated Show!</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Ra Ri Riot</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears w/The Sheepdogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>The Expendables</td>
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<td>11/5</td>
<td>Stepping Out</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td>Jay Farrar</td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>Company of Thieves</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Jim Jeffries - Comedy Show!</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>They Might Be Giants</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Lotus</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Strong Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Stephen Stills - SOLD OUT!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Jay and Silent Bob Get Old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Wilson Mowen and Kevin Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Platinum Rockstars</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>Wild Child</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>Chris Isaked Christmas Show</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>Floyd FX performing Wish You Were Here</td>
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<td>B.B. King</td>
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<td>Leo Kotke</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>Leo Lobos</td>
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<td>12/3</td>
<td>The Mickey Hart Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Peter Murphy and She Wants Revenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>The Chris Robinson Brotherhood</td>
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<td>12/11</td>
<td>Blind Boys of Alabama w/Sara and Susan Wiklins</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Digitalism (Live Show)</td>
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<td>12/13</td>
<td>Dinosaur Jr. performing 806 in its entirety</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>The Manzarek-Rogers Band (feat. Doors keyboardist Roy Manzarek and Roy Rogers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Venice Christmas Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Shaun Colvin</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>Pinback</td>
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<td>12/22</td>
<td>A Cash’d Out Christmas</td>
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<td>12/23</td>
<td>Crocker and Camper Van Beethoven</td>
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<td>12/28</td>
<td>Leftover Salmon</td>
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<td>12/31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>English Beat</td>
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<td>Wayward Sons and the Petylbreakers</td>
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<td>Kindness &amp; Fury</td>
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<td>Mark Hummel’s Blues Bloweat</td>
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<td>Celtic</td>
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<td>Las Lonely Boys</td>
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</tbody>
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### Happy Hours!

5:00 PM • 10/21 Atomic Groove • 10/28 The Brokers

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“I was 28 years old and got in a shoving match with a pushy transvestite at a bar in Copenhagen.”

Tropi-Cali act Red Pony Clock has a fluid lineup ranging from 10 to 13 members, and they describe their music as “clarinet and xylophone-driven vaudeville-a-delic joy pop, influenced by mariachi and seething with the eternal teenage spirit.”

“Most of the members are first-generation Mexican-Americans,” says bandleader Gabe Saucedo, “and we listen to a lot of stuff, including music native to our homelands. Eventually, though, everything we like makes its way into our music — it all runs through the same filter of barely adequate musicianship.” The band is working on a music-based animated children’s story, The Legend of the Red Pony, featuring multimedia images and filmed sequences, planned for release on DVD.

Featured respondents include Gabe Saucedo (guitar, vocals), Gerry Saucedo (bass, vocals), Melina Saucedo (violin), Dave Menchaca (drums), Samantha Abraham (vibraphone), and Normandie Wilson (marimba, piano, vocals).

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Samantha: “Electric Light Orchestra, Rubber Soul songs.”

Normandie: “The Flaming Lips. I laughed, I cried, and I left feeling more hopeful about life.”

WHAT SONG BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE?

Dave: “I was 16, in Newport Beach with three of my best friends, and we each drank a bottle of Boone's Farm Strawberry Hill and rented a Quad Cyclone bike.” Samantha: “A crazy-hat party at UCSD when I was 18. I can’t remember what type of hat I was wearing, but it might have been an empty case of Squirt.”

Gabe: “Lake, Giving & Receiving. They’re the new Fleetwood Mac.”

Melina: “Eating free samples at Costco.”

WHAT’S YOUR BIGGEST LIE YOU EVER TOLD?

Dave: “I once performed ‘You Won’t See Me’ from Rubber Soul to an ex-girlfriend and told her that I wrote it.”

Samantha: “I like to lie to myself and say it wasn’t a mistake to pursue a doctorate.”

Gerry: “I was 28 years old and got in a shoving match with a pushy transvestite at a bar in Copenhagen.”

Most Embarrassing Song in Your Collection?

Gabe: “Rihanna, ‘Umbrella.’”

Dave: “My stash of Coldplay B-sides.”

Samantha: “I got nostalgic for the 90s a few years ago and downloaded a bunch of Gin Blossoms songs.”

Normandie: “My huge collection of 1970s musical theater.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Samantha: “The Stooges in Lucerne, Switzerland, album at Copley Symphony Hall.”

Find more musician interviews online at SDReader.com/interviews
By William Crain

You often hear the word “American” thrown around when music shows the influence of blues, folk, country, and old-time rock ‘n’ roll. Those are all great ingredients, but why stop there? Why is jazz not “American”? Why isn’t hip-hop or hardcore punk? In the song “American Music,” the Violent Femmes sang, “Every time I look at that ugly lake, it reminds me of me.” That’s what America should be — something that reminds us of ourselves, even if it is sometimes ugly.

The War on Drugs combines country-ish guitars and freight-train rhythms with atmospheric indie-rock weirdness. The band came together in Philadelphia about six years ago after Oakland resident Adam Granduciel moved to the East Coast and met another songwriter named Kurt Vile. The two reportedly bonded over a shared love of Bob Dylan, whose influence shows up primarily in their often-cynical lyrics and their shared habit of sneering through their vocals. After Vile left for a re-warding solo career in 2008, Granduciel began playing up the electronics and hazy effects in his music. Today, critics twist themselves in knots trying to decide whether the War on Drugs sounds more like Bruce Springsteen or the Velvet Underground. It doesn’t much resemble either one. Nor does it sound a lot like Wilco, a band that works with similar influences. The War on Drugs just sounds like the work of someone re-creating American music in his own image, and doing it in a way that’s graceful. Purging Hiss and Carter Tanton also perform.

The War on Drugs: Soda Bar, Friday, October 21, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. $8-$10.

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**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

**Friday, October 21**
- 8pm — The Game. $12-$14.
- 8pm — Cici Porter. $5.
- 8pm — Crooners: A Swingin’ Salute to Frank Sinatra. $36-$42.
- 9pm — Sperling directs ensemble. $5-$8.
- 9:30pm — The Strikefits. Variety program. Free.
- 10pm — MakeUp Sex and Robert Schwartzman. $10.
- 10pm — Zone 4.

**Saturday, October 22**
- 8pm — Crooners: A Swingin’ Salute to Frank Sinatra. $36-$42.
- 8:30pm — Gringo Star, Subsurfer, New Kinetics. $8. Sunday, 8:30pm — Mumlars. $8-$10.
- 9pm — An Evening with Granduciel began playing up his solo career in 2008, with an interest in the East Coast and meeting another songwriter named Kurt Vile. The two reportedly bond over a shared love of Bob Dylan, whose influence shows up primarily in their often-cynical lyrics and their shared habit of sneering through their vocals. After Vile left for a rewarding solo career in 2008, Granduciel began playing up the electronics and hazy effects in his music. Today, critics twist themselves in knots trying to decide whether the War on Drugs sounds more like Bruce Springsteen or the Velvet Underground. It doesn’t much resemble either one. Nor does it sound a lot like Wilco, a band that works with similar influences. The War on Drugs just sounds like the work of someone re-creating American music in his own image, and doing it in a way that’s graceful. Purging Hiss and Carter Tanton also perform.

**THE WAR ON DRUGS: Soda Bar, Friday, October 21, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. $8-$10.**


Humphreys by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-222-3577. Monday, 7pm — David Cook and Gavin DeGraw. Rock/pop. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Celtic Thunder. Adult contemporary.


Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-222-3577. Monday, 7pm — David Cook and Gavin DeGraw. Rock/pop. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Celtic Thunder. Adult contemporary.


Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9pm — West of 5. Rock covers. Free.

Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9pm — West of 5. Rock covers. Free.


Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. Friday, 9pm — West of 5. Rock covers. Free.

San Diego Reader November 10, 2011

By Dave Good

The Drowning Men, I was told, were a band to catch next time they played in town. So I did, at Bar Pink, I believe, and here’s what I witnessed: cheery music, bleak lyrics. “I hear your mother’s a whore,” sang Nato Bardeen. “I hear your father’s a bore/This is how I see it,” or words to that effect. At times the music rang like the rough-hewn folk of Pete Seeger with what Flogging Molly saw in them — a strong dose of their own devil’s dance floor energy. FM took them out on their Green 17 tour earlier this year and then signed the Oceanside-based band to their Borstal Beat record label with plans to release previously self-released The Beheading of the Songbird this month.

Some reviewers see longshoremen in the roughness of the Drowning Men’s image. I see skater types working hard to remain unencumbered by the Modest Mouse gloom present in even their liveliest of songs (consider that it was Pail Jenkins of San Diego’s Black Heart Procession who produced Songbird). The founding core of the Drowning Men — Nathan Bardeen, Rory Dolan, and James Smith — met in grade school in Oceanside. They had a long history of garage jamming. Before DM came together, Bardeen played in the Plug Uglies. When that band imploded, he went looking for his childhood bandmates to start something new. It was the right time for the melding of their Tom Waits-Nick Cave influences, but according to their publicity they see themselves as something more. “We like to position ourselves as your last bit of hope,” says Bardeen. That’s a bit much to ask. A Scribe Amidst the Lions and the Tall Ships also perform.

DROWNING MEN: Soda Bar, Saturday, October 22, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. $8, $10.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/notes

The Band Perry

Sunday, October 30, 7:00 PM
Pala Events Center

All ages show! Under 21 years of age must be accompanied by parent or guardian.

PALACASINO.COM

For tickets visit the Pala Casino Box Office, call 1-877-946-7252 or go to StarTickets.com to buy online. To charge by phone call 1-800-595-3137.

From San Diego County and Riverside County: Take I-5 to Hwy 76, go east 5 miles from San Diego County & Los Angeles County: Take I-5 south to Hwy 76, go east 23 miles

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PALA CASINO

10th Anniversary

PALA

Saturday, November 12

Balboa Theatre

Tickets are on sale now!

www.palacasinocasino.com

Pink Martini

Saturday, November 12, 8:30 p.m.
Pala Events Center

Tickets are on sale now!
Ramblers.
Tuesday, 9pm — Applebrown Jazz Ensemble. With DJs Jared Kelly and Jason Townsend. Eclectic jazz. $3.

**Tin Can Ale House:** 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525. Thursday — Himalayan Bear. $5. Friday — Steamboat Satellites, Hello Electric, Pilots, Sneak Peak. $5. Saturday — Space Town Savior. $6.

**Tio Leo’s:** 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. Friday — The Red Elvises. Surf rock.

**The Tower Bar:** 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158. Friday — Wax Idols and Terry Malts.

**Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center:** 500 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley. Friday, 6pm — Jill Scott. San Diego Youth Action Board benefit. Soul/jazz. $65-$115.


**Viejas Arena:** 5500 Canyon Crest Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6947. Saturday — Glen Washington. Roots reggae. $12.

**Winstons:** 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Friday, 9:30pm — Mike Keneally. $18-$20. Saturday, 9pm — Canobliss.

**UPCOMING SHOWS**


**98 Bottles:** 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885. October 27 — In Motion Trio.


**Andaz San Diego:** 600 F St., Downtown, 619-849-1234. October 29 — Mad House Halloween Party.


**California Center for the Arts, Escondido:** 340 North Escondido Bl, Escondido, 760-839-4138. November 22 — Morrisey.


**The Coyote Bar & Grill:** 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. October 28 — Smokestaxx. October 29 — Gino & the Lone Gunns.

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San Diego:


October 29 — Daron Malakian and Daron Malakian & SOUGH, at Pechanga Resort & Casino.

October 30 — The Levellers, at Sycuan Casino.

October 31 — Molly Ringwald, at The Loft.

November 1 — The Blurs, at Soma.

Anniversary Tour with Manic Street Preachers.

November 6 — “Flume” from One Oh One Records.

November 7 — Jason Mraz.

November 8 — Hot Buttered Rum.

November 9 — Soundgarden.

November 10 — The Black Keys.

November 11 — The Joy Formidable.

November 12 — The Black Keys.

November 13 — The Main Street Jazz Festival.

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Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. November 4 — Delta Nove.

October 28 — The Levellers, at Soma.

November 1 — The Blurs, at Soma.

November 8 — Hot Buttered Rum.

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

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Please fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hour, P.O. Box 85003, San Diego, CA 92116, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

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

ALPINE
Donato’s Italian Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestics, $3.50 imports & house wine, $6 Long Islands, $3 wells.

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

BANKERS HILL
Azuki Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $5 large sake, $5 large Sapporo, sake. $2.50 well, $3.50 house wine. Miso, edamame, $.99.

BAY PARK
Bay Park Fish Company: Daily, 3-5pm: $2 fish tacos, 20% off sushi rolls, 25% off draft beers, wines by the glass, and appetizers.

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

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

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

Chart House: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 premium drafts, well grapes, $3 off cocktails, $6 martinis.

CARLSBAD
Bistro West: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: Discounted wine, draft, well, specialty martinis, bar appetizers.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Conway’s Irish Pub: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, $3.75 draft beers, well wine, house margarita.

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

CHULA VISTA
905 Sushi: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: $2.25 Bud Light, Corona, $4.50 large Kirin, Sapporo, sake, $2.50 off appetizers.

CITY HEIGHTS
The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

CLAREMONT
Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, Bud draft, Michelob bottles, Drifter Pale Ale. Discounted appetizers.

COLLEGE AREA
Pal Joey’s: Daily, all day: $3 personal pitchers.

CORONADO
Bistro d’Asia: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, $3.75 draft

beer, $4.50 house wine. $1 off hand rolls.

Coronado Boathouse 1887: Monday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic beers, $5 wine by the glass, $7 specialty martinis.

Costa Azul: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: $3 Bud Light pints, domestics, $3 imported beers, wells, house wine, singria, $3.75 drafts. $6 margaritas, mojitos. $2.95 tacos, $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

Village Pizzeria: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 beer, wine, $3 slices, 1/2-off appetizers. All day: $3 beer of the month.

DEL MAR
Brigantine: Daily, 4-6pm: $1 off Kenwood wines; $5.50 Georgia Peach Mezcalrona; Chardonnay, $4 Alaska white ale, Brig Brew golden ale, $4 house margarita.

Bully’s Del Mar: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 5-7pm: $3 bottle beer, $3 domestic pints, $4 microbrew pints, $4.50 well, $3 house wine by the glass, $6 wine by glass. 1/2-off appetizers.

DOWNTOWN
Buster’s Beach House & Longboard Bar: Daily, 2-6pm: $3 Buster’s pale ale, amber, $3.50 mai tai, margarita, Long Island Iced Tea.

Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4.50 20-oz. drafts, house wine, well liquor; $1 off appetizers.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 1-7pm: $2.50 domestic beers, $3 wines, $3 wells, Bud Light pints, $3 house wine, sangria. $3.75 drafts.

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm, 10pm-midnight: $2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, $3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria. 1/2-off seafood bar and appetizers.

House of Blues: Daily, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3 margaritas, Killer happy hour memo.

Patrick’s II: Daily, 11am-10pm: $2.50 bottle beer, $3 wells, Bud Light pints, $4 calls, margaritas, bloody marys.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: Daily, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

Time Out Sports Bar: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 4-7pm, $2.50 16-ounce draft Time Out Lager, Bud, Bud Light, San Seraffello, $3.50 1/2-off appetizers. Thursday, all day: Thrifty Thursdays: Buy one pitcher, get second 1/2-off.

Urban Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 9pm-close: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

EAST VILLAGE
Hive Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $2.50 sake, $3.50 well, $4 house wine. Miso, edamame, $9.99.

Lotus Thai: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 all drafts; $5 select wines, large Singha beer & all San Seraffello cocktails. $5 traditional Thai appetizers.

EASTLAKE
D’Lish Gourmet Pasta: Monday-Saturday, 3-5pm: $2.50 domestic beer, house wine, pizza slice. Texas-brisket slider, three St. Louis ribs.

Smokin’ Sam’s BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 domestic pints, wine, $3 sangria. Doggy happy hour: $2 beef & rib bones.

Bonita

November 2nd Tequila Dinner

November 2nd Tequila Dinner

Dinner Starts at 7pm

Reserve your seat today for one of our most popular tequila dinners of the year. Clase Azul will feature a different flavor tequila pairing with each of the 4 courses we provide for our event. Space is limited so call today to get your reservation guaranteed.

$65 per person for the event. For details call 619-297-4330 or at www.oldtownmexicofe.com

Bikes 4 Tykes Ride

October 22, 2011: 10AM

Join us this October for the 16th Annual Bikes For Tykes Ride here at Old Town Mex. Ride with us for an easy fun 8 mile bike ride starting and ending at the restaurant. Parking lot fiesta to follow the ride along with a raffle and brunch.

Get access to raffle prizes and t-shirts with only a $35.00 entry fee with all proceeds benefi ting "Make A Wish". Decorate your bike and have some fun with us. Downlaod, print and return the form and entry fee to us early to guarantee your t-shirt size for the event. For details call 619-297-4330 or at www.oldtownmexicofe.com

25¢ Wings Mondays

Daily Lunch Specials
11am-3pm

Sunday Brunch 9am-7
$3 Bloodies and Mimosas
Tuesday $1 tacos 8 $3 Margarita
Wednesday $1 Sliders

Happy Hour
3pm-7pm daily

Drink Specials and
1/2 off Appetizers

$3 Beer of the Month all day

www.oldtownmexicofe.com

SALSA SUNDAYS
Every Sunday
7:30 pm class by SalsaSD.com

5302 Napa Street • 619-542-1462

DOUBLE HAPPY HOURS
Monday-Friday 3-7pm, 11pm-close

Great Drink & Beer Specials

The original handmade tortilla makers of Old Town

Choose from chicken, beef, fish or carnitas.
Unless you outright loathe the good beer, you probably know the name Scot Blair. In fact, you’ve probably been to his University Heights, South Park, and City Heights bars, which specialize in select local and craft brews.

**Monkey Paw** is Blair’s most recent endeavor, a hybrid of Small Bar’s and Hamilton’s vibe with the added perk of cheesesteaks and, within the next few months, its own nanobrewery—a five-barrel system feeding a steady three or four taps that will be run under the guidance of CHUG club homiebrewer Derek Freeze.

Stained-glass windows, dark wood everywhere, and an open-air front yield a view of the downtown skyline. Its deliberately casual (if not somewhat old Irish) ambiance fits for lunching downtown businessmen, students, post-game Padres fans, and music/art kids from Golden Hill alike.

Monkey Paw’s 30 taps and two cask pumps of craft beer include local favorites such as Stone, Ballast Point, Green Flash, Mission, and Coronado, but the daring can opt for beer cocktails ($7.50) such as the Please, Chirmy I Have Another (gin, Cointreau, lemon, Chirmy white) and the San Diego Vodka Soda (hop vodka, lime, Anchor Steam), while mixtars can choose from 16 signature cocktails.

At $9–$11, the cheesesteaks run a little spendy but come with a choice of beef, chicken, or veggies piled on an Amaro-so roll with a side of waffle fries and are large enough to share. The Naughty Monkey Cheesesteak is very spicy and goes great with a pint of Stone Green Tea IPA, which packs flavor and punch without a hoppy bite.

Hot wings come in one-($9) or two-pound ($16) portions glazed in Guinness BBQ, hot buffalo, or “beer candy naked sauce.” Couple the menu with regular cask and food specials, and you’ve got one kick-ass gastropub.

Though the bar won’t be incorporating live music (unlike Blair’s Eleven club), the juke holds an assortment of classic, folk, glam, punk, and psych-rock alongside choice ’80s jams and rads such as Nick Drake and Willie Nelson.

The Monkey Paw’s cartoonish fez-capped simian logo lends the impression of a Chuck E. Cheese for big kids, and in a way, it is.
HAPPY HOUR

cocktails (Mejorita, Ginger Pear Smash, mint-leaf (uples, margaritas, & Caba Libre). $3 French dipper sliders, $5 charred potato & artisan cheese plate.

Puerto Ica Bocas: Daily, 4:30-7:30pm $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, wells, $6 house martini, 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 4:7pm: $2.50 drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 French fries, $4.50 chicken wings.

Devine Pastabilities: Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $2.50 drafts, Discounted wine by the glass. Three free bread holes with drink purchase.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: $3.50 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 domestic bottles.

Shakespeare Pub & Grill: Thursday, 4-7pm: $4.95 imported 20-oz. beer, $3.75 well drinks. Saturday, 10am-1am: $4.95 imported 20-oz. beer, $3.75 well drinks.

MISSION VALLEY

All American Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 selected craft beers, $5 specialty drinks, $2 off wine by the glass and graining menu.

Bing Crosby’s Restaurant and Piano Lounge: Daily, 5-8pm: $3 drafts, $5 wells, $6 glasses of wine, $7 house cocktails.

NATIONAL CITY

Buster’s Beach House and Longboard Bar: Daily, 2-7pm: $2.25 Bud drafts, $3.50 mai tai, Long Beach tea, margaritas.

NESTOR

Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, 5-8pm: $3.50 domestic tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Triple Crown Pub: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $1 off all drafts, $2 off pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: $1 off all drafts, $2 off pitchers.

NORTH PARK

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $1 off all domestic, $2.50 domestic bottle, $3.50 draft.

Cricket’s Pub and Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic, $6 domestic pitcher. 4-6pm: $2.50 domestic pints, $5 off domestic bottles, wells, pints.

Lips Restaurant: Sunday, all night: Industry Night, $3.50 wells, $5.50 calls, 25% off entrees & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

OCEAN BEACH

Cheswick’s West: Daily, 5-7pm: $3.25 wells, $2.75 domestic bottles, $4.50 microbrews, $6.25 domestic pitchers.

MISSION BEACH

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic/drafts, wells, $1 off premium beers/wine by the glass, $3 off pitchers. 1/2 off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2 off all drinks.

MIRA MESA

A Taste of Boston: Daily, 3-7pm: $2.25 Bud draft, $2.75 bottled beer (except Guinness), $3 drafts, $3.75 all wine. Discounted appetizers.

Callahan’s Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house beer, domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine, $1 off appetizers.

MIRAMAR

Abbey’s Real Texas Bar-B-Q: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 French fries, $4.50 chicken wings.

Devine Pastabilities: Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $2.50 drafts, discounted wine by the glass. Three free bread holes with drink purchase.

The Australian Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 domestic, wells, $3 off premium beers/wines.

Pacific Coast Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic, $3 off premium beers/wines.

PACIFIC BEACH

Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic appetizers. All-day happy hour specials include pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

SAN MARCOS

Cowshead Bar and Grill: Monday, Wednesday -Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic, 4-7pm: $3 domestic, 4-7pm: $3 domestic.

SANTÉ

Landre’s Sports Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks. $5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

SOLANA BEACH

Pacific Coast Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 gold margaritas, $1 off draft, wells, wines by the glass, 25% off wine bottles.

SOUTH PARK

Alchemyc: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off wells, including Skyck, Seagram’s, Jim Beam, Sauza Gold, $2 off wines/glass, draft.

TIERASANTA

JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2.50 wells, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.
The Skin I Live In
As Dr. Robert Ledgard in Pedro Almodóvar’s The Skin I Live In, Antonio Banderas has a John Boehner tan and a rather Republican attitude (cut, cut, cut). Experimenting in his luxurious home surgery near Toledo, Spain, the vanguard plastic surgeon does things to the human body that even El Greco, Toledo’s most plastically gifted painter, never imagined.

Is Robert carving a boyish stud who attacked his daughter into a transsex replacement because of incestual fixation on the suicidal girl? Why is his mother (Marisa Paredes), formerly the servant of his rich father, still a servant for Robert? Is his sexy new medical miracle, kept under lock and key, named Vera Cruz because of the classic Western? No, because she (the often pet-like Elena Anaya) has become the one true cross of Robert’s sado-erotic mania.

This being Almodóvar, we expect obscurities, shocks, kinks, tangents of loopy melodrama. Rape is staged beneath a grandiose Titian nude (a copy). There is an elegant display of high-tech dildos. A violent brother returns dressed as a carnival tiger with a ridiculous tail, like a horror-film joke. Almodóvar, film’s great gay celebrator of women, treats Anaya as a topic of perverse voyeurism.

Banderas, back in the Almodóvarian harness after two decades, is charismatic but dull, a hunk faking genius. The story sags with contrivance. We never get under the doctor’s skin. Those inspired movie ancestors, Georges Franju’s Eyes Without a Face and Marina de Van’s In My Skin, invade their subjects’ sick minds and stir our pity. Too cosmetic for genuine risk, The Skin I Live In is good on the surface, but it only skims the creepy depths. This is an art object posing. ★★

We Were Here
They came for fun and jobs and sex and freedom and because San Francisco is San Francisco. The Castro district became a nonstop gay carnival, but in 1979 their great spokesman Harvey Milk was murdered. And then AIDS arrived, as gruesomely mysterious as smallpox was to the Aztecs. Quickly

Win a Movie Ticket for Two!

Enter for your chance to win, visit the Reader website and click on “contests.” SDReader.com

Deadline to enter is Friday, October 21, at 1:00 pm. Limit one entry per person. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. This film is Rated PG-13.

anonymous-movie.com

IN THEATERS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
branded "gay cancer," it ravaged young men, took lovers and lives. Gay-ness became a vast funeral but then a family, a celebration of care more than death.

David Weissman and Bill Weber’s documentary We Were Here is a flood of sorrow and compassion, of stunning interviews and memorial footage, of disfiguration and transfiguration. The surviving witnesses are astonishingly genuine, including the tirelessly giving nurse Eileen (“I couldn’t turn my back”). The grim history, embraced so honestly, becomes more about life than death.

Margin Call
New York investment hustler Stanley Tucci is canned in a 2008 corporate die-off, having warned that the big, crucial numbers no longer made sense. That night the firm starts committing financial suicide, but its greed king (Jeremy Irons, mercilessly entertaining) decides there could be one last fat kill even as they trigger the epic collapse.

The Way
The Way travels well. Emilio Estevez directed, on the fabled pilgrim road from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, using a small crew and Super 16 film. His dad, famous actor Martin Sheen, plays the California doctor Tom, who gets word that his footloose son (Estevez) has died in a storm soon after starting the trek. Tom goes to France, then follows his memorial impulse to complete the trip in his son’s honor, carrying his ashes on foot for 500 miles.

The Way engages. No preaching, though “holiday Catholic” Tom recovers some faith. Vivid sites, yet not postcard tourism. New road friends, finely played by James Nesbitt, Deborah Kara Unger, and Yorick van Wageningen. Flexible, perceptive direction by Estevez. And (the heart of it) a major Sheen performance — often terse, sullen, and grieving, including one of the most credible drunk scenes ever filmed.

Footloose
Footloose, 1984: Kevin Bacon is the hip new boy in town (James Dean echo No. 627). Lori Singer and Chris Penn are cute teens. John Lithgow is the preacher who imposes a dance ban. Wormald (Dean variant No. 963) plays Ren, a cool new dude from distant Boston. Julianne Hough is the preacher’s daughter, with blue eyes and new road friends (including one of the most heartfelt moments ever filmed).

Onward to the remake from director Craig Brewer, of Hustle & Flow and The Poor and Hungry. Kenny Wormald (Dean variant No. 963) plays Ren, a cool new dude from distant Boston. Julianne Hough is the preacher’s daughter, with blue eyes and new road friends (including one of the most heartfelt moments ever filmed).

Take Shelter
Actor Michael Shannon has a Gothic stare beneath a craggy brow. He often looks like someone who might obsess on The Da Vinci Code or hammer medieval armor from soup cans. As Curtis in Take Shelter, he digs up his yard near a small Ohio town, feverishly expanding an old storm shelter and putting at risk his job, solvency, health insurance, and a crucial operation for his deaf daughter (Tova Stewart, an icon of sweet vulnerability).

His wife Samantha (Jessica Chastain, an icon of maternal care) cannot fathom his disturbing dreams, his visions of apocalyptic storms. Director and writer Jeff Nichols creates a humid aura of dread, a mental climate in which lucid realism relies on few (but good) special effects. Curtis might be crackers, and there is the rattling of an old family skeleton (mom Kathy Bates is schizoid). Alone, and spooked, Curtis makes irrational choices, such as building the big shelter when the old one could be cheaply refitted.

The talented Shannon is far into the role. But with so much fear and so few words (or ideas), Curtis seems muffled, vivid but also abstract. His panic is a stark metaphor of social anxieties, of good, plain, hard-working people who feel trapped in a punishing economy. No Tea Party rallies, yet we hear the inner howl. The ending is fuzzy, its mix of oil, water, and wind seeming to evoke hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Gulf spill.
The two Nics — Nicole Kidman, Nicolas Cage — have made some bad stars. [Nicolas Cage — have made some bad movies but remain major actors, real stars. Trespass is embarrassing. Joel Schumacher’s home-invasion thriller, using an awful script, spins so many dumb twists and cheap surprises that the story disintegrates.

Cage is a diamond dealer, Kidman his wife who designed their sterile 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.

America the Beautiful 2 — Darryl Roberts’s sequel to his 2007 documentary about slumberland obsession brings the male-fitness element forward — along with, as before, girls and women subjected to extreme beauty regimens. (GASLAMP 15; FROM 10/21)

The Big Year — Nature tourism lamely disguised as comedy. Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, and Jack Black play fanatical birders competing to see as many featherly critters as possible in one year. They run around the country, making cute faces between bird views, and clasy old actors (Anjelica Huston, Brian Dennehy, Dianne Wiest) are pitifully marginal. So many miles covered, so few laughs found — it should have been called It’s a Bird Bird Bird World. 2011. — D.E.

Contagion — A global plague quickly dispatches Gwyneth Paltrow, but Marion Cotillard and Kate Winslet carry on the fight as noble doctors. Lawrence Fishburne is the solemn voice of humane science, like Dennis Haybert intoning for Allstate Insurance. Steven Soderbergh directed with brisk, methodical care for the big film and small details, but this disaster movie could use some of the genre’s kitch kicks. It withers, and the bright, clinical imagery makes everyone (including Matt Damon, Elliott Gould, Jude Law, John Hawkes) seem like disposable dots in a petri dish. 2011. — D.E.

Blackthorn — A new Western classic, enough to make Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid seem like a sappy prequel. Old Butch (Sam Shepard), now called Blackthorn, hides out in deep Bolivia raising horses and loving a village woman (but still able to ride hard and shoot fast) when a Spanish mining engineer (Eduardo Noriega) leads him into harm’s way. The stuff about a pursuing consul (Stephen Rea) is hary. But the flashbacks are restrained, the Andean landscapes are brilliantly shot by Juan Ruiz Anchia, and Matoe Gil’s genre-hip direction of a strong script by Miguel Barrois lets Shepard achieve hard, smart, career-tinging form. This rugged satisfaction is close to Bud Boetticher’s Westerns about tested male rivalry and friendship. 2011. — D.E.

Buck — A great documentary portrait. Buck Brannaman, inspiration and advisor for Robert Redford’s The Horse Whisperer, seems able to get inside horses on an intuitive, spiritual level, gentling the animals (except one that is dangerously crazy) as he teaches them and their avoid owners. A survivor of paternal brutality, Buck is a real hero, without flaws, and has a plain-spun directness laced with charming stories. Even if you never ride horses, Cindy Meehl’s beautifully crafted movie is worth sadding up for, an equine and humane essay in life as cogently honest as Bud Boetticher’s classic Westerns. 2011. — D.E.

The Black Power Mixtape 1967–75 — There is something surreal about Swedish journalists, “fuelled by curiosity and naivete,” gaining unlimited access to America’s black-power movement. The raw footage is neglected for 30 years, as though waiting for documentarian Göran Olsson to liberate it. Add contemporary commentary by scholars and surviving activists, and the result is an intimate chronicle of a movement concerned with much more than racial discord. With Stokely Carmichael, AngelaDavis, and Bobby Seale. 2011. — S.M.

Dream House — We never glimpse the residence retiring publisher Daniel Craig and his family used to live in. That’s the first clue to cracking this thriller, which owes more than a little to The Shutter Island. After decades of administering dull, well-intentioned message movies, it’s nice to see director Jim Sheridan (My Left Foot, In America) finally deliver the goods with an old-fashioned haunted-house genre picture. With Rachel Weisz, Naomi Watts, and Elias Koteas. 2011. — S.M.

Dolphin Tale — A tale of a tail. The dolphin is Winter, 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. Charles Martin Smith (the actor from American Graffiti and Never Cry Wolf) directed with splashing confidence. Veteran stars do nicely (Ashley Judd, Harry Connick Jr., Kris Kristofferson, and prosthetics wizard Morgan Freeman), but it is the frisky beast and its kid pals (Nathan Gamble, Cori Czehlhorf) who keep this aquatic family entertainment so engaging. 2011. — D.E.

Drive — A tricky, unsettling, often riveting film, shot in a coldly glowing L.A. by Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn. Ryan Gosling, an update on Travis Bickle in Taxi Driver, has magnetic mystery as the lean, terse “hero” who drives hard, can fox-out.
films and music, and in a maddeningly racist way, Gerry welcomes the stuffy formal FBI man — played so well by Don Cheadle — as the two drug gangsters. If it’s a loose, sporty noir with comical dialogues, directed and written by John Michael McDonagh with a flashy flair for the people and settings. It even takes time to ponder Bobby Gentry’s thoughts might break the crust of complacency. — D.E. ★★★ (HILLCREST)

The Help — The young white ladies of Jackson, Mississippi (circa 1963) install additional bathrooms to avoid sharing a seat with the colored waitstaff. As a result, crusading young writer Emma Stone pens a tell-all, blasting the lid off bigotry. Working from a best-selling novel, writer/director Tate Taylor reduces all blacks to angels, whites are the devil, and the civil rights movement becomes a vehicle for petty humor (and worse). This makes Driving Miss Daisy look like cinéma vérité. I predict Octavia Spencer all around. With Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard, Octavia Spencer, Ceycely Tyson. — S.M. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; LA PALOMA)

The Ides of March — Facile but enjoyable George Clooney directed and stars as a presidential candidate, a glib liberal dream — apart from his Clintonian attraction to a naive intern (Evan Rachel Wood), who seems to be running on the Live Bait ticket. As a silky machine of ambition, he excites other tough guys: Paul Giamatti, Ryan Gosling, Jeffrey Wright, and, making a big stink about loyalty (1960), it foil Hoffmann (also a tough gal, Marisa Tomei as a barricada reporter). Nothing new here or as entertaining as 1964’s The Best Man, and the wink at abortion is silly, yet this ensemble effort maintains a curiously chill heat of interest. — 116

The Way — Flexible, perceptive direction by Estevez and a major Sheen performance in an international espionage thriller based on a true story, and then turns around and makes this shabby, shaky, seemingly endless parade of clichés, incoherent action, and generally bad storytelling. At least the sunlases look good. 2011. — M.L. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Love Crime — At 50, Kristin Scott Thomas’s impeccable bone structure and diocese (French, English) ratified her cool, rapacious “charm” as a business power schemer, in a Parisian complex of offices that reflect the classically elegant streets of Jacques Tati’s Playtime. Too soon, she’s gone (Imagine Meryl Streep exiting this film). Early we left with Ludwina 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-biz world loses force and begins to seem very programmed. 2010. — D.E. ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Mill and the Cross — A-Haunting We Will Go 1920. John Barrymore and his family inherit a dingy old house in a quiet town and a detective from a nearby city is in on a true story, and then turns around and makes this shabby, shaky, seemingly endless parade of clichés, incoherent action, and generally bad storytelling. At least the sunlases look good. 2011. — M.L. ★★★ (GLEASON 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Mill and the Cross — A great film based on a masterpiece. Polish director Luch Makszowy uses Peter Bruegel’s grand౨The Procession to Calvary in Vienna to open up its world. At the same time, the actors and actresses seem to fold into the painting, achieving a hybrid beauty and...
**MOVIE SHOWTIMES**

**EAST COUNTY**

**LA MESA**
Reading GROSSMONT 3900 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264)

| The Big Year (PG) Fri-Sun (3:25) | 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | 10:00, 10:30, 11:30 | 3:25, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 |
| Dream House (PG-13) Fri-Sun (9:40 p.m.) | 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 | 10:00, 12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 |
| Footloose (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:15) | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 |
| A Level Of March (PG) Fri-Sun (1:00) | 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 |
| SanTEE Drive In 19909 Woodside Avenue (619-445-7474) | Dolphin Tale (PG) | 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 | 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 |
| Dolphin Tale (PG) Fri-Sun (11:50) | 2:40, 6:50 | 2:40, 6:50 | 2:40, 6:50 |
| Dream House (PG-13) Fri-Sun (9:40 p.m.) | 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 | 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 | 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 |
| Footloose (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:15) | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 |
| The Three Musketeers (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:15) | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 | 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 |

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Santee Drive In

**SAN DIEGO**

**Mission Valley**

**San Diego**

**NATIONAL CITY**

AMC Plaza Bonita 3030 Plaza Bonita Drive (888-262-4386)
Para normal Activity B (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:00) | 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 |

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*http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm (National Statistics, local results may vary.) **Offered fully online by Stevens-Henager College® Salt Lake City/Murray, an affiliated college. • Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost.
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For more information on our programs and their outcomes visit www.go.kaplansandiego.com.
A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit your completed puzzle 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 1.5MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
2) And now for the really small print: You spell “Hors D’ Oeuvres” before you eat one, visit the punch bowl.
3) Fitness center
4) Firepit, lounge and BBQ area
5) Oversized hot tub
6) Pet friendly
7) Covered parking available
8) Custom Euro-style cabinetry
9) Stainless steel appliances
10) Fitness center

Across
1. Cabaret” director Bob
2. In-Box Fill: Abbr.
3. “Ca-Dabra” (1974 hit)
4. Brown shade
5. Short and not sweet
6. “Misery” actor James
7. Jackie___ First Strike” (1996 movie)
8. White House appointment
9. Prefix with meter
10. Rover’s favorite R&B group?
11. Storage with a bowl cut
12. Mid east grip
13. Dedicated verse
14. Spot’s favorite sitcom?
15. Record exec Gotti
16. Grandson of Abraham
17. Opposite of NW
18. Filler’s “Butt out!”
19. What ___ , chopped liver?”
20. Hank of hair
21. Comfy shoe, for short
22. Not left out: Abbr.
23. Petting
24. Rover’s favorite movie?
26. Grave letters?
27. Bygone French coin
28. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
29. Feudal estate
30. Prefix with meter
31. Chilling
32. Tote bag for school
33. Record exec Gotti
34. Grave letters?
35. Bygone French coin
36. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
37. Petting
38. Rover’s favorite movie?
40. Grave letters?
41. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
42. Rover’s favorite movie?
43. Bible study: Abbr.
44. Grave letters?
45. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
46. Petting
47. Rover’s favorite movie?
49. Grave letters?
50. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
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103. Petting
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106. Grave letters?
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154. Rover’s favorite movie?
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157. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
158. Petting
159. Rover’s favorite movie?
161. Grave letters?
162. Comment from a woman who’s been ogled a few too many times ... or this puzzle’s theme
163. Petting

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name:
Address:
City:__________________________ State:_________ Zip Code:__________

Personal Message: ____________________________

Please check one:

- T-shirt: S ______ M _______ L _______ XL _______

We will print the winners with rankings still be posted online at SDReader.com.

THREE WEEK’S WINNERS:

- Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 5. If your party hostess demands you spell “Hans D’ Owen” before you eat one, visit the punch bowl.
- Sandy Groves, Bonita. 1. It is hot; I can melt chocolate on the patio — it’s a little gritty, however.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont. 4. If you can be insidious, why can’t you be subliminal?

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A puzzler and a writer?

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 or T-shirts and we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: __________
Personal Message: ___________________________________

We are looking for a writer and a puzzler...

1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the
THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

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
not marked 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
two 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 92186-8581, 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 use the subject line with the use of 1701.
Submissions that don’t fit the form will not be posted. Do not submit any puzzle
containing words, numbers, symbols, or images.

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 SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY: ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛
MEDIAN: ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛
HARD: ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛
EVIL: ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛ ☛

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:

Momma Oakley, Oceanside, 1. I’ve washed my husband’s underwear for 47 years. Today he asked me if I love him.
Gary Ish, Rancho Bernardo, 4. I only eat natural foods, will I die from natural causes?
Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 4. don’t need willpower for my diet, I need won’t power!
Cole Macy, San Diego, 2. We can’t choose our friends, we are all victims of proximity.

We must have a puzzle and a message to win...
**shortcuts by ANDY BOYD**

**WHAT'S RIGHT WITH YOUR CAR?**

- BMW E60 M5 would be perfect, but I'm not sporty.
- Previously I thought a BMW E60 M5 would be perfect, but since I've owned a small car I think it would be the M1. The BMW M3 is the standard of excellence in cars. It would have to be a BMW Individual Daytona Violet E90 M3 with ZCP Competition Package and a 6-speed.

**CRAZIEST DRIVING RELATED THING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED?**

- One time, my friend was driving his M-roadster down Fletcher Parkway when he money-shifted down to 2nd. The rear wheels won't keep up so the car turns completely sideways at about 90 mph. He saved it, of course, but it was scary as all get out.

**FAVORITE RACING SERIES?**

- F1 (Formula 1), obviously. Though I am a big fan of WRC (World Rally Championship).

**SHORTCUTS:**

- The new section on the 52 has saved a whole lot of time for me. It isn't used by that many people so there's never any traffic. You can skip the surface streets of Santa Anita, which really improves my quality of life.

**REAL LIFE SHORTCUTS:**

- Poop while at work! Seriously, (a) getting paid to poop is an appealing concept, and (b) Let's do some quick math: 20 minutes per poop x 5 days per week = 100 minutes per week, 2 weeks x 100 minutes = $200 minutes per year = $33.33 per year I've been paid to take dumps. Getting paid to poop is an appealing concept, and (b) Let's do some quick math: 20 minutes per poop x 5 days per week = 100 minutes per week, 2 weeks x 100 minutes = $200 minutes per year = $33.33 per year I've been paid to take dumps.

- 15% has saved a whole lot of time for me. It isn't used by that many people so there's never any traffic. You can skip the surface streets of Santa Anita, which really improves my quality of life.

**WHAT'S YOUR COMMUTE?:**

- 15% has saved a whole lot of time for me. It isn't used by that many people so there's never any traffic. You can skip the surface streets of Santa Anita, which really improves my quality of life.

**WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVORITE DRIVE?:**

- Hitchhikers? No. I have Sync in a BMW 528i.

**PODS:**

- I love podcasts! I love seeing how we spend $100+ on groceries, but

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DRIVE?:**

- Basically I just walk to work. My commute is basically walking down the street.

**WHAT'S YOUR NEW HOME?:**

- My new home is perfect!}

---

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by Don Rubin

**Stamp Act**
Each of the images at the right is a partial impression from a “Dial-A-Phrase” stamp similar to the device illustrated.

Try to list these familiar stamped expressions below.

---

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:**

**Wired**
Solution:

---

**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!
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Foot Massage 1 Hour $19.99

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$10 off 40-min. massage w/table shower

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Del Mar Beaches, San Diego 2011 15


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PACIFIC BEACH, $750. Studio, 1BD+1BA, garden and parking. 2BD+1BA, 1BD+1BA, 1BD+1BA, large apartment, second floor. $1000 + utility deposit. 552 E 6th Street. 619-231-6000. www.HughesManagement.net.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1500. Lic. #2010028978 • Pets OK! 619-822-0093.


PACIFIC BEACH, $2295. 2BD+1BA, tropical house three blocks from bay. 1BD+1BA, 2BD+2BA, 2nd floor. Hot tub! Private front and backyard. Water damage in unit. Del Sol Property Management. 688-2209-0051.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1450. 2BD+2BA apartment. Open house Saturday, 10/22, 10:00-11:00. Excellent condition. Points Shores. New paint. Ceiling fan, deck, and parking. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH, $595 & UP. 1BD+1BA apartment. Open house Saturday, 10/22, 10:00-11:00. Excellent condition. Points Shores. New paint. Ceiling fan, deck, and parking. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH, $750. Studio, 1BD+1BA, garden and parking. 2BD+1BA, 1BD+1BA, 1BD+1BA, large apartment, second floor. $1000 + utility deposit. 552 E 6th Street. 619-231-6000. www.HughesManagement.net.


LA MESA, $975. 1BD+1BA. Garage, pool, laundry. No pets. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.


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LA MESA, $1333 & UP. Studio, $1095-1245; 1BD+1BA, $1395-1495; 2BD+1BA, $1795-2145. 24-hour fitness center. Laundry. No pets. 619-268-9585.


LA MESA, $1425. 1BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments. Close to SRF. No pets. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $1495. 2BD+1BA. In townhouse complex. 2-car garage, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $1550. 2BD+1BA. Close to SRF, pool, laundry, 2-car garage. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $1625. 2BD+1BA. Square footage: 1,024 sq ft. Close to SRF, shopping, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $1895. 2BD+1BA. In townhouse complex. 2-car garage, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $2100. 2BD+1BA. Unique, bright, spacious apartment. Rent includes cable, internet, water. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

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LA MESA, $2295. 2BD+1BA. In townhouse complex. 2-car garage, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.


LA MESA, $2500. 2BD+2BA. In townhouse complex. 2-car garage, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.

LA MESA, $2575. 2BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments. Close to SRF, shopping, pool, laundry. 619-461-5007 or 619-695-0525.
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SMOG CHECK *$18.75*

COOLING SYSTEM SPECIAL from $399
Includes flush radiator and up to one gallon of coolant. Special coolant extra. Most vehicles to 1995. With ad. Limited time offer.

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN $499
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from $1799
A/C. Most vehicles.

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Radiator and thermostat on most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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Includes flush radiator and up to one gallon of coolant. Special coolant extra. Most vehicles to 1995. With ad. Limited time offer.

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Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from $1799
A/C. Most vehicles.

TIMING BELT SPECIAL $50 off quoted price
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Dear Guy,

Your ad was interesting, but I decided not to pursue it further. I am looking for a place that is a bit closer to downtown. I found a few options that I think might suit my needs better.

Regrettably, I must decline your offer. I have learned that sometimes, even the most promising opportunities do not work out. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours,
A Rat
Dazzled by Krizia!

Restrained calls. CMT#14937. I-5, great massage. Relaxing, private spa treatments. Be dazzled with private therapies, fingertips massage and haute styles—pleasures of warmth, alluring.


COME ON, MAKE THE CALL. Take time to find the royal treatment! I give a seriously great massage. Relaxing, refresh your vibe. 858-454-2388.

TRUE LOVE MASSAGE: Tantra, deep tissue, by a well-trained Asian girl, Open 7 days, Lic. #34x, 858-581-5356. Please call 858-459-8346.

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AUTUMN SPECIAL BY ARIANA. Frankarce.com. #D, Pacific Beach, 858-581-3321.


NEW TAI CHI AND QI GONG Classes. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92103, 619-630-1155 or www.taisanctuary.org.

SHOCKS & STRUTS Special! Buy 1, Get 3 free! From $299 up. 3-Step – Starters Or Struts. Premium, $19.99** or Premium Plus, $24.99**. No oil filter extra. 5-qt. oil change included. Oil filter extra. Most years 1976 - 1995 $10 extra. From $130 up to $250. NO EXC.

60K/90K/120K Services 4-cyl. and 8-cyl. Extra. Platinum Plus specifics. Call for details.

Chris’s Auto Smog & Repair Center 2920 Damen Ave. #C & D (Behind In-N-Out Burger) 858-270-1388

Keep Cool for Summer! A/C check $249.

Sneak Peek: 1. Check belts and hoses & visual leak inspection.
2. Inspect steering gear.
3. Complete oil change & filter.
4. Inspect brakes:
   • Inspect brake fluid level
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   • Check brake shoes
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5. Check battery
6. Check lights
7. Check transmission
8. Inspect exhaust system

Dazzled by Krizia!

Deep tissue massage and sugar waxing for man by certified male therapist. Normal Heights location 11am-11pm, 7 days Lic #20101097. Call Gary at 866-414-4714. WWW.DAYTODAY.COM.


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ATLANTIS MOTHER EARTH. Energy Healing and Consulting. $10 Off 1st Visit with this ad: AOD, ODO, PTSD pain, stress, low energy, allergy, ancestry, weight loss, the right way! 2495 Drury Boulevard, Suite 101. Closed weekend. For your healing season... Farrah, 1-888-233-6677.

ENERGETIC HEALING/ REIKI/ Matrix Energetic Structural Integration and self method of healing/ self improvement. Has been effective in treating virtually every known illness. please call. On Mission Boulevard. By appointment only! Carina serviços de energia. Call: CarinaDiniz@sp Nichols.net.

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From the doctors who created Proactive Solutions forms a revolutionary anti-aging system. Join us as we help you live to your healthiest, real estate you will ever own: your face. Because you are your own best surgeon. Call us now! 619-209-0435.

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ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. Focus on moment-to-moment reality training. Our classes unlock the actor’s ability to work spontaneously with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry’s creative legends... Powerful Audition Secrets revealed through your on-camera work that’s included in the regular class schedule... join the studio/ where the working actors train.

Welcome beginners. Thursday evening classes available. 6:30-10:30pm. Or Saturday mornings. For information, 619-542-1216. Robert Waite Actor’s Studio.


MOVIE EXTRAS. People needed now to stand in the background for a major film. Experience not required. Call now and speak to a live person, 671-420-8376. (AAN CAN)

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Chris’s Auto Smog & Repair Center 2920 Damen Ave. #C & D (Behind In-N-Out Burger) 858-270-1388

*Most present coupon at time of service. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires 11/31/11.

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Includes: Compressor test, check belts and hoses & visual leak inspection.
**Typo Patrol Results**

**Issue of October 13, 2011**

I Started From Empty  
32 needs to be needed

Frances Puente (Normal Heights) $10

Diary of a Diva  
p.6 to be should at

Marvin Wager (Linda Vista) $10

I Started From Empty  
p.24 Saadia should be Saudi

p.33 graffiti should be graffiti’ed

Club Crack  
p.76 should be canaval

p.76 cannabilization should be cannibalization

p.76 downtown. Their missing space

Mark Myers (Coronado) $50

Gather No Magns  
p.54 soon I should be soon as I

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. The submission accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins $10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winnings limited to $300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92118; or fax to 619-231-0489, or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

**PSYCHIC FAIR!** First Saturday of every month. Find your family! Juntas sesionan Martes. 1:30pm-5pm, y Sabado. 1:30pm-3450 Bonnie Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

**NOTICES**


ALCOHOLICS ANONIMOS. Reuniones de mujeres. Seccion Miercoles. 9am-10am. Deseas decir debes? Lleva una vida cty o 4435 Bonnie Road, Suite #207. 619-260-7224.


CAT. Diego, male, neutered. 6 months old. Very sweet, playful companion. Email Sicocon, plaxococo@yahoo.com.

**DIVORCE ANONYMOUS.** Divorce/guidance/ support. 12-step group meetings. Fridays, 7:30-8:30pm. Seventh Day Adventist Church. 1639 E Madison. El Cajon. 619-228-6182. 619-200-0598. wwtdiveison@msn.com.

DOMESTIC BULLIES. Special, presenting “Surviving the Holidays.” DVD seminar to bring help, ideas. Begin new traditions. Aquatic Shopping Square, Sunday, 9am, 10165 Taftasmil Blvd. #20124. Buca. 619-481-4480. info@ dvronsandiego.com.

**ENERGETIC HEALING/ HEAL/ Matrix Energetic Simple, natural, and safe method of healing self improvement. Has been effective in treating virtually every known illness/all allergies and always creates a beneficial effect. On Morena Boulevard. By appointment only. Carina, 858-382-5302 leave message. Email. CarinaQutnana@bigbrook.net.

**FREE PSYCHIC HEALING** Secure reading. Free readings for new visitors. Saturday, 10:30am-12:30pm, 1-3pm, 15912, by Vassalah Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard. #108. 858-563-7582.


**HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS.** Annual Pet Adoption Drive to help 1.5 million orphaned pet finds home. Also Bags to Bows Program to provide animal shelters/rescue centers with food donations. Helen Woodward Animal Center and other organizations partnering. To help and to see adoptable animals, go to www.facebook.com/iams.


**MOVIE BUFFS.** Interested in watching movies and then discussing them afterwards like book club? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 619-231-0647.

**NEED RECIPES.** Free money-saving newsletter needs recipes or ways to shop and prepare tasty, healthy meals costing $2. Also eTalk video cooking demos. 4more@miradorunial.org. 858-401-3099.

**OBSESSED COMPLAIVE Anonymous.** 12-step meeting for people with OCD/interested others. Free. Mondays, 6-7pm. Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Ranch Room. oasisandglod@hotmail.com.


**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Meetings daily. No dues or fees. 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

**PREGNANCY CONSULTING ADOPTION?** Talk with caring agency specializing in matching birthmothers with familiy's nationwide. Living arrangements. Call 247 Faye’s True Gift Adoptions. 886-413-6293. (This is Illinois) (AAN CAN).

**P.S. MUELLER**

by Pete Mueller ©2011

**LONNIE SOLAY.** Puck, Search and Rescue dog. Male, 8 years old. White right front paw, chest, Mohawk. Lost 7/14/11 at Del Mar Beach. Sighted at race track. Will run if chased. Please play fetch with him. Please call if seen, try to take photo. Paco. 619-481-3033.

**LONNIE STULL.** University Heights area. All, female, 5 years old. Grey, white, a little orange. Lost or inadverantly taken Sunday, 6/14, from Mission Cliffs Drive, near Park and Atenas. May have pink collar with name/ phone number. Microchipped. Family worried sick. Nice reward for safe return. No questions asked. 619-254-3746 or 619-922-8530.

**LOST DOG.** Fella, Chihuahua/Miniature Pincher Mix. Male, brown and white, 10 lbs. Escaped from Pacific Beach yard Saturday, September 10, at 6pm. Microchipped. Please contact if you recall a loose or injured dog in PB or surrounding area. Maureen, 619-890-8949.

**MINIDIVORCE LIFE COACH.** Relationship rebuilding, addiction, anxiety, stress, pain, falling apart. Impact your life with spiritual solutions. 858-272-3246.

**MOVIE BUFFS.** Interested in watching movies and then discussing them afterwards like book club? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 619-231-0647.

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BOAT, 45’ Ketch Saba diesel, 30hp,

4- burner stove and oven, windshield

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LADIES PURSE, weather, beautiful brown. $30. Mr. Coffee makes coffee, $10. 4 armchairs, comfortable office chair, 3’x3’ area rug, 851-582-0099.

LAWN MOWER OWNERS, my private collection of 20 years. 17 assorted. 3-4 horsepower, B&S. All good, some as new. Free extra. A steel, 8’x8’ garage. Matt. approved.

PLANT STAND, cute, looks like a little flower, cast aluminum, holds four 3” pots and can hold two 6” pots. 619-490-5413.

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CARMEL VALLEY, Multi-family garage sale, Saturday, 10/22, 7am-11am. Books, clothes, music, electronics, tools, equipment. 619-659-9490.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S FIRST TRUE RACING TRUCK. Not for sale. Saturday, 10/22, 7am-11am. 619-952-8516.

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1987 38’ Chris Craft, fiberglass,

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Starting at

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LEAD STORY
In McGehee, a town of 4200 in southeastern Arkansas, a black girl (Kym Wimberly) who had finished first in her senior class was named only “co-” valedictorian after officials at McGehee High changed the rules to avoid the highest-scoring white student being elevated to share top honors. Said Kym’s mother, “We [all] know if the tables were turned, there wouldn’t be a co-valedictorian.”

Redneck Chronicles
Roy Griffith, 60, John Sanborn, 53, and Douglas Ward, 55, were arrested in Deerfield Township, Mich., in July and charged with stealing a 14-foot-long stuffed alligator from a barn, dragging it away with their truck, and using it to surf in the mud (“mud-boggling”). When the gator’s owner tracked down the three nearby, they denied the theft and insisted that theirs is an altogether different 14-foot-long stuffed alligator. (Ward’s blood-alcohol reading was 0.40.) (2) When deputies in Monroe County, Tenn., arrested a woman for theft in August, they learned that one of the items stolen was a 150-year-old Vatican-certified holy relic based on the Veil of Veronica (supposedly used to wipe Jesus’ face before the crucifixion). The painting had been stolen from the closet of a trailer home on a back road in the Tennessee mountains, where a local named “Frosty,” age 73, had kept it for 20 years with no idea of its significance.

Government in Action
Once hired, almost no federal employee ever leaves. Turnover is so slight that, among the typical causes for workers leaving, “death by natural causes” is more likely the reason than “fired for poor job performance.” According to a July USA Today report, the federal rate of termination for poor performance is less than one-fifth the private sector’s, and the annual retention rate for all federal employees was 99.4 percent (and for white collar and upper-income workers, more than 99.8 percent). Government defenders said the numbers reflect excellence in initial recruitment.

In January, Alison Murray purchased her first-ever home, in Aberdeen, Scotland, but was informed in August that she has to relocate, temporarily, because the house has become infested with bats, which cannot be disturbed, under Scottish and European law, once they settle in. Conservation officials advised her that she could probably move back in November, when the bats leave to hibernate.

Update
Some life-sized, anatomically correct dolls are manufactured in fine detail (e.g., the “Real Doll,” as one brand is called); they are as different from the plastic inflatable dolls sold in adult stores as fine whiskey is to $2-a-bottle rotgut. An early progenitor of the exquisite dolls, according to new research, was part of the performance, did not immediately render assistance, and Villamill lost consciousness and died in a hospital five days later.

Plan B
— Jonathan Schwartz called 911 in New York City in July to report that he had stabbed his mother to death. A few minutes later but before police arrived, Schwartz called back 911 to report a correction: “No, she committed suicide.” (The mother’s body was found with multiple stab wounds, and police charged him with murder.)

Government in Action
— The Omaha (Neb.) Public School system spent $130,000 of its stimulus grant recently to buy 8000 copies of the book The Cultural Proficiency Journey: Moving Beyond Ethical Barriers Toward Profound School Change — that is, one copy for every single employee, from principals to building custodians. Alarmingly, wrote an Omaha World-Herald columnist, the book is “riddled with gobble-dy-gook,” “endless graphs,” and such tedium as the “cultural proficiency continuum” and discussion of the “disequilibrium” arising “due to the struggle to disengage with past actions associated with unhealthy perspectives.”

Great Art!
— In his signature performance-art piece, John Jairo Villamill depicted both the excitement and danger of the city of Bogotá, Colombia, by appearing onstage with a tighten garage bag over his head and his feet in a bucket of water, holding a chain in one hand and a plant’s leaf in the other. At a May show at Bogotá’s Universidad del Bosque, Villamill, 25, fused with the tightened bag and soon collapsed to the floor, stirred a little, and then was motionless. The audience, likely having assumed that the collapse was part of the performance, did not immedi-
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