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Aeria Chang, M.D.
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San Diego Reader December 15, 2011
**UNDER THE RADAR**

**One of 1 percent** Molecular biologist Suresh Subramani, appointed earlier this year as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UCSD, is pulling down a cool $350,000 a year, plus car allowance of $8916. Besides that, the longtime biology professor has also been picking up a little money on the side. According to Subramani’s statement of economic interests, filed with the state in March, he is a member of the scientific advisory board of Gangagen, Inc., a Bay Area–based biotechnology firm that has a research lab in Bangalore, India. He was paid between $1001 and $10,000 during 2010. The disclosure also reveals that Subramani has received between $10,001 and $100,000 of “pre-IPO shares” in Gangagen. Another UC veteran, Dr. Janakiraman Ramachandran, the company’s chairman and chief executive, has been on the faculty at UC San Francisco for 16 years, according to BioSpectrum. Subramani’s other holdings included shares in pharmacy service provider Caremark Corp.; Market Vectors Indonesia, Inc.; toomaker Snap-on, Inc.; World Fuel Services Corp.; Caterpillar, Inc.; DDI Corp.; Lowe’s Companies; MeadWestvaco Corp.; U.S. Bancorp; Standard Motor Products; Aetna, Inc.; and GameStop Corp. His interest in each of those companies was reported to be between $10,001 and $100,000. Another reported source of income was a “royalty for antibodies,” paid by Carlsbad’s Invitrogen, saidcribed by a reported source of income was a “royalty for antibodies,” paid by Carlsbad’s Invitrogen, said.

**Deficit dollar art** The U.S. government may be laden with debt, but that hasn’t kept the feds from looking for an artist to help ornament the soon-to-be-completed Broadway courthouse downtown. “In addition to a new courthouse, the project master plan integrates new and existing federal buildings with gardens, plazas, a water feature and pedestrian paths that engage and support the downtown urban design goals,” according to a notice on the website of the government’s General Services Administration. It goes on to say that the project’s art budget is currently estimated to be $200,000. “One or more artists will be awarded a fixed-price contract for a commission.” The submissions deadline was November. Applicants are to be evaluated based on “media, materials, content, style, and scope of the artist’s past work, along with the artist’s past performance and experience with commissions or projects similar to the one described in this synopsis.”...U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement recently released a list of deaths of people in its custody during the eight years between October 2003 and October of this year. Of 126 reported mortalities, 4 happened in San Diego, the report says.

**Ignacio Sarabia-Vallasenor** died of cardiac arrest in January 2005 at the agency’s Otay Detention Facility. That December, Roberto Ledesman-Guerrero succumbed to coronary artery vasculitis at the Otay facility. And in January 2009, Julio Martinez died of complications of end-stage hepatic cirrhosis at Alvarado Hospital.

**Porn and politics** Downtown’s F Street X-rated bookstore has vacated its longtime premises in the Gaslamp Quarter on Fourth Avenue. The business got its start just around the corner on F Street in the 1970s, in a narrow shop that was subsequently demolished to make way for the Horton Plaza parking garage...as holiday fund-raise cornerstone for local politicos, the latest elected officials to warn the season with parties for dollars include Republican San Diego city attorney Jan Goldsmith, whose December 13 event was set for a residence in Goldsmith’s former hometown of Coronado, hosted by Doug Metz, Anna Paul, and Mike Giorgino. The same night, GOP assemblyman and mayoral candidate Nathan Fletcher scheduled a fund-raiser at downtown’s Hard Rock Hotel. The night after that it was an invitation to holiday wine and cheese with Bob Filner at the Mission Bay Hilton...Brown Field International Business Park LLP has hired the firm of Stoel Rives to lobby the City of San Diego about a development project’s art budget is currently estimated to be.

**Conway Center of Doubtful Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Room numbers forecast</th>
<th>Room numbers reported</th>
<th>Attendance forecast</th>
<th>Actual attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Direct Markets</td>
<td>23,100</td>
<td>23,100</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>6800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Math Teachers</td>
<td>23,760</td>
<td>23,760</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>9500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) School Boards</td>
<td>37,400</td>
<td>37,400</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>9446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Heywood Sanders, San Diego Convention Center annual forecasts and annual reports, AECOM

Creative math? Note that hotel rooms forecasted and reported are identical, though actual attendance was well below the forecast.

---

**The Convention Center Liars**

**By Don Bauder**

*E*ven in the face of the current economic downturn, the San Diego Convention Center continues to deliver significant benefits to the greater San Diego region,” boasted the center in its 2010 annual report.

Do not swallow this assertion whole. The statement is based on false statistics the center has been disseminating for several years.

Now the center and downtown boosters are using the same bogus statistics to generate public support for a $550 million expansion of the existing center, $750 million if a hotel is included.

Here’s how the ruse works: each year, the center publishes a four-page forecast edition. On page 2 is a chart showing “Top Five Economic Generators.” It predicts the attendance, hotel room nights, direct spending, tax revenues, and economic impact of five upcoming center events — say, the convention of the American Diabetes Association.

However, often there are fewer attendees than predicted. If you look hard enough, you may see some revised attendance figures in the center’s year-end annual report. The consulting firm AECOM, which was hired to make recommendations on a center expansion, used the actual attendance numbers — not the ones that had been forecast — in its November 15, 2010 report to the San Diego Convention Center.

Heywood Sanders, the ranking national expert on convention centers, discovered vast discrepancies in San Diego Convention Center numbers. Basically, what Sanders found was that in many cases when actual attendance declined from the forecast, the number of room nights cited in the report stayed the same. This means that the center has been systematically overstating hotel room nights, and therefore overstating hotel tax receipts, attendee spending, and the center’s impact on the overall San Diego economy.

In January 2009, the center predicted that the convention of the Direct Marketing Association would attract 16,000 attendees who would generate 23,100 room nights. Actually, 6800 showed up — 57.5 percent below forecast, but the room nights number reported by AECOM remained 23,100. In April 2010, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics attracted 47.22 percent fewer attendees than forecast, but in the final report the room nights remained the same.

In 2008 and 2009, the conventions of the National School Boards Association, American Public Trans-
Watch Your Step
By Elizabeth Salaam

Last Sunday, while jogging up Wightman Street through City Heights, I had to avoid five piles of dog crap, seven fecal smears, and one brown lumpy puddle — all on city sidewalks. These numbers do not include the piles and Chihuahua-sized nuggets that littered the grassy areas beside the sidewalks, areas where I forbid my child to walk because there the fecal matter is less visible.

A year or so ago, I wrote a story about City Heights in which I mentioned, in passing, the dog poo on the sidewalks. One reader wrote in with a complaint that I was mistaken, that he lived in the neighborhood and had never seen such a thing. My husband and I had a good laugh over that one.

Early one Wednesday evening, I find teens Mercedes, Gustavo, and Robert hanging around outside a City Heights apartment building. When I ask whether they’ve noticed an inordinate amount of dog feces on neighborhood sidewalks, Gustavo points behind me and says, “Yeah, there’s actually some right there.”

And, sure enough, there is. I take two steps to my right.

“It smells,” Mercedes says, “and it makes the neighborhood look dirty.” Neither of the two boys has a dog, but Mercedes does. She makes sure it defecates in her yard before she takes it out for a walk. But she also carries plastic bags — just in case.

“I’ve seen some neighborhoods that have little bag things wrapped around palm trees or something,” Gustavo says.

Mercedes agrees. “Yeah, that would help a lot because some people don’t think their dogs are gonna go, so they don’t bring a bag. But if people could just grab one and then...” She pauses and adds, “We should also have trash cans.”

If you’ve ever walked through Little Italy, you may have noticed an abundance of little green metal boxes attached to light posts and stop signs. These are Dogspot pet stations. Inside the green metal boxes are bright blue bags. Some of the boxes have diagrams and written instructions on how to use the bags to pick up poop. And near the boxes stand trash cans. This setup makes it convenient for dog owners to pick up after their pets.

According to Chris Gomez, district manager of the Little Italy Association, the 60-plus pet stations in 48 square blocks cost $8000 per year to maintain. This

continued on page 48

NEWS TICKER

Sunshine Use Charge
Petition to Stop SDG&E Rate Increase
San Diego — As representatives from SDG&E make their rounds defending a proposal to raise rates on solar users, environmental activists and residents are petitioning the state’s energy commission to deny the rate hike.

The proposal, if approved, will allow SDG&E to restructure their current billing scheme and begin charging a monthly “network use charge” to help pay for maintenance of the grid. The rate increase would amount to approximately $22 per month for residential solar users, and thousands per month for school districts and water plants that have converted to solar.

“Those unjust fee hikes, if approved, would set an extremely damaging, nationwide precedent for other utility companies to follow that would have a huge, adverse effect on this country’s transition to solar energy,” reads the online petition.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, December 8

Too Tall
Planning Commission Rejects Height Ordinance
Uptown — Residents encountered a setback on Thursday when planning commissioners rejected a proposal to extend the interim height ordinance, which limits buildings in areas of Uptown to under 65 feet.

Residents believe the ordinance is needed to preserve the character of Uptown. “The community doesn’t want tall buildings on the top of our hill. Most people like Hillcrest just the way it is,” said longtime resident Ann Garwood.

After hearing testimony from residents both in opposition to and in support of the height ordinance, planning commissioners decided against renewing the ordinance, saying the community should consider projects on a case-by-case basis.

“A large-scale, six-to-seven-story box that fills a site is definitely not the vision you have for Hillcrest. We’d be here arguing how to stop that next,” said planning chair Eric Naslund.

The issue now moves forward to the city council for approval.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, December 8

Scratch and Win
UCSD’s Fresco Drilling Is Marketing Ploy
La Jolla — A furor over whether UCSD’s Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology should be boring holes in a priceless Giorgio Vasari fresco in search of a Leonardo Da Vinci masterpiece thought by some to be underneath is shaking the Florentine art world and has
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LETTERS

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A Great Green Read
What a joy it was to read Bill Manson’s piece “Wild” (Cover Story, December 8). Having interviewed Phil Unitt many years ago while working on a piece about the ecological destruction that road development was visiting upon our county, I was happy to see how things haven’t necessarily become worse and worse. Humans can change directions, and the general awareness that seems to be rising and allowing for such a diversity of fauna to coexist with humanity here is heartening. Certainly, the rising tide of urbanization is a good thing; the high-water mark of constant far-flung development seems to have been reached as we now recede toward something more stable and sustaining. Perhaps someday the San Diego River will gain its proper place in the city’s consciousness. This city, by all rights and history, should be one of geraniums, not smokestacks. That is a direction all cities must consider taking in the carbon-drunk future, and it seems to me that we have a good start if not a leg up on many of our peers.

Don Bauder’s piece was equally telling. Freudian analogies notwithstanding. This city has always had something of “an edifice complex,” no doubt brought about by the factual reality of being something of a cul-de-sac. Blame the Laguna Mountains. When Kate Field, one of the most famous women in America at the time, visited San Diego in 1888, she found our city “so lovely and so lazy.” Upon leaving she remarked, “You have given yourselves and received from others more treacle than is good for you. Your digestion is out of order in consequence.” I would suggest modestly that bad digestion can lead to other dysfunctions. The hubris it takes to self-name your metropolis “America’s Finest City” is of a magnitude similar to the one it takes to propose 900-foot titanium wings along the waterfront.

Bauder has mostly been a delight since leaving the Union-Tribune, and since the recent implosions have rendered what was never a great newspaper tattered beyond salvation, his voice will be sorely needed to counter the 1-percenter attempts to shove a stadium up the downtown’s collective arse. The antidote for giving away too much to the too rich would seem to be to, uh, not do that.

Pro-active scientists and recognition of our opportune forgetfulness make for a nice issue. Thanks!

Allan Peterson via email

Sail On, Fools
Re Don Bauder’s “Head Case” (City Lights,” December 8).

Right on, Don. As the old saying goes, “Em wotz got....gizt!” Maybe we should refer to San Diego as the Ship of Fools.

Ted Rodosovich
University City

Victims Of The Elected
Another interesting article by Don Bauder — “Head Case” (“City Lights,” December 8). I’ve lived in San Diego for many years, and I’ve always been amused by our apparent feelings of inferiority. In spite of the population growth, it seems San Diego has more claim to “biggest little city” than Reno. We may be large in area and number of residents, but we remain small in terms of attitude, leadership, and politics.

Our slogan of “America’s Finest City” seems laughable, continued on page 51
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Se Habla Español 
6950 Friars Road, Suite 100 (Across from Fashion Valley Mall)
David and I rarely argue. Bicker, sure, everyone bickers — a cranky huff, a misunderstanding that leads to irritation — we are human, after all. But argue? As in fundamentally disagree and dig our respective heels into opposite stances? We’d always prioritized getting along over winning. But one issue has been working its way into our dinner conversations with ever-increasing frequency, resulting in discontent: I’m ready to get a dog, and David is not.

I’ve always enjoyed looking at other people’s pets. “Isn’t it cute,” I’d say, keeping my hands to myself — “I’m allergic” was my excuse, though it wasn’t that. Allergy shots and time have cleared up most of my issues. It was more about the mess: hairs falling loose from a coat of fur, the potential for filth that might get on my clothes...or worse, on my skin. I would look but not touch. In the past few months, however, something changed.

A pet was never an option when we lived in a corner penthouse — whenever it came time for Fido to empty his bladder, it’d be a long elevator ride and a giant lobby to the nearest bush. Just imagining the hassle was enough to quell my desire to adopt. But then we moved. Now we’re in an apartment with easy access to the outside, and most of our surrounding neighbors have dogs. Big dogs: golden retrievers, a chocolate Lab, a Rottweiler. In our new place, the dogs all seemed touchable. Lacy (my personal favorite) is a two-year-old retriever/Dalmatian mix, a beautiful golden package of uncontaminable happy energy. The first time she jumped up at me, she tripped a critical switch in my machinery. I dropped to my knees and petted her, from soft ears to vibrantly wagging tail; I never wanted to stop.

I’d always thought that whole “biological clock” thing was a myth, but, clearly, mine had gone off. This fierce urge to nurture was foreign and uncontrollable. During our excursion to the Chilifest in South Park (where it seemed everyone else had a leash in hand), my friend Carole pointed out that I had stopped to pet every dog we’d passed. “You need to get a dog, Barb. You’re looking at these dogs the way women who really want to have a baby look at babies,” she said. After a horrified silence, I slowly nodded and acknowledged her observation.

I’d been steadily bringing up the subject of getting a pet with David over the past few years. After humoring me and talking about the kind of dog he’d like “someday,” David would tire of it and resort to his failsafe tactic to quash the subject: “Are you willing to clean up its shit?” I surprised myself as much as him when, a few weeks ago, I answered, “Yes. For some reason, the idea doesn’t bother me the way it used to.” I noted the flicker of alarm in David’s eyes and started talking about something else.

“You told me when we got together that you wanted a dog someday.” We were seated at the dining table, with Trader Joe’s stuffed peppers, Steamfresh broccoli, and a bottle of something red. David sighed and gave me a look that said: “Look at us. We went from a contemporary condo to a contemporary apartment. We didn’t like any of the houses we looked at; we’re not house people! It’s only recently occurred to me that we might never have a yard, so you can’t say you want a dog ‘when we get a yard,’ because that just means you never really want one.” I was getting angry. A look at David’s flushed face told me I wasn’t alone.

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Hey Matt:
My teenager always seems to be doing ten things at once. I can barely manage one or two. Is there something special about the teenage brain that makes them good multitaskers?
— Mom, Nancy, San Diego

Everybody knows teens have “different” brains, sometimes no brains. And that’s been proven scientifically. It’s generally accepted from years of research into the subject that teens’ brains are undeveloped and won’t reach “adulthood” until age 25 or so. Scary, scary thought. Worse yet is the fact that the lagging lobe is the frontal, responsible mainly for judgment, long-term planning, and impulse control. So, yes, right off the bat, teens’ brains are different. But does this difference make them better multitaskers?

If my brain’s still working well, I think we handled multitasking in general several months ago. Can people actually multitask? No, no, science says. Two tasks, okay. Three or more, and things start to fall apart. Nothing much gets done accurately or in a timely way. We didn’t spend much if any time talking about teens in particular. But lately the science guys have pounced on the younger set for lots of investigation. Must be a ton of grant money out there for this type of thing. The issue of big concern is what happens to teens’ brains when they’re bombarded with so much media all at once and they multitask their way through the evening, and what this means for the brains of the future. Will we end up with a dazed population of ADD-afflicted adults who can’t concentrate on anything? Apparently that’s the grown-ups’ fear. And considering that the Kaiser Family Foundation says the average young person spends seven and a half hours a day with media of all types (up one hour a day from six years ago), maybe the concern is real.

So, Nancy, you say you can barely manage one or two things at once while your kids are like whirling dust devils. Right you are. People who did not grow up with media bombardment are pitiful multitaskers, science says.

One of the best known teen studiers is neuroscientist Jay Giedd of the National Institute of Mental Health. Since 1991 he’s been running the same teens through a functional MRI, which reveals in real time what segments of the brain are engaged in the task at hand. There’s about another decade to go on the study; by then he hopes to see a picture of exactly how the media onslaught changes the brain’s wiring over time. Past age five or six, the only brain changes that occur are in the neural pathways and connections, not the brain’s physical dimensions. Old, useless connections fade and beneficial connections are strengthened.

Giedd says today’s teens have a near-addictive attachment to their electronic buddies; they have trouble ignoring them. A signal for an incoming text will hijack their attention from other things. But it is the brain’s plasticity that offers big hopes for the future. Anyone raised in this media-rich atmosphere develops a brain adapted to that environment. Unlike Mom’s and Dad’s brains that could maybe read a comic book and watch Starry sk and Hutch at the same time, today’s teens are adapting to a phone call while surfing the web while IMing a pal while perusing Facebook and doing Spanish homework. They can’t do any one of those things real well, but their brain circuits are adapting to that world. There aren’t any big signs that kids are headed for lifelong ADD. In fact, there are some aspects of the electronic world that scientists have found actually work to a teen’s benefit.

Parents will probably hate this, but studies done at the University of Rochester (NY) and elsewhere indicate that video games have plenty of potential benefits. Assuming you’re an average player, not a round-the-clock addict, video games can improve certain aspects of vision, cognition, concentration, visual short-term memory, “pure-brain multitasking,” and the generation of new ideas. The mental agility you need to play a game might spill over into your day-to-day life.

The more optimistic researchers suggest today’s kids might get the best of both worlds — an improved ability to multitask and the ability to zero in on a subject when the situation calls for it. Of course, the teen has to think a task is particularly important for him/her to make an effort to concentrate on it. That would determine how a smack-down between algebra homework and a tweet would end. But if a kid’s fairly well rounded, it’s likely he’ll eventually be able to pick out the cashews from the peanuts. Of course, the research is fairly new and some of it incomplete, so nobody’s making any grand predictions yet. Like teens themselves, it’s all a work in progress.

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDreader.com/hip
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Economic Indicator Report: Housing Starts Down, Tunnel Construction Up

According to figures released recently, San Diego’s home-building market is continuing its nightmarish decline since the glory days of the mid-aughts: housing starts were down 47% in October from the same month in 2005. But as recent discoveries have indicated, there is at least one bright spot for the local construction industry: tunnels.

“It’s an exciting time to be in the tunnel business,” says Arturo Ramos, owner of Mole Man Contractors in Otay Mesa. “Demand has never been higher, and when people see that, they want to be a part of it. We’re attracting some of the best engineers and designers in the business, people who understand the challenges we face in building unobtrusive sub-transnational product delivery systems. People who can offer innovative solutions to those challenges.”

Ramos notes with pride that his company’s recently discovered drug tunnel has been called “the most sophisticated ever found” by both Mexican and U.S. authorities. “The elevators, the electric rail system, the support structure — all of it was the result of the brilliant team we’ve put together here at Mole Man. Nobody thought we’d be able to get all the necessary systems into such a small space. But I said, ‘If Apple can put 1000 songs on an iPod, we can put ventilation into this cramped crawlspace under the border. We just have to think different.’ And I promise that our next one will be even better — and harder to find.”

Ramos also pointed to an ancillary boom brought on by his recent successes: luxury tunnels for private homes. “Often, the well-to-do want to be able to come and go without having to be seen by the everyday people walking around on the earth’s surface. These tunnels make that possible. They can also be used to receive deliveries of materials that might otherwise attract unwanted attention. Rich people need to get high, too, you know.”

And, of course, money people are not satisfied with a simple concrete tube. “We’ve been able to bring in elements that are not only beautiful, but functional. The pillars you see here? Every one of them is load-bearing. The stone floor conducts radiant heat. At Mole Man, we really are building the tunnel of tomorrow.”

City Council Passes Ruling Mandating That San Diego Transplants Who Claim to “Miss the Seasons” Be Forced to Paint Local Fall Foliage in 40-Degree Weather

City Council Passes Ruling Mandating That San Diego Transplants Who Claim to “Miss the Seasons” Be Forced to Paint Local Fall Foliage in 40-Degree Weather

While Wearing Only a Bathing Suit “Still miss those seasons, Grandpa?”

P UTTING ON A SWEATER, OAK PARK — “It was the recent cold snap that gave me the idea,” says city councilman Tony Young of Council Resolution #315, which is aimed at curtailing whiny complaints about the region’s alleged lack of seasonal variation. “I had to go outside to get some possums out of my trash around 3 a.m., last Saturday morning, and all I could think was, Damn, it’s cold. The next day, I was raking sycamore leaves out of my front yard, and I realized that this is the same weather-related nonsense that people have to deal with in Vermont. You know, the stuff that gets sentimentalized when those same Vermonters eventually move to our city and start complaining about being warm all the time. So I decided to give them something to complain about, and the rest of the council wholeheartedly supported my efforts.”

Kelvin Acea: Fire Turner Now

Longtime Chargers Reporter for the Spoonrun-Spittoon Says Victory Over Jacksonville Shows That Coach-Provocateur “No Longer Has the Heart for Truly Experimental Football”

“‘When you start listening to the critics, it’s time to go.’

TOP FLOOR OF THE HOLLOW SHELL THAT ONCE HOUSED A MIGHTY DAILY — Let’s get one thing clear at the outset: Kelvin Acea does not hate Norv Turner. “I believe that [he] will one day be remembered as one of the boldest, most progressive coaches in NFL history,” said the Spittoon’s longtime Charger analyst as he polished his most recent sports journalism trophy. “It’s true that he never did anything as bold as [Ohio State Buckeye coach Jim] Tressell when he exposed the hypocrisy at the heart of so-called ‘amateur’ athletics in 2010 through the fleshy eloquence of the tattoo. And he certainly never attempted anything as transgressive as [Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry] Sandusky’s exploration of the connection between violent sport and arrested development, sexual and otherwise. But it must be remembered that both of those men were working in the comparatively free-wheeling realm of collegiate athletics, where you can get away with things like payola and the wishbone offense. For Turner to have mounted the kinds of dramatic seasonal arcs that he has, all while operating under the business constraints faced by any professional sports franchise, is nothing short of remarkable. Imagine Bresson or Godard making movies at a studio like 20th Century Fox — that’s the kind of situation I’m talking about.”

But, said Acea, last night’s blowout victory over Jacksonville is a clear indication that Turner has lost his artistic nerve. “It seemed pretty clear what he was up to this season. As the Chargers readied themselves to entertain offers from their suitors [San Diego and Los Angeles, chief among them], Turner was cratering the team as a kind of test — ‘How much do you really want me? Is it really me you want, or just my great big winning record? Will you still want me when I’m clearly not at my best?’ Imagine a woman putting on 40 pounds right before her wedding, just to see if her man was ready for the inevitable hard times to come. That’s what Turner was up to. A bold move, but an important one. Everybody wants a winner, but no team can win every year. Turner wanted to make sure that whoever got the Chargers would love the Chargers for better or for worse.”

Acea turned and spat a long, thin stream of tobacco juice into one of the many brass spittoons that both give his paper its famous name and also dot the interior of its headquarters. “But this,” he said, wiping a trace of brownish spittle from his chin, “this clumsy, lopsided victory over a hapless team in the midst of its own transitions... To say that I’m disappointed is too mild. The only way I can make sense of it is to declare that Turner is tired. Fire him now. I suspect it’s what he wants. Bring someone in who can give this team what it needs: a truly disastrous finish to what has been, up to now, a merely disappointing season.”

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“A” is for Arsenic, not Apple.

DATE: December 6, 2011

In what looks like a fairly comprehensive study, Consumer Reports details arsenic levels in the juices that we and our children are drinking. Basically, what is emerging is that the apple concentrate used in juices is purchased in China, where pesticides contain inorganic arsenic. The levels in some juices are higher than those permitted in tap water and the concern is that children ingesting these drinks over a long period of time are at risk for chronic arsenic exposure. Unfortunately, our food supply chains have become so far removed from us that we are at the whim of a mass production industry which worries more about the financial bottom line than your or my health. Pay attention to what you put into your body!

Social Un-Networking

DATE: November 25, 2011

Slowing down is perhaps one of the most crucial things we can all do... Ever get the feeling that life is racing by? Try a few days of no TV, less reading and no newsprint. Try cutting your texting and email time in half. See how you feel!

Thanks and Gratitude

DATE: November 23, 2011

One of the secrets of the happiest people I know is gratitude. They tend to be happy with the simple things in their lives, and they are thankful for what they have. They tend to take joy in simplicity. They tend to live within their means, without cravings, and they don’t envy what others have.

Crazy for Curry

DATE: November 18, 2011

What gives a traditional Indian curry its yellow color? Curcuma longa, commonly known as turmeric. This root, formerly known as Indian saffron, has a tough brown skin and dark yellow orange flesh, and is native to southern India and Indonesia, where it has been harvested for thousands of years.

Turmeric’s active ingredient is curcumin, which has been shown to possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. The dried root of turmeric normally contains from 3% to 5% curcumin. In animal studies, it has been shown to slow the spread of some cancers; and in the laboratory, it has inhibited cancer cells.

For hundreds upon hundreds of years, turmeric has been used in Asian culture as a textile dye, and in traditional medicine for wound infections, colds, conjunctivitis, parasite infections, diarrhea illnesses, arthritis, and kidney problems. Lately, it is being promoted as a natural cholesterol lowering agent and as a preventative supplement for cancer.

Turmeric has been used for thousands of years to both color and flavor food, and any Asian food lover will attest to turmeric’s taste-enhancing powers. For me, as with garlic, turmeric is best consumed with food. Two meals a week with a couple of teaspoons of turmeric should give your immune system a good antioxidant boost and your taste buds a real treat.

Be in the Moment?

DATE: November 17, 2011

David Eagleman, in his book Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain, describes an experiment in which he gets test subjects to fall from dizzying heights and records their experiences.

Wanting to test the theory of why time seems to slow in near fatal accidents, he outfitted his students with a perceptual chronometer to see if, in the panic of falling 150 feet, his subjects’ brains would be able to see very fast flashing numbers that we usually can’t.

What did he find? When you’re falling, you don’t actually see in slow motion, but when you perceive a serious threat, your memory becomes super acute, and you pay attention to thousands of details that you normally wouldn’t register, details that may very well save your life. We perceive the slowness because our brains are trying to compute so much data.

What really strikes me here is that it usually takes an impending accident or life-threatening event to get us to pay attention. A heart attack, the diagnosis of cancer or severe pain will bring us to the present. But being in the moment during routine daily life is usually more difficult.

Good Luck. Bad Luck.

Six weeks ago I wrote a column about the Indianapolis Colts deliberately losing their games in order to guarantee owning the number 1 pick in April’s NFL draft. Said pick to be used to acquire Stanford’s once-in-a-generation quarterback Andrew Luck.

Things were strange six weeks ago, and that’s not counting Peyton Manning’s absence. I wrote, “But, it’s hard to believe the loss of one man, even a four-time MVP, causes a team that has made it to the playoffs every year for the past nine years in a row, a team that hasn’t won enough to be on their roster for the past three seasons, a $28 million check due in March... hard to believe the loss of that one man means that same team go 0-8...”

The Colts were 0-8 then, now they’re 0-13, and it’s obvious they’re tanking. To replace Manning, the Colts ignored their backup quarterback, Curtis Painter (who was good enough to be on their roster for the past three seasons), and selected a retired 16-year vet, Kerry Collins. Mr. Collins lasted three games. Then, Curtis Painter was dusted off and dubbed starter. As insurance, the Colts wisely signed not-a-household-name Dan Orlovsky, previously a second- and/or third-string quarterback for Detroit and Houston. Orlovsky was in between jobs.

This was going on while David Garrad, Carson Palmer, and Brett Favre were available. Any one of those quarterbacks will win games.

After Sunday’s 24-10 loss to Baltimore, in which, after three quarters, the Colts gained 53 yards in total offense, scored their lone touchdown on the final play of the game, head coach Jim Caldwell, using his deer-caught-in-headlights persona, said, “We just have to find a way to get our team better so we can get a victory.”

There are some positives coming out of that contest. Caldwell still has a job. Dan Orlovsky is quarterback. Detroit is the only team in NFL history to go 0-16, which was accomplished in 2008. Now, not only can Indianapolis match that low, but Orlovsky is just three losses away from being the only quarterback in NFL history to lead two, count ‘em, two 0-16 teams.

Of course, if you play as badly as Indianapolis has, heads will roll. Larry Coyer, the defensive coordinator, was fired and replaced with Mike Murphy, 67, who, somehow, had been overlooked during his previous 14 years with the Colts. Defensive coordinator Murphy will continue his duties as linebackers coach. There’s a cost savings right off the top. Head coach Coyer said the change was made “to improve communication and production.” To complete this massive overhaul, Painter was demoted and backup QB Dan Orlovsky was named starting quarterback.

The Colts’ ownership is unusual in that Jim Irsay controls 100 percent of the team. He came into his own the old-fashioned way: the lad inherited an ancestral gold mine from his father. He was 37 years old at the time.

So, one guy has it all, answers to no one. And one guy has made the franchise relevant — Peyton Manning. Here’s the problem: Manning has had three neck operations, the last one on September 8. The man would be crazy to play football again. Can you say paralyzed in French? Okay, say he is crazy and wants to play again. You’re the owner of the Colts, you have to decide, just around the time Peyton turns 36, March of 2012, whether to hand over a bonus check for $28 million payable to three-neck-operations Peyton Manning in order to kick-in the last four years of his contract.

Let’s see...36 years old, three neck operations, a $28 million check due in March... You’d have to be crazy to sign Peyton Manning. You’d have to be double crazy to sign him when you have Andrew Luck waiting in the wings. What you do is trade Manning for as much as you can get and go with Luck.

Given a choice, people usually choose to do what has worked for them in the past. The Colts were a top franchise on the back of Peyton Manning. What could be more natural than to try it again with Andrew Luck?

The beauty of this is you only need a conspiracy of one. As supreme leader, just see it that your quarterbacks are below marginal and the rest will follow. Players will catch on that you’re not trying. As will coaches. You might not lose every game, but you likely lose enough to come in last.

The bet is Andrew Luck will be Peyton Manning 2. But, Luck hasn’t been looking that great lately. He missed the Heisman trophy again this year. He wouldn’t be the first number 1 or 2 draft pick to go bust. Remember Ryan Leaf?
Final Red Zone Top 10
Division record in parentheses
1. Helix (12-1) Highlanders undoubt-
edly the best team in section
2. Poway (12-0-1) Blitzed Vista in record-setting Divi-
sion I title game
3. Cathedral Catholic (12-1) Five in a row now longest active run
4. Oceanside (9-3-1) Section title streak snapped at seven straight
5. Valley Center (12-1) Jaguars return to top of Division IV
6. La Costa Canyon (9-3) Season came to crashing end in semifinals
7. Madison (10-1-1) Reached 10-win mark for fourth straight year
8. Mission Hills (7-4-1) Played Helix closest down the stretch
9. St. Augustine (9-2) Shocked by Mar Vista in Division III quarterfinals
10. Santana (12-2) Capped season with first section finals trip

Helix Invited to CIF State Bowl
La Mesa’s Helix High School will be the sole representative from the San Diego section in the California Interscholastic Federation’s State Bowl games, which match the best of Northern California against the best of Southern California.

The Highlanders will contend for the Division II title against Del Oro, which hails from Loomis, a Gold Country town 25 miles northeast of Sacramento. The game will be played Saturday, December 16, 4:00 p.m., at the Home Depot Center in Carson.

2011 CIF State Football Championship Pairings
All games played Dec. 16-17 at Home Depot Center in Carson.

Cathedral Catholic players swarm head coach Sean Doyle after the Dons captured their fifth straight Division III title.

Valley Center running back Garrett Fiehler carries the ball outside against Santana in the Division IV finals.
Daily newspapers - So yesterday.

THE BIG SCREEN
Spend Christmas Night With Three Men (Two Tramps, One King) in a Tub

NEWS TICKER
Local Couple Sues Bank of America Over Improper Penalties
SDG&E Defends Solar Rate Hike At County Hearing
Occupy San Diego Protester Jails Hunger Strike in Response to Alleged Police Brutality

JAM SESSION
Daniel Rosenboom: Fallen Angeles

Daily blogs at SDReader.com

To T.S. Elliott, April was and is the cruelest month. I know what he meant, but his words — maybe minus the second line (I am no gardener and have no knowledge of lilacs other than the ones that bloomed outside my grandmother’s window — in winter, too, as I recall. Maybe not.) Tom Elliott wrote that, “April is the cruelest month, breathing lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.”

I do have Elliott, Richard Hugo, Robinson Jeffers, and Stephen Dobyns; but as I leaf through the works of these poets, I find myself distracted and discover that 45 minutes have gone by before I again focus on the work at hand. But there it is: one undeniable association with December and Christmas gifts. I come from a large family, and many of my siblings have their birthdays this month, so I combine birthday gifts with Christmas. Historically, with books. Books were easy — I worked in bookstores and I received a 40 percent discount. It took me years to learn that the books I had sent home were unread and gathering dust, spines uncracked. Poetry went over like the gift of a brand new Catholic school garment, a bow tie, or a Chia Pet.
"Mulling is when you infuse your cider with other flavors and aromas," said Kathy. "You can use spices, herbs, fruits, or even sugars." She pulled a pile of saucepans from under her stovetop. "Shall we start heating things up?"

First came the Aspen Mulling Cider Spices ($2.99 for 5.65 oz. at Cost Plus World Market). "This says it’s good for cider, wine, tea, or even brandy," I read as Kathy heated the apple juice. "Looks like sugar and ground-up spices to me. You use two teaspoons per cup of liquid."

"It smells like cinnamon," said Donna. Kathy agreed, "All I get is sugar, apples, and cinnamon." Michelle added, "It’s thick on the tongue. Cloying."

Martinek’s Mulling Spice ($4.99 for 2.38 oz. at Ralphs) came in a pack of 25 individual bags. "How convenient!" I marveled. "Instead of tea, you get is sugar, apples, and cinnamon." "This says it’s good for cider, wine, tea, and cinnamon." Kathy said, "And the cardamom adds a subtle pepper flavor." Me, I loved the visuals — all those little star anises floating in my mug like exotic marshmallows.

The goodness of those chunky bits of seasoning got us wondering: could we make our own mulling mix? The next season we would try to make it ourselves and do better? The next day, I called In Harmony Herbs & Spices in Ocean Beach (619-223-8031; infaharmonyherbs.com). Saledy Rhonda told me, "All our spices are organic. We get the finest herbs and spices, we get them harvested at the right time, and we sell them fresh.

"This time of year, people come in looking for things such as cloves [$2.20 per oz.], ginger [$2.26], allspice [$1.75], orange peel [$1.55], and cinnamon. We have three kinds: sweet cinnamon [$1.81], cassia ([$1.81], and cinnamon sticks [$1.34]. They also buy cardamom [$2.80], which is a green pod with black seeds inside. And star anise [$2.32]. We sell nutmeg, ground [$2.41] or whole [$2.50]. If you grind it yourself, you get a fresher flavor. We have a grinder for sale [$17.95]. I think it’s wonderful to make your own mulling mix; that way, you really get to know the spices."

Peoples in Ocean Beach (619-224-1387; olbpeoplesfood.coop) also sells bulk spices. The clerk told us that they carry a bulk mulling spice mix ($19 a pound), and a "small packaged version" from Simply Organic ($1.49).

"I think it’s wonderful to make your own mulling mix; that way, you really get to know the spices."

We moved on to the loose-pack mulling spices, starting with Trader Joe’s house brand ($3.99 for 5.5 oz.). Again, the lineup was cinnamon, orange peel, allspice, and cloves — two teaspoons per quart of apple juice, simmered for 20 minutes. We were quickly disappointed. "Waaay too much cinnamon," exclaimed Donna. "I can taste a little orange, but, yeah, the cinnamon assaults your tongue and leaves a bitter taste."

The Winter Sippers New England Mulling Spices ($4.99 for 4.5 oz. at Vons; $1.99 for 1.2 oz. at Sprouts) managed better results with the same lineup of ingredients. "The elements are balanced," I said. "I can taste the citrus, and the apple of the juice, and also the cinnamon.” "Maybe even a hint of the clove," agreed Kathy. "It’s pretty good." But I winced at the thought of a "pretty good" Christmas memory.

I turned to the bag of chunky Cost Plus World Market Mulling Spice ($5.99 for 6 oz.). The bold bits inside — whole star anise, a half-inch cinnamon stick — gave me hope. And no other cider spice mix had included cardamom seeds. As with the Trader Joe’s, we had to simmer it for 20 minutes. Unlike the Trader Joe’s, we had to add a whopping half-cup of spices per 750-ml bottle of apple juice, as well as brown sugar and water. Our efforts were rewarded.

"The star anise is assertive on the nose," said Kathy, "but it doesn’t overpower the other flavors." Michelle added, "It’s much more complex than everything else, and yet you can still taste the apple of the juice." "You can taste every ingredient," agreed Donna. Kathy said, "And the cardamom adds a subtle pepper flavor." Me, I loved the visuals — all those little star anises floating in my mug like exotic marshmallows.
Asking For Evidence Based Care

Was Your C-Section Necessary?
The Unkindest Cut

My introduction to Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz comes by way of a text message in which she refers to Mary Birch as “that hospital that claims to be mother and baby friendly.”

When I arrive at the apartment she shares with her husband and two children in the UTC area, Cooper-Schultz welcomes me into her home with a hug, a cup of coffee, and a plate of strawberries and coffee cake. Once we’re seated, Cooper-Schultz begins. She’s eager to tell the story of her son’s birth. “I had a C-section.”

“Usually I start off by telling people my C-section started even before I got to the hospital. I had a C-section because my doctor didn’t care if I was having 100 births. At 40 weeks, two days prior to her due date, Cooper-Schultz’s water broke, though she was not in labor. In a birthing class she’d taken at Mary Birch, she’d been told that this happens to 25 percent of women. She says she’d never been intervened on in that way. “If your birth will be intervened on in some way.” If your water breaks, they told her, we have to get the baby out within 24 hours. So she and her husband went to the hospital right away.

“They pretty much wanted me to Pitocin the minute I walked in the door because I wasn’t having regular contractions,” she says.

Mary Birch, the rate was 37.7. The World Health Organization suggests that C-section rates should be between 10 and 15 per 100 births.

At 40 weeks, two days prior to her due date, Cooper-Schultz’s water broke, though she was not in labor. In a birthing class she’d taken at Mary Birch, she’d been told that this happens to 25 percent of women. She says she’d never recommend the class “because it’s focused on the assumption that your birth will be intervened on in some way.” If your water breaks, they told her, we have to get the baby out within 24 hours. So she and her husband went to the hospital right away.

“All the information I had, the doctor didn’t care if I was having regular contractions,” she says.
Pitocin is a synthetic form of a natural hormone called oxytocin that stimulates uterine contractions. The drug is controversial not for what it can do — help induce labor — but for its overuse as a tool of convenience, for managing or controlling labor, despite the risks it presents, including, in rare cases, uterine rupture and fetal distress.

Dawn Thompson, a private doula, or birth coach, based in Encinitas, calls Pitocin the first in the “snowball effect” of interventions that ultimately lead to a C-section. The contractions induced by Pitocin come strong and fast, unaccompanied by the endorphins present with natural contractions, and the use of Pitocin requires constant fetal monitoring, which limits mobility for the mother. Most women find the pain intolerable and end up needing an epidural. An epidural is an injection into the bony spinal canal of a local anesthetic that blocks nerve impulses in the lower half of the body. While epidurals eliminate pain, they come with their own set of risks, potentially slowing down the process of labor, causing a drop in blood pressure for the mother, and causing a lower heart rate for the baby. Ultimately, these interventions set the stage for the C-section.

Mary Birch administrators do not deny that their C-section rate is high. John Cihomsky, Sharp’s vice president of communications, wrote to me in an email, “Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns is the busiest high-risk, Level III delivery center in the state. Sharp Mary Birch not only delivers the most babies in the state, but we also deliver the most babies weighing less than 1500 grams. These very low birth weight babies are almost always delivered by cesarean section. In addition, we also care for many mothers with high-risk perinatal conditions, such as placenta accreta, and medical conditions that often require delivery via cesarean.”

Hospital administration declined to give me a tour of the hospital or a face-to-face interview. To be fair, Mary Birch is but one hospital among thousands across the country whose C-section rates are two to four times higher than they should be. And it’s likely that the “too posh to push” crowd and the “I want my kid born on Valentine’s Day” moms do their fair share to raise these rates with their elective C-sections.

But a significant number of women believe their C-section deliveries at Mary Birch were the result of convenience for the doctors, fear of litigation, and/or lack of staff training in nonmedicated childbirth options.

A study done in Portland, Oregon, in the late 1990s found a correlation between the use of Pitocin and C-section rates. The January 1, 2003, issue of *Ob Gyn News* outlines the study, in which 4635 women who went into labor...
spontaneously had an 11.5 percent C-section rate, while 2,647 who were induced had a rate of 23.7 percent.

On the Drugs.com website, an “Important Notice” accompanies the indications and usage information about Pitocin.

“Elective induction of labor is defined as the initiation of labor in a pregnant individual who has no medical indications for induction,” the notice reads. “Since the available data are inadequate to evaluate the benefits-to-risks considerations, Pitocin is not indicated for elective induction of labor.”

It is common for hospitals to use Pitocin if a woman has not gone into active labor within 24 hours after her water has broken to avoid the risk of infection. But the staff at Mary Birch wanted to give Cooper-Schultz Pitocin within the first two hours.

Cooper-Schultz refused the Pitocin at first. She wanted to get things going naturally, and for the next several hours, she and her doula walked and used the birth ball, a large physiotherapy ball on which the mom can sit to relieve pain during labor and which is believed to assist in positioning the baby. At the 12-hour mark, her cervix had dilated to four centimeters. She says she now understands that this “is a good natural labor progression for a first-time mom.”

But it wasn’t fast enough for the staff at Mary Birch. Cooper-Schultz, who describes herself as the kind of person who will “try not to be a problem because you might be mean to me if I am,” allowed them to give her the Pitocin that she says they’d been pushing since she’d arrived.

“No human should have to withstand Pitocin contractions on their own. It’s awful,” Cooper-Schultz says. “They weren’t honest with me. They didn’t say, ‘If you..."
get the Pitocin, you’re probably going to need an epidural.”

**Thompson,** the doula, says that the lack of informed consent is a big problem when it comes to the medical interventions doctors use to manage labor and delivery. When women ask for her services as a doula, the most common statement she hears from moms who have had previous births is, “If I would have known this, I would’ve never done that.”

Many doulas, including Thompson and Care Messer, who is also a hypnobirthing instructor, believe that a large part of their job is to help inform the patient about the effects of Pitocin and other interventions. They see themselves as advocates, helping to remind the mothers that they are the customers and they have the right to say no. But Cooper-Schultz didn’t know any of this before her experience at Mary Birch, and she chose her doula for her nurturing characteristics rather than her strength of advocacy.

“I needed somebody to be like a mom for me because my mom wasn’t going to be there. And that’s what she was,” Cooper-Schultz says. “I didn’t go into this situation thinking I have to be an advocate for myself. I didn’t know I had to do that.”

Cooper-Schultz withstood the pain of Pitocin contractions for eight hours before she finally gave in and got an epidural. “I was in so much excruciating pain I couldn’t move. All I could do was just sit in the chair. Every time I would get up, I would have one contraction on top of another. I didn’t know I had to do that.”

The epidural worked on only her left half. At one point, the doctor came in to check on her and alerted the nurses that she was going home to take her kids to school. Sometime later, she returned with wet hair, checked Cooper-Schultz, found her at nine centimeters, and told her to try pushing.

“I pushed, and [the baby’s] heart rate went down, which I now know can be in a normal range of labor. But she said she’s worried about it. She said, ‘He’s not in distress, but he’s a little bit stressed.’”

The doctor told Cooper-Schultz it would go one of three ways. In the first scenario, Cooper-Schultz would push for 20 or so minutes and the baby would come out. In the second, she could push for 20 or so minutes, the baby would not come out, and they’d have to do an emergency cesarean section. Or, the doctor said, they could do a cesarean section right now.

Cooper-Schultz chose the cesarean.

“I was really afraid [of the emergency C-section] because my husband wouldn’t have been able to be there with me,” she says. With the non-emergency C-section, her husband was allowed into the operating room.

Cooper-Schultz had never been hospitalized or had surgery before. She recalls the anesthesiologist as a kind and concerned man who offered her a shot of Demerol, but she never received it.

“I pushed, and she didn’t know I had to do that. She told me it was a proper fit! We carry HOOTERS hosiery and socks! We carry HOOTERS hosiery and socks! • Large cupped swimwear, maternity and sports bras • We carry sizes 28 to 54 in cup sizes B to N • We carry makeup, lip liner or eyebrows. For eyeliner, lip liner or eyebrows. Over 20 years’ experience. Not valid with any other offer. Curls & Comb Escondido - 760-207-7033 649 W. Mission Ave. #4

**“I had a C-section because my doctor didn’t care if I had a C-section.” — Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz**

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“I kind of passed out, and basically, I missed my son’s birth,” she says. “The next thing I remember was them holding up a baby on the other side of the room that could’ve been mine, could’ve not been mine, something different is just huge.”

In eight years, Thompson has overseen 134 births. Of those, 17 took place at Mary Birch, 12 of which resulted in a C-section. That’s 71 percent. Of the remain-

Dawn Thompson, who has been a doula for eight years, no longer provides her services to women who plan to deliver at Mary Birch because, she says, the environment is particularly unsupportive of the natural birth process. A doula can only provide information and support to a mom; she can’t make decisions for her. And to deliver naturally at Mary Birch, a mom has to be prepared to fight.

“I couldn’t handle the emotional ride,” she says. “As a doula, if I don’t invest with these moms, I’m not doing a good job. So, to feel their disappointment and their devastation and knowing that I had all the information and could have offered them something different is just huge.”

“I remember what it was like to be a mom; she says. “The next thing..."
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“There’s so much fear on their part when you walk in the door that something’s going to go wrong, and it’s overwhelming.”

Helen Dover (not her real name) welcomes me into her North Park apartment shortly after the dinner hour on a Tuesday evening in mid-September. She tells me she’s an unlikely candidate for natural childbirth.

“I’m like Woody Allen,” she says. “I am a New Yorker who likes living in the city, who likes creature comforts. And for somebody like me to be embracing [natural childbirth] is humongous.”

We sit together naturally at Mary Birch and ends in what she considers an unnecessary C-section. One difference is that when Dover started out, she did know she might have to fight for what she wanted. When she began...
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**ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER**

**IF THEY ARE:**

- 6 – 17 YEARS OF AGE
- HAVING SLEEP PROBLEMS
- HAVING DAYTIME FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT
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**OPIOID PAIN MEDICATION AND SUFFER FROM CONSTIPATION?**

**If you are:**

- 18 – 84 years of age
- Taking at least one prescription opioid pain medication daily

The study will last 18 weeks and will require nine visits so that the study doctors and nurses can perform tests and monitor your health.

Any study-related medications/procedures would be provided at no cost to you.

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**IF THEY ARE:**

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**OPIOID PAIN MEDICATION AND SUFFER FROM CONSTIPATION?**

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The study will last 18 weeks and will require nine visits so that the study doctors and nurses can perform tests and monitor your health.

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to labor, she called her doula first, not the hospital. She stayed home and labored for 10 to 12 hours before she went to the hospital, avoiding “the clock” for as long as she could.

When she arrived, armed with her research and her hopes for a natural birth, she found that the environment at Mary Birch had a greater impact on her than she’d imagined it would.

“There’s so much fear on their part when you walk in the door that something’s going to go wrong, and it’s overwhelming,” she says. “It was never, ‘We’re so excited. You’re going to have a great birth.’”

The progression she’d experienced at home, from two centimeters to four, slowed drastically when she arrived at the hospital. A doctor told her to advance slowly. “I should’ve stayed as cool as possible,” she says. “I’d read the books where they say once you get to the hospital, you’re a little bit more tense because you know there’s a clock running. They kept coming in and

“The doctor] said, ‘You need a C-section.’ I said, ‘I don’t understand why I need a C-section.’... And he said, ‘Well, she’s stuck.’”

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DEPRESSION

SCHIZOPHRENIA
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BIPOLAR DISORDER

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nothing was happening, and I was getting a little bit more stressed. The only person coaching me along was my doula. Everybody else was, like, 'Are you there yet? Are you there yet?'

Dover’s husband, Henry (not his real name), pipes up from the nearby kitchen table, where he’s been listening in.

“As things were not progressing, there was never any inflection or tone of ‘You’ll be all right,’” he says. “It was just more and more concern, more and more concern, like, ‘Things are not going the way we have our script to play out.’”

Dover lists her regrets: Not waiting and laboring longer at home. Allowing the Pitocin at 12 hours. Giving in to the epidural after 8 more hours. But the regrets go as far back as her pregnancy, when she chose to stay with Sharp.

“I should’ve just switched, but it’s so hard with an HMO,” she says. “In order for me to change to Scripps and go to one of the birth rooms at Scripps, which has a much better record, would have meant changing everything: changing my primary care physician, changing my OB/GYN. I would’ve had to totally change my insurance policy. And at the time, I already had a pediatrician picked out for her and everything. We’d interviewed, and just the idea of doing all of that was overwhelming. I thought I didn’t have the strength to do it.”

Dover’s daughter, who has finished cutting all the purple construction paper available, piles her blanket, stuffed giraffe into her mother’s lap. Then she climbs up on the couch and joins us.

Dover tells me that around the 40-hour mark, she began to cry.

“[The doctor] said, ‘You need a C-section,’” she says. “I said, ‘I don’t understand why I need a C-section. Everything seems to be fine. Her heart rate’s not dropping.’ And he said, ‘Well, she’s stuck.’”

Dover reaches out and runs a hand over her daughter’s hair.

“I’d read all these books where the midwives use their hands and try to help gently,” she says. “But he said, ‘No, I’m not going to do that.’”

When she asked why not, the doctor said he didn’t know what position the baby was in and didn’t want to cause a broken shoulder.

“He wasn’t even willing to use his hands and help,” she says. “And I

RESEARCH STUDIES

Every day people recover from mental illness.

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was totally against using the suction, but anything besides the total hands-off. He said, ‘I don’t want to hurt your baby, and you don’t want to hurt your baby.’ I started crying. And I just finally said, ‘Fine. Cut me open.’”

“Moms are easily led at the very end because they want to get the baby out. They’re tired,” Messer tells me. Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz confirms that this was true in her case. “Go without eating for 27 hours — on Pitocin and with an epidural that’s only working on half of you — and try to make a rational decision,” she says.

Wait. Without eating for 27 hours?

The staff at Mary Birch emphasizes the no-food-in-the-labor-and-delivery-unit policy during the hospital tour that most moms take earlier in their pregnancies, Messer tells me. “The first thing they say is, ‘What can’t you do when you get here?’” And the answer she says is, “No eating or drinking.”

“At Kaiser, you can eat and drink,” Messer says. “UCSD, you can eat and drink. Pomerado, you can eat and drink. Palomar, you can eat and drink. But at Sharp, their reason is if you need a C-section, you can throw up, you can aspirate, and you can get really sick.”

When I email Cihomsky, the communications vice president at Sharp, to ask about the no-food-or-drink policy, he responds, “It serves as a precaution in case of an emergency that requires a mother to undergo general anesthesia during labor. Anesthesia is always safest on an empty stomach because of the risk of aspiration. Other factors come into play, such as how long the labor lasts, the mother’s particular condition, etc., so the ultimate guidance on whether or not a mother eats during labor rests with her physician.”

Thompson cites the “bait and switch,” where a doctor claims to support a woman’s birth choices up until the final weeks, when it’s too late to change doctors.

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For more information contact eStudySite toll free at: 877-500-eStudy 877-500-3788

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The obstetrician a woman chooses plays as large a role in her birth experience as the place she chooses to deliver her baby. Some doctors have a reputation for being more inclined to help with a natural birth, and others for being less inclined. Childbirth books suggest that a woman question potential candidates to get a feel for their practices. Messer and Thompson agree that’s not always enough.

Thompson cites the “bait and switch,” where "I think at 2:30 in the morning, a C-section at Mary Birch is, ‘We can manage this and then we can all go home.’" — Christine Stewart

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This 12-week program involves medication.

RESEARCH STUDIES

FIND OUT MORE

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* * * 
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For more information or to see if you qualify for this study, please contact:

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Contact: Hillary Bender
Email: hbender@nccresearch.com
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labor and delivery.” At the time, Stewart thought the doctor didn’t want her to be disappointed if natural birth didn’t work out, but now she speculates that the doctor was always leaning toward a C-section.

At 36 weeks, the doctor suggested they induce her at 38 weeks. Stewart refused.

“From what I can tell,” she says, “it’s just common that it’s more manageable to have twins at 38 weeks because of size. Sometimes they’re concerned about size. But [my girls] were normal-sized.”

The doctor suggested 39 weeks, then 40. Finally, Stewart agreed to induce at 40 weeks if she hadn’t gone into labor by then. But it was unnecessary. At 40 weeks, three days short of her original due date, Stewart went into labor.

Stewart chose Mary Birch because it had everything she was looking for. Originally, she’d wanted to deliver at Best Start Birth Center in Hillcrest, but they don’t accept women who are pregnant with twins. Mary Birch, she says, seemed like the next best thing.

“It had the facilities, doctors on hand, and all these different classes — prenatal yoga — and since I was diagnosed high-risk because I had the twins and since I was over 35,” she says, “I just thought their whole entire focus is for women and newborns, so I'll probably get the best care because they’ve got all the resources for that.”

Stewart had heard about other women going into the hospital prematurely and getting “strapped down” immediately. But in her natural childbirth class she’d learned that mobility helps with labor. So she and her husband didn’t go in right away.

Once they did arrive at the hospital, Stewart was four centimeters dilated. She gave the nursing staff her birth plan, which stated that she did not want any mention of pain medication.

“Thankfully, they did not offer medication. They were respectful of that. The contractions were intense,” she says, pulling her feet up onto the chair and hugging her knees. I was slowly dilating in a normal time frame. They were telling me that was normal. My doctor still was not present. She did not actually arrive until about 10:00 p.m. So up until that time, it was the labor nurse who was in communication with my doctor over the phone.”

The nurse who’d been assigned to her...
provided juice, watched
the fetal monitors, and
kept the doctor informed
about any changes.
But otherwise, Stewart
received no help from
her.

“She was there, I
guess, as a resource,
but she wasn’t active or
in any way involved in
the labor process itself,”
Stewart says. “Everyone
knew we were doing
nonmedicated birth,
but I think we just felt
like if that’s the decision
we made, we were just
on our own. There was
just no assistance getting
through it.”

While it may be
true that doctors call
the shots, doula Dawn
Thompson believes
that the nurses’ lack of
training in unmedicated
births plays a large role
in whether a
woman gets a C-section.

“Nurses have a lot of
power, and the reason
they have a lot of power
is because the doctors
aren’t present,” Thomp-
son says. “The nurse
is the one calling the
doctor to give them an
update. So if the nurse is
inexperienced, she might
say, ‘She hasn’t changed
dilation in two hours.’
She might constantly
be giving the doctor a
negative report. Or she
might say, ‘She’s doing
great. Just a little bit of
change.’ In that case,
then the doctor might
say, ‘Okay, call me when
she’s ready to push.’ The
nurse absolutely has a lot
of control.”

Christine Stewart
believes that the main
reason she ended up hav-
ing a C-section was that
her nurses had no train-
ing in natural childbirth.

“Ultimately, the out-
come was because there
was no one in the labor
room who had the expe-
rience to help get the
babies in position to be
delivered,” she says.

By the time the doc-
tor arrived, Stewart was
fully dilated. She knew
her babies were healthy,
that they were both head
down, in a good posi-
tion, face forward. Her
blood pressure was not
elevated, she had no
fever, and she’d been
in labor for less than 24
hours. Everything was
normal except that the
babies were wedged in,
each trying to get out
first.

“There were a couple
of things they asked me
to try,” Stewart says, “but
I never really felt like
there was any truly pro-
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active measures to say, ‘Okay, can we move the babies around? Let’s see if we can move this one up so the other one can move down.’ There was nothing hands-on.’

At 2:00 a.m., the doctor came in and said, “It’s time to meet your girls.”

“There was kind of an emotional appeal going on. I just said, ‘Okay, fine.’ It was a disappointing moment. I kind of resigned myself, like, ‘If this is what we have to do, this is what we have to do.’ I felt like crying because it just went against everything I had hoped for, everything I had planned and practiced for.”

The twins run past us now and into the room behind us, where an air mattress sits in the middle of the floor. They leap onto it and begin to jump. Stewart watches them for a moment and then turns back to me.

“I think the hospital has some standard protocols, and I think that if you don’t follow their standard protocols, they just don’t know what to do with you,” she says. “And a C-section is manageable. They know exactly how to do it, and I think at 2:30 in the morning it’s, ‘We can manage this, and then we can all go home.’”

In mid-October, Care Messer lectured student nurses at San Diego State University who were doing their obstetrics rotation at Mary Birch.

“They were floored by what natural birth is like and what all the hospital procedures do to the natural process,” she wrote to me in an email. “It happens every time I teach there.”

She adds, “I’d love to teach it to a whole hospital staff so they’d see where we’re coming from. The problem is that they’re just never trained about natural birth in their system. And our doctors aren’t either. It’s really not their fault. We don’t train them in it. And OBs are trained surgeons. Their specialty is surgery.”

Alexis Martin (not her real name), a former labor and delivery nurse at Mary Birch, says that her training lacked exposure to any nonmedical methods of helping women through labor. “The training that I got there was mostly...
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about medicalized procedures: how to run Pitocin and what fetal-monitor strip reading is all about, interpreting the data,” she says. “That’s what the majority of our training was all about.”

Today, Martin works as a doula and private monitrice, a labor-support person who may perform some clinical tasks, such as monitoring the fetal heart rate or taking the mother’s blood pressure, tasks a certified doula is not allowed to perform. Some of the moms that Martin helps do give birth at Mary Birch, and from what she can see, “Not much has changed,” she says, in the ten years since she worked there as a nurse.

“You can have a natural birth at Mary Birch, too. It’s not impossible,” she says, “but the nurses are not that helpful with it, other than maybe bringing you a squat bar.”

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For their next baby, the Dovers will stay with Sharp in order to take advantage of the tests, which would cost them thousands of dollars out-of-pocket. They will also register at Mary Birch so that they are prepared in the event of an emergency. But they have hired a midwife to help them birth at home.

“We’re going just to get what doctors are good for,” Henry says, “and then to use the midwives for what they’re good for.”

Over the summer, Care Messer heard an ad on the radio saying that Sharp Mary Birch honors women’s birth options.

Henry says, “Bullcrap,” she says. “Messer was so incensed by what she considers false advertising that she looked into purchasing space on a vacant billboard over the 163, where it would be seen by hospital patients.

The message she wanted to share echoed her original thought. The billboard would read, “Bullcrap.” But at $1000 for the initial vinyl and $6000 for a 30-day rental, the price was too high.

“If I had that kind of cash, it would have been up that week,” she says.

In early November, John Cihomsky confirms a rumor that Sharp Mary Birch is developing a doula program. “It’s in response to our patients’ desire for more options during their birthing experience,” he says in an email. “The Doulas will be independent contractors, and our target date to start offering this service is at the beginning of 2012.”

— Elizabeth Salaam

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Toward the Freezing North
As Sebastian Vizcaíno's expedition prepared to leave San Diego Bay, a member of the crew struggled to board a launch. Stiff-legged, barely able to walk, he stumbled, struggled to stand up, and fell again. Native children, watching from a distance, imitated the strange behavior of the bearded man. They flopped on the sand, gathered themselves up, giggled, and collapsed again.

On November 20, 1602, three ships weighed anchor. They sailed past the “point of ballast stone” and across from the loma — little hill — guarding San Diego Bay. Vizcaíno wanted to study the finest harbor he’d found in more detail. But the expedition had been at sea since July 5, and what some called the curse of the cold northern latitudes — today known as scurvy — began to take a toll.

“Our General [Vizcaíno] ordered that we should continue our voyage without further delay,” writes Father Ascensión, a Carmelite priest who chronicled the voyage. “Our men were all becoming ill [with] neither comforts nor medicines” to cure them. “If we should delay, the voyage could not be completed.”

One by one, sailors succumbed. Their legs ached. Red splotches grew on their skin. Even minimal amounts of work exhausted them. Their jaws tightened, making it increasingly difficult to swallow whole food. More and more...

1. Chapman, Charles E.: “Nearly all [Vizcaíno’s reports] had to say was true, save for the yarn about the excellence of Monterey as a sheltered port; but it was precisely this departure from strict accuracy that had the most effect: the legend of the port of Monterey became one of the moving factors for a century and a half in Spanish expansion to the northwest.”

2. Father Ascensión (in Wagner): “All men in the fleet, well or sick, had to confess and take communion.”

3. Vizcaíno’s diarist: “All the men had fallen sick, so that there were only two sailors who could climb to the main-topsail.”

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Actual patient
more, each ship became a sick bay, stem to stern.

Though the viceroy of New Spain had ordered him not to, as he headed north Vizcaíno continued to rename islands and bays: Santa Catalina Island after Saint Catherine; San Clemente Island; San Pedro; and Santa Barbara.

As they sailed the channel at Santa Barbara, a large canoe sped toward them. It was “so well constructed,” Vizcaíno’s diarist noted, “that since Noah’s Ark, a finer and lighter vessel has not been seen.” Four rapid oars dug deep. An old man, obviously the chief, stood in the center with his son. Then all six on board began to sing, and the chief danced, whirling round and round.

His craft circled the San Diego so swiftly, writes the diarist, “that in a moment they were around us twice.”

The canoe was a tomol: built from redwood planks found floating in the channel, and at least 25 feet long. The natives were Chumash. The “seashell people” lived in dome-shaped, permanent homes made from willow branches, which could house 50 people. They had a highly evolved culture: women could become chiefs or shamans.

When the canoe pulled alongside the San Diego, the chief saluted three times. Sailors lowered a thick rope. He grabbed it without hesitation and pulled himself onboard.

He spoke in hand signals. Relays of natives from Catalina, he signed, had rowed to Santa Barbara to announce that three large boats — “whales with wings” — were coming his way. The chief had come to meet the strangers, because they’d given the Catalinans gifts and he wanted some for his tribe.

He “was so intelligent,” writes Ascensión, “he appeared to be...a person of great understanding.” At one point Vizcaíno handed the chief tin, lead, and silver plates, asking which he preferred. He tapped each, then pointed to the silver: keep this, he signed, forget the others.

The chief urged the Spaniards to come ashore. He would give them everything they needed — including, they hoped, a cure for those taken ill.

When he didn’t see any women onboard, the chief asked where they were. He “pointed to his private parts,” writes the diarist, “and gave us clearly to understand what he wished to say.”

They had no women, Vizcaíno replied, “nor were they necessary.”

The chief beamed a smile. Come ashore, he pointed. Ten women will “serve and entertain” each of you. He even offered to stay onboard as a hostage. After sundown he left, but not before repeating the offer.

An hour later, a southeast wind came up. It was the first “stern wind” the expedition had known, pushing the ships from behind. Was it a sign?

The council agreed to use “the opportunity
which our Lord had provided. On the return voyage, vows would come back and see what the Indian chief had promised."

That night they sailed 15 leagues, by far the greatest distance thus far.

But fewer and fewer sailors could perform their tasks. Both the pilot of the Santo Tomás and his assistant were bedridden. A pain had spread through their bodies. Gums ached. A pain had spread through their legs. Stiffened. Then paralysis set in.

"All is groans and cries," writes Ascensión, "and there is no other consolation except to ask God to help take one away from this life."

Infected bodies became "as sore as a boil." Death was often so sudden that many died mid-sentence.

On December 16, the fleet sailed into a bay. Vizcaíno declared it "the best port that could be desired." He praised its live oaks and pines, fresh water, and fertile soil. He said the climate, near freezing at the time with snow on the mountains, resembled Castile. He named it for the viceroy of New Spain, the Conde de Monterey. On his map the cosmographer Geronimo Palacios turned the relatively small Monterey cove into a fairly large, well-protected bay shaped like a fishhook.

In a letter to the viceroy, Vizcaíno boasted that Monterey was "sheltered from all winds" and extolled its virtues in florid prose.

But the cove has no protection from northwest storms and came nowhere near the possibilities of San Diego Bay. Vizcaíno overpraised Monterey such that when the Costanso expedition came north in 1769, they couldn't find it.

Earlier Vizcaíno had proclaimed San Diego the finest port in the South Seas. Was Monterey superior, or just the best for their present needs? Vizcaíno sought a landfall for Manila galleons after four months at sea. San Diego may have seemed too far south, too close to home. And Vizcaíno may have assumed that Monterey was a more favorable latitude for Manila galleons.

But, says Paul A. Myers, "this belief indicated a lack of insight" because "the galleons turned to the southeast while still hundreds of miles away from the Northern California coast."

Vizcaíno may have had another reason for naming his exaggerated bay for the viceroy: his expedition was falling apart. At least 16 sailors had already died from scurvy. Forty-five others had major symptoms, including helmsmen too rigid to steer the ship.

On December 18, Vizcaíno called a council of captains and pilots: "the most solemn of all," writes the diarist. As each man spoke, the factors piled up, including the Santo Tomás. It was leaking again and didn't have enough healthy crewmen to bail out the bilge.

The council decided to send the Santo Tomás back to Acapulco as an "advice" ship. It would take the sickest sailors and copies of all maps and documents (in case those who remained behind "should be wrecked or die on the voyage"). In a letter, Vizcaíno would urge the viceroy to send men and supplies to Cabo San Lucas, where Vizcaíno would meet them in May. The other ships, the San Diego and the Tres Reyes, would continue north, at least to Cape Mendocino.

Even though the Santo Tomás was as infirm as its crew, with favoring winds and currents, it could complete the "downhill" run south. The Cabrillo voyage took 70 days to reach Monterey from La Navidad, just north of Acapulco — and only 20, in the favoring conditions, to return.

The expedition had been gone 188 days. On December 29, after they redistributed the crews, lightened the load, and put most of the provisions on the other ships, the Santo Tomás sailed from Monterey "with orders to make haste" — and no stops along the way.

When the Santo Tomás anchored at Acapulco three weeks later, 25 had died. Father Tomás de Aquino also had scurvy. Since he could barely stand, during the voyage he had to prop himself against a mast to administer last rites.

"To see the condition in which the sick reached there was pitiful," writes Ascensión. "They had suffered many hardships, as the sound men aboard her fell sick." At Acapulco, only three still had their health. Others, including Father Tomás, took months to recover.

On January 1, ten able members of Vizcaíno's crew went ashore at Monterey to take on wood and water. The snow-covered mountains reminded them of Popocátépetl, the volcano of Mexico. "Extreme cold," writes the diarist, froze their freshwater hole "to more than a palm in thickness." Water in the bottles also froze: "Even when turned upside-down, not a drop ran out." They encountered no natives "because of the great cold they were living in [in] the interior."

At midnight on January 3, 1603, a northeast wind came up and the San Diego and Tres Reyes set sail for Cape Mendocino. They made ten leagues by dawn. On January 7, winds shifted to the northwest. Assuming the ships were still together, Vizcaíno put up no signal lantern. When he stopped to inspect a bay, the Tres Reyes continued northward. The ships separated and remained apart for the rest of the voyage.

With a crippled crew, the Tres Reyes may have sailed all the way to Cres-
cent City. But bitter cold and scurvy took many lives, including Commander Aguilar and pilot Antonio Flores. Estevan Lopez, the boatswain, became captain of the frigate. He turned it south to find the San Diego.

The ships may have sailed within sight of each other, but neither had enough healthy sailors to climb to the crow’s nest and keep a regular watch. The Tres Reyes raced south. When it arrived at Navidad on February 26, only Lopez and five of his crew were still alive.

On January 12, a gale blasted the San Diego near Cape Mendocino. The tempest became so furious that Vizcaino and his captain couldn’t decide “whether to go forward or to turn back, for it was as dark in the daytime as at night.”

By then, the flagship was, writes the diarist, “a floating hospital.” Sailors took the helm who had never steered before. First-timers climbed slippery rigging to the masthead. Those barely able to move made mush in the galley, since the sick couldn’t open their mouths to eat the available hard foods: rotting jerked beef and chick peas infested with weevils.

“There were not more than six men on board who were well and up,” writes Ascensión. “The rest of the soldiers, sailors, cabin boys, and ship boys were sick in bed.” Ascensión among them. Along with fainting spells, he kept blacking out. Sometimes the moans of others woke him up. Everyone, he writes, feared of “losing their lives in such a place without any human remedy and without any expectation of finding one.”

If the storm grew worse, winds would slam the San Diego onto the rocky coast. All they could do was hurl the sails, point the bow west, and hope.

On January 13, Vizcaíno called a council. All agreed they could no longer sail north. “There were no men for it,” writes the diarist. “It was very cold, the rains were increasing and winter coming on all at once, and if we were to go on, we should all perish.”

The viceroy had ordered the expedition to reach Cape Mendocino, latitude 41 degrees. They’d achieved this objective, said Vizcaino. It was time to head back.

The next day the winds suddenly stopped, and the sun made blue skies bright — an omen of confirmation?

Later that afternoon, black clouds bulged to the southeast. Another storm usurped the sky, bitter cold and determined, the crew became convinced, to prevent a safe voyage home.

Next time: The Death Ship Comes Alive.

— Jeff Smith

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**CITY LIGHTS**

**Under the radar**

continued from page 2

agreement and ground lease for the long-stalled redevelopment of City-owned Brown Field airport on Otay Mesa, according to a November 16 lobbyist disclosure filing.

— Matt Potter

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**Convention center**

continued from page 2

portation Association, and American Academy of Family Physicians had attendance that was, respectively, 42.75 percent, 30.76 percent, and 27.59 percent lower than the center had forecast, but the consultant’s report showed room nights the same as initially predicted. There is no way that actual attendance could be that far below the forecast while hotel room nights remained the same.

The above examples are a few of the discrepancies that Sanders discovered. He found more than one attendance number that didn’t look right. For example, for 2009, the center reported that there were 16,000 attendees from the American Thoracic Society. Sanders checked audited numbers of the society’s last two annual conventions. This year, it was 12,817. So 16,000 is a suspicious number.

In any case, the consultant relied on the consultant’s bullish suggestions in deciding to go ahead with the proposed expansion. (Actually, consultants are normally paid to give a city the go-ahead on a course it has already decided to take.) In any case, the consultant carefully words its prefix: it says it greatly depends on information provided by its client and the client’s representatives. “No responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies in reporting by the client [or] the client’s agent and representatives,” wea-

**CITY LIGHTS**

**Watch your step**

continued from page 3

is paid for by the neighborhood’s property owners by way of maintenance assessment district fees.

Roxanne Stuber, co-owner of Walk N Roll Doggie, a San Diego dog-walking, boarding, day-care service, tells me Little Italy is among the top neighborhoods in the city for cleanliness but also for convenience of dog-poop pickup.

“There are trash cans all over,” she says of Little Italy, “so you’re not walking around for a half hour with a bag full of poop in your hand.”

Stuber, who provides services to clients in many of the city’s urban neighborhoods, notes that even those without Dogi pots or trash cans tend to have significantly less fecal matter on their sidewalks than City Heights.

“Hillcrest has a shortage of trash cans and no Dogi pots to speak of,” she says. “But dog owners are very responsible there. Everybody picks up pretty well.”

And City Heights?

“I have stepped in poop there,” she says. “There’s poop all over the streets. If you were to compare City Heights with, say, South Park — and they’re pretty close in distance — City Heights isn’t a very pleasant place to be walking.”

When I make a call to the County’s Department of Animal Services to ask what I can do about the dog feces on sidewalks in my neighborhood, I’m told by the man on the phone that the only way his department can do anything is if one of his officers witnesses the defecation. Or, if I witnessed it, and I can give him the name and address of the person who did not pick up after his dog, then someone can come out and write a ticket on my behalf. Not cleaning up after one’s dog is a violation of municipal code.

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44.0304.1, he tells me. But what about the poop that’s already there?

“Unfortunately, that just sounds like a sanitation issue for the City of San Diego,” he tells me.

When I call the City’s Environmental Services Department, I’m told that no one in the office is allowed to speak to me because I write for the Reader.

Later in the afternoon, I speak to Lieutenant Dan DeSousa at the County’s Department of Animal Services, and he tells me that there is one patrol officer per 85,000 people. So it’s unlikely that his officers will catch many offenders by witnessing the offense themselves.

“The community has to be the eyes and the ears,” he says.

However, he notes that the amount of feces on sidewalks in City Heights may not be solely the result of lazy dog owners.

“Dogs running loose is probably our biggest request for service throughout our jurisdiction,” DeSousa says.

For fiscal year 2011 — July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011 — DeSousa estimates that his department received “about 400” calls about loose dogs in the 92105 zip code.

Ricardo Rojas, employee of Acacia Landscapes, the company contracted to maintain the Landis and Highland Park, says that at least once a day he has to pick up dog feces on the walkway that cuts between the football/soccer fields and the City Heights performance annex. He sees a lot of dogs off leach, he tells me, and he sometimes witnesses those dogs defecate in the park, but he usually doesn’t say anything to the dog owner.

“I’m not a security guard. My job is to maintain this park,” he says. “This is one of those places where I don’t like to say anything because people get offended easily. That’s why I usually just ignore it and pick it up myself.”

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CITY LIGHTS

NEWSTICKER

continued from page 3

caused Italian prosecutors to open an investigation.

“Our constitution guarantees the protection of Italy’s cultural heritage, and now it will be up to the law to determine whether damage has been done here,” Alessandra Mottola Molfino, president of the heritage conservancy Italia Nostra, tells the New York Times.

“It’s like a scratch-and-win lottery ticket,” adds Tomas Montanari, a professor at the University of Naples.

Not so, Alexander Moen, vice president for mission programs at the National Geographic Society, a partner in the project, told the paper. “We are confident in the approach that was taken, which was deliberate and not decided on alone but with the critical agencies that are stakeholders.”

By Matt Potter

Thursday, December 8

HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

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CITY LIGHTS

Muzzled Community

County Supervisors Propose Limiting Planning Groups
San Diego — County supervisors received recommendations to streamline the land-use permitting process from the Red Tape Reduction Task Force on Wednesday. The task force spent months drafting the recommendations after interviewing county employees and poring over county documents.

Among the recommendations, the one focused on community planning groups received the most attention. The task force found that community planning groups often delay projects and hold too much power and influence over projects. To solve that issue, the task force recommended that the board limit the scope of their responsibilities and limit the number of years volunteers can serve.

Members of the public criticized the recommendation.

“Public notice on this was totally inadequate. Planning groups were not notified,” said Lakeside resident Janis Shackelford. “What you are doing is muzzling community participation in the land-use process.”

By Dorian Hargrove

Wednesday, December 7

Chokehold

Occupy Hunger Strikes

Over Alleged Police Brutality
Downtown — Occupy San Diego will march from the Civic Center to the San Diego police headquarters on Broadway and 14th Street at 6:30 tonight in protest of what they’re calling “police brutality” at the ongoing peaceful protest that began in early October.

Occupy San Diego media volunteer Kali Katt says that San Diego Police Department spokesman Gary Hassen’s claim that the most recent arrests on December 5 occurred in response to protestors camping on the plaza is false.

A recording of the morning’s Ustream (at 01:09:00) shows the protestors without tents and watching a movie when the officers move.

By Chad Deal

Tuesday, December 6

To the Marrow

Ricky’s Army Seeks a Few Good Donors
San Marcos — Ricky Martinez has an army. When the nine-year-old Murrieta boy was stricken with aplastic anemia, a disease that causes bone marrow to produce blood cells at a reduced rate, CSU San Marcos professor Scott Landow urged his two Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship classes to take action.

Less than a month later, Ricky’s Army is on the CSUSM campus recruiting students to join the National Marrow Donor Program, a registry of individuals willing, if matched, to donate the bone marrow needed to cure Ricky’s disease and dozens of others.

While Ricky’s Army is only a few weeks old, they’ve already developed a presence on Facebook, have reserved a domain name where they’ll soon launch a website, and are hoping to hold registry events at other colleges across the county and, eventually, across the country.

By Dave Rice

Tuesday, December 6

Political Combat

Ladder-Climbing with Bonnie Dumanis
San Diego — Republican Bonnie Dumanis, currently trying to climb the local political ladder from her post as county district attorney to San Diego’s mayor, has been noted for tutoring others in the ways of political combat.

According to the website of the 27th International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference, held at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston over the weekend, Dumanis was billed as the headline of a breakout session entitled “Climbing the Career Ladder.”

A description of the Dumanis event asks, “Can you get to the next level? Hear from elected and appointed officials about how they climbed the career ladder and discuss the opportunities and challenges involved as you seek to make a difference as a public official.”

Meanwhile, coming up on Wednesday, Dumanis is throwing a 60th birthday party for herself at La Jolla’s venerable Cuvier Club as a campaign fundraiser. Minimum suggested contribution is $75, with table sponsorships going for $2500.

By Matt Potter

Monday, December 5

Become a Stringer. Earn up to $100 for your neighborhood news story, $25 for photo. See guidelines at SDReader.com/news/neighborhood-news/
LETTERS continued from page 4

like a kid at the playground loudly bragging to cover his insecurities. San Diego is wonderful for two basic reasons: our weather and our natural setting. Unfortunately, some residents have been doing their utmost to change both of those for the past 125 years or so. All the attempts with irrigation to develop the area have resulted in the average humidity more than doubling since the 1970s. And while an entire book could be written on changes to our physical setting, I’ll offer one small example. Drive south on Broadway on Harbor Drive in Centre City. How much of the San Diego Bay can you see? Just consider how much more attractive it might be if something like Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive had been the inspiration instead of filling in with hotels and convention buildings. There may be a place for those, but I don’t accept that it is where they were located.

We residents continue to be pushed by our elected officials — and a few others who hope to remain nameless — to build sports stadiums, expand convention facilities, plan new city halls, etc., and all the while, our streets are in disrepair, our water supply and distribution system are inadequate and falling apart, our sewage treatment is inadequate, and on and on.

The list of issues is complex. But I feel it needs to be addressed in a better fashion than we are doing currently.

Tim San Diego

Another Kind Of Justice

We were disturbed to learn in Moss Gropen’s otherwise interesting and important cover story “My House Has Wheels” (December 1) that Osiris Murillo, an alumna of our criminal justice program at San Diego State University, who lost her job during the current recession, is now living with her three-year-old daughter out of her car at 28th and L Street. We are concerned about Osiris’s future and want to reach out to her (though we do not have a contact number). We encourage Osiris to get in contact with SDSU’s criminal justice program’s career adviser, Patricia Frosio, at 619-594-5576 (pfrosio@mail.sdsu.edu). The SDSU Criminal Justice Student Association president Ran- Dee McLain (cjspresident@gmail.com) and the criminal justice Honor Society president Adrienne Ehrlich are also there to help, and Dr. Nurje, the coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program, will arrange to cover child care while Osiris goes for interviews.

Dr. Stuart Henry
Director of the School of Public Affairs
SDSU

Comments from Reader website

Diary of a Diva
Published December 7

Larry E. says: My wife and I have had a similar discussion (but no argument -- yet), so David has my empathy. It’s not just about the people. It’s also about the dog. Mind you, maybe Newt “Gingrich” can offer you advice on how to make the dog productive and earn some income.

By Facebook 2:13 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Suzanne Y. says: A dog would love you unconditionally, really don’t expect too much from you in return, your “nice things” are just that and nothing more.

By Facebook 2:24 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Michelle S. says: We have nice things, and we have a cat and 2 dogs. The secret to that is training, keeping them exercised so they don’t get bored and eat things, and a schedule. Also, getting a dog that isn’t a puppy will help. So many older dogs (just 3 or 4yrs old) are available for adoption but so many people want puppies. If you don’t want kids, you don’t want a puppy. I’ve taken dogs out in the rain and it’s not that bad. Plus it only rains like 6 days a year here. Just keep a towel by the door to wipe/dry its feet.

By Facebook 3:16 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Deena E. says: We had that argument here for several years, then he finally agreed to it...Jesus, you’d think these dogs were his flesh and blood now. He LOOOOOOOVES them and I get to give him ssh’t about how long he resisted. Happy couple=happy dogs.

By Facebook 3:32 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Shawn S. says: It’s a tough decision amongst couples, but Deena’s right. Having a big, doopy dog greet you when you get home is hard to resist.

BTW, kudos to whomever crafted this article’s picture of the two dogs trying to see eye-to-eye.

By Facebook 3:33 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

I just showed this image to David and said, “Don’t be an angry puppy.” http://i.imgur.com/kkchcmu.jpg

By Barbarella 3:36 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Feature Story

“My House Has Wheels” (December 1) that is where they were located.

It is where they were located.

There may be a place for them, but I don’t accept that it is where they were located.

We residents continue to be pushed by our elected officials — and a few others who hope to remain nameless — to build sports stadiums, expand convention facilities, plan new city halls, etc., and all the while, our streets are in disrepair, our water supply and distribution system are inadequate and falling apart, our sewage treatment is inadequate, and on and on.

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WhiskeyGirl.com | 619.236.1616
Thursday | 15

**TEA AND DESIGN DOWNTOWN**
Product Porch (a pop-up shop and “retail experiment” currently on view downtown) partners with Halcyon Tea for an afternoon of specialty teas, pastries, art, and design. Brooks Hudson Thomas and Blaire Dessent will present an overview of the shop and share insights about featured artists and designers.

**WHEN:** 4 to 6 p.m.
**WHERE:** Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 1001 Kettner Boulevard, Downtown. 858-454-3541; mcsd.org/programs

Friday | 16

**A CHRISTMAS TABERNACLE**
“The true meaning and spirit of Christmas comes alive” at Liberty Station this weekend with a live nativity scene, Christmas concerts and performances, Santa’s Village, a themed Christmas-tree area, fun-with-snow play area, and more than 100 vendors.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (also Saturday and Sunday)
**WHERE:** Liberty Station, Womble Road at Historic Decatur Road, Point Loma. 619-754-9508; christmastabernacle.com

Saturday | 17

**KFTS RADIO VARIETY SHOW**
Feeding the Soul Foundation (an organization that “brings community together in creative generosity”) presents an event with comedy, magic, and music by Bushwalla, Raining Jane, and the Makepeace Brothers. Magician and television-host Justin Willman moderates.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.
**WHERE:** Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla. 917-860-9118.

Sunday | 18

**FELIZ NAVIDAD**
This Dulce Sweet Kids program explores the themes of Navidad and Las Posadas. Kids three to seven can learn about these Latin-Christmas traditions and celebrate the culture through songs, traditional arts, and games.

**WHEN:** 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park. 619-235-6135; dulcesweetkids.com

Monday | 19

**GARDEN OF LIGHTS**
Over 100,000 sparkling lights now adorn the plants and trees at San Diego Botanic Garden. Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, and tasty treats.

**WHEN:** 5 to 9 p.m. (event runs through December 23 and December 26–30)
**WHERE:** San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760-436-3036 x206; sdbgarden.org

Tuesday | 20

**LA PASTORELA DE VALOR**
In Teatro Mascara Magica’s 21st annual holiday show (the longest running in San Diego), the Prince of Darkness hassles shepherds on their way to Bethlehem. Little does he know that the Archangel Michael is keeping a close eye on their journey. Directed by William Virchis.

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays through December 24)
**WHERE:** Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 619-544-1000; lyceumevents.org

Wednesday | 21

**DECORATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE**
Pretty enough to eat! The house and frosting will be supplied at this event for kids and teens; you need only bring a bag of candy to use and share with other decorators. See how creative you can get when you play with your food!

**WHEN:** 6 to 7 p.m.
**WHERE:** Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. 858-573-5007.
Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Jalama Beach, California
By May Chu

We left at 12:00 a.m. on October 25, en route to Jalama Beach County Park from San Diego for a surf trip. Research told us that campers have to arrive at the park’s flag post at 6 a.m. sharp in order to make a waiting list for the prime oceanfront real estate — miss the meeting, forget about a spot. It’s first come, first serve.

Driving in the middle of the night is torture on the mind and eyes but well worth it for patience’s sake since we missed the Sea of Brake Lights, Los Angeles. After arriving in Santa Barbara at 3:30 a.m., we filled the gas tank and rested in a bank parking lot. By 5:00 a.m. we were awake and prepared to complete our drive to Jalama.

On a map, Jalama appears to be a straight shot off Pacific Coast Highway 1. The small bush-covered sign on the roadside directed us to turn left to our destination. The joke was on us, however, when we encountered 14 miles of driving in darkness through switchbacks. The only sign that told us we were on the right track was the presence of bright spaceship-shaped oil rigs offshore.

We arrived at the campground a little after 6, before sunrise, without a ranger in sight and ample oceanfront camping spots.

After an hour of waiting, napping, then watching the waves, we set off and marked our spot with the tent, camping gear, and surfboards. For $20/night, spot 73 was our home for the next three days.

We enjoyed a technology-free surf trip, glassy waves, dolphins, long, peaceful walks on the beach, classic California fall weather, gorgeous pink and purple sunrises, a nighttime sky full of stars (hard to miss), campfires, French press coffee, and crafty raccoons.

Jalama was a spontaneous choice, and one that I’m completely stoked about. I love this place. I really hope that it stays as it is — without developers considering it as a location for the next coastal planned development.

Tips:
1. 4.5 hr drive from San Diego (without cars on the road in the middle of the night).
2. Site rates vary by season, location, and amenities.
3. Fall is the best time of year.
4. Shower usage costs 50 cents for 3 minutes.
5. Store your food and coolers in the car at night to avoid raccoons.
6. Clean up after yourself, and sometimes others.
7. Last, enjoy this sliver of California coast that the Chumash Native Americans once occupied. They were savvy in their real estate pickings.

Little Rock, Arkansas: Indie-Music Mecca
By Tamar Fleishman

Little Rock, Arkansas, has quietly become an indie-music lover’s paradise. Those turned on by the harder stuff — punk, hardcore, hard Southern rock — can get their rock on at Juanita’s. Tasty Tex-Mex is served during the earlier evening hours, and the bands come on

Other Adventures

Heather Randolph: Bud-die’s Sand Buddies in Buttercup, Thanksgiving 2011

Sigournee Grondin: The Santa Monica Pier is alive at night.

Jalama Beach County Park was our home for the next three days.

For $20/night, spot 73 at Jalama Beach County Park was our home for the next three days.

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ROAM-O-RAMA
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | by Jerry Schad
FROM THE TRAILMASTER’S FAVORITES FOLDER
The Mt. Lowe Railway hike is recognized as one of the most successful “rails to trails” projects in the country.
Originally published: October 2, 2003

An engineering marvel when built in the 1890s, the Mt. Lowe Railway above Pasadena and Altadena lived a checkered past full of both glory and destruction. Before its final abandonment in the mid-1930s, the line carried over 3 million tourists. Unheard of by millions of Southland newcomers today, the railway was for many years the most popular outdoor attraction in Southern California. Today you can hike parallel to and sometimes directly on the old rail bed, using your imagination to reconstruct what it was like to ride the rails a century ago.

The line consisted of three stages. Passengers rode a trolley from Altadena into lower Rubio Canyon, then boarded a steeply inclined cable railway that took them 1300 feet higher to Echo Mountain, where two hotels, a number of small tourist attractions, and an observatory stood. In the third phase, a mountain trolley climbed another 1200 vertical feet along airy slopes to the end of the line — a lodge called Ye Alpine Tavern.

For the most complete hiking tour, 11.2 miles with an elevation gain and loss of 2800 feet, you begin at the Cobb Estate trailhead, at the north end of Lake Avenue in Altadena. Walk east past the stone pillars at the entrance and continue 150 yards on a narrow, blacktop driveway. The driveway bends left, but you keep walking straight (east). Soon you come to the rim of Las Flores Canyon and a sign indicating the start of the Sam Merrill Trail. This trail goes left over the top of a small debris dam and begins a switchback ascent of Las Flores Canyon’s precipitous east slope.

Inspired by the fabulous views (assuming you’re doing this early on one of L.A.’s sometimes crystal-clear fall or winter days), the 2.5 miles of steady ascent on the Sam Merrill Trail may seem to go rather quickly. Turn right at the top of the trail and walk south over to flat-topped Echo Mountain, which is more like the shoulder of a ridge. Poke around and you’ll find many foundation ruins and piles of concrete rubble. An old “bull-wheel” and cables for the incline railway were left behind after the Forest Service cleared away what remained of the buildings here in the ’50s and ’60s.

Next, you’ll go north on the signed Echo Mountain Trail, where you walk over railroad ties still embedded in the ground. Interpretive panels posted at intervals tell the story of this segment of the railway. The original line from Echo Mountain to Ye Alpine Tavern had 127 curves and 114 straight sections. At 1.6 miles from Echo Mountain you’ll pass the site (and some concrete footings) of the Circular Bridge, an engineering accomplishment of worldwide fame, where startled passengers swung into midair over the upper walls of Las Flores Canyon.

An old “bull-wheel” and cables for the incline railway

Inspiration Point is the last station on the self-guiding trail. The fastest and easiest way to return is by way of the Castle Canyon Trail, which descends directly below Inspiration Point. After two miles you’ll arrive back on the old railway grade just north of Echo Mountain. Retrace your steps on the Sam Merrill Trail.

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

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Arkansas continued from page 54.

later at night. They’ve just moved to a more inviting, accessible location in the River Market District.

Stickyz — formerly Sticky Fingerz — is that perfect bridge between listening to what the cool kids are listening to and relaxing like a grown-up. You can catch anything from blues to soul to country here, while sitting at real tables, real booths, and eating house-made chicken fingers with freshly prepared dips.

Cajun’s Wharf, serving Cajun/Southern dishes in view of the Arkansas River, has perfected talent scouting for interesting music over a period of 30 years. Even the happy-hour acts — with no cover, mind you — are exceptional.

Recently, they had Andy Tanas, a local legend from his days in Black Oak Arkansas and Krokus. With all of his new projects dropping, including a CD and book on the rock star’s view of the music industry, it takes a special place like Cajun’s Wharf to persuade him to fit an evening of performing into his busy schedule.

I spoke to him about what drives him to play in Little Rock. Tanas has seen firsthand what the music biz does to other venues and cities; he appreciates the support that Little Rock gives him. He knows that, as he puts it, “the silly little bands” he was in grab people’s attention, but he’s touched that audiences stay to hear his indie-rock/all-country original style.

Win $25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

“A Christmas Tabernacle” Festival promises more than 100 vendors, food court, Christmas concerts and performances, living nativity scene, workshops. Santa’s Village. themed Christmas tree area, fun zone with snow play area, more. Multi-day passes available. 619-754-9508. Friday through Sunday, December 16-18, 11am; $12-$18. Liberty Station, Womble Road at Historic Decatur Road. (PONT LOMA)

“A Night of Christmas Hope” Hope Church presents contemporary music, creative dance, the Christmas story, traditional carols, comedy by Carlos Oscar. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; $10-$15. Moonlight Amphitheatre in San Diego, 5815 Soledad Mountain Road. (SAN DIEGO)

B azi re meets Bazaar Visit the Encinitas Market, “a new underground market with a handmade focus,” teaming up with Seaside Bazaar with vendors selling all manner of items, live performances, music. Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 9am; free. Seaside Bazaar, 495 South Coast Hwy 101. (ENCINITAS)

Bradley Manning Rally WikiLeaks suspect Bradley Manning will have been incarcerated for 571 days on December 17, his 24th birthday. Meet at San Diego Civic Center, march six blocks north to Third Avenue bridge over 1-5 to place a banner for freeway traffic viewing, then march back to Occupy San Diego for rally. Saturday, December 17, 3pm; free. Civic Center Plaza, 1100 3rd Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Crossroads of the West Gun Show Exhibits designed to appeal to hunters, gun collectors. Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 9am; free-$12. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 22585 Calle de la Plaza. (DEL MAR)

$15 off a Christmas Tree Any tree purchase over $100 or Get $10 off any tree purchase over $75 or get $5 off any tree purchase under $75

Valley View trees 4445 Genesee Ave next to Sprout’s (between I-8 & Mission Ave) www.valleymovetrees.net

Unlimited Boxing / Kickboxing Classes $25 one month fitness level membership plus one 30 minute personal training session Kickboxing • Boxing • Muay Thai Personal Training • MMA 8000 square feet Full-size boxing ring • Light from multiple heavy bags • World-champion instructors "Expire 12/31/11, must show membership or bring 12/31/11 card and this offer to receive, new clients only." 8623 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego (at Kearny Villa Rd.) 1-888-710-2837 • www.AOBTraining.com facebook.com/ABOTraining

Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmery Dutanette Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art School Sketch models such as “burlesque beauties, roller derby girls, tattooed vixens, belly dancers, rippling hunks of men and more” during cabaret life-drawing event. Saturday, December 17, 3pm; $10. 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (CHILDREN’S)
entertainment, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, food. Weather permitting, snow is forecast for December 9–16 and December 26–30. Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036 x206, Wednesday, December 14, through Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, through Friday, December 30, 5pm to 9pm; free $12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)


**Gem Faire**  More than 100 dealers offer jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, minerals, jewelry-making tools, more. Classes, demonstrations. Weekend pass: $7. 619-533-3968 or 760-744-0447. San Diego County Fairpark, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**San Diego Bay Parade of Lights**  Cruise dinner with views of parade of yachts decked out for the holidays. 619-686-8715 or hornblower.com/holiday. Saturday, December 17, 1pm; $79. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

**Pomerado Brass Quintet**  Holiday music promised. Sunday, December 18, 3pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**San Diego County Fair**  Christmas in Del Mar! 1100 Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**FANFAIRE FOUNDATION**

**Twisted Christmas**  Evening includes “avant-garde fashion show” with hair, makeup by Paul Mitchell School (11:30pm); showcase by Lipstik Inc. dancers, DJs Mr. Best, Este, Decon vs. Diggs and Johnny Rayburn. Cover: $20. 619-814-2055. For free admission until 10:30pm: vip@djhere.com. Saturday, December 17, 9pm; 21 and up. Andaz San Diego, 600 F Street. (DOWNTOWN)

**SCHOLL MUSEUM OF ART**

**Ugly Sweater Party with Fido**  Puppy playtime, meet and greets, treats promised during activities. Adoption partners on hand for those looking to add furry friends to their lives. Saturday, December 17, 1pm; free. Unleashed by Petco - Hillcrest, 308 Washington Street. (HILLCREST)

**Winter Wonderland Cakes**  Show is a cake exhibition by Palomar College Students, local amateurs, and professional cake artists. 760-744-0447. Saturday, December 17, 10am; free. Unleashed by Petco - Hillcrest, 308 Washington Street. (HILLCREST)

**New Year’s Eve Soiree**  Ages 40-65. Simply The Best Singles, an

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upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more, offers this dance/mixer at the beautiful Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club. Celebrate the New Year with entertainer Pete Peterkin, a Finalist on America’s Got Talent! Complimentary appetizers, lock & key, champagne toast and more! $42 ($52 after 12/20). Must pre-pay at SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm to 12:30am. Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club, 14050 Carmel Ridge Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**BOOK SIGNINGS**

**Afterglow/Tras El Rayo** Renowned Mexico City poet Nibling.” Thursday, December 17, 7pm; for children. 858-456-1800. Sat-sun poetry in translation, and books of poetry, books of essays on art, from and sign his new book. Renowned Mexico City poet Afterglow/Tras El Rayo at

**Local Events**

**San Diego**

- **December 15, 3:45pm:** free. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 13080 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)
- **December 16, 7:30pm:** free. Montross Plaza. (POINT LOMA)
- **December 19, 7pm:** Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)
- **December 20, 10am and 1pm:** $5. 18 and up. Café Libertalia, 3123 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)
- **December 23, 7pm:** $25-$50. Balboa Theatre, 700 8th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

** Readers’ Specials**

- **Win a Reader Local Restaurant Variety Pack!** $30 to Ali Baba’s Cave, $30 to Boll Weevil, and $10 to Indulge Bistro! Enter by, Friday December 16th at 1PM
- **Win tickets to English Beat at Belly Up on NYE!** Dave Wakeling takes the stage time and again, touring across the States, Canada, the UK and beyond. Enter by Wednesday, December 28th at 1PM.
- **Win a Free Night at King’s Inn and Breakfast for 2 at The Waffle Spot!** Kings Inn offers amenities and comfort that you expect in San Diego. Including a heated pool and Jacuzzi, guest laundry facilities, free Wi-Fi, and a complimentary coffee station. Enter by Thursday, December 22nd at 1PM.

**DANCE**

**“Jingle Jam ’n’ Blues” Swing Jam** Friday holiday party with dancing to live swingin’ blues by Mercedes Moore Blues Band. Classes: 7:45pm, 8:30pm, 8:45pm.

**Tango**

- **San Diego Civic Theatre, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208.**
  - **December 19, 7:45pm:** Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)
- **December 18, 1pm and 5:30pm:** $25-$50. Balboa Theatre, 700 8th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)
- **December 18, $10-$15. Casa del Prado Plaza San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)
- **December 19, 7:30pm; $25-$50. Balboa Theatre, 700 8th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)
- **December 19, 7:30pm:** $25-$50. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

**FOOD & DRINK**

Festive Treats and Sweets Learn to prepare sweets like toffee, fudge, decorated Rice Crispy
Scenic views of the ocean, downtown, the mountains & more!

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Party Foods Prepare appetizers to make your "party the hit of the neighborhood" with chef Carrie Rosebraugh, who will also dispense a few cocktail recipes to "kick everything up a notch." 760-233-2433. Saturday, December 17, 10am; $50. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Taste N’ Timis Peppermint martini! Candy cane cosmopolitan! Scoopedrivers! Self-guided walking tour promises "mouthwatering appetizers and festive beverages." Participating shops will have bartenders on hand serving cocktails. 619-233-5008. Thursday, December 15, 5pm; $20-$25. 21 and up. Hillcrest, 3737 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Taste of Opera — Don Pasquale Chef Katherine Emmenegger prepares recipes inspired by the opera. "sous chef" Nicolas Reveles of San Diego Opera entertains "with facts and stories" while meal is being created. Menu includes chiles en nogada, tres leches cake, more. Registration: 888-478-2433. Friday, December 16, 6pm; $45. 18 and up. Great Nwls, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Hands-On Art for Families Prodigy Kids Performing Arts presents live theater, visual art, and dance. Create art projects to take home. Saturday, December 17, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Mommy and Me Make Holiday Cookies Children (4-7) invited to make cookies for the holidays. One child per adult. Registration: 760-233-2433. Thursday, December 15, 2pm; free. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Stories with the Gingerbread Queen Mary Beach returns (as the Gingerbread Queen) with stories of winter and the holidays. 858-573-5007. Thursday, December 15, 11am; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

FOR KIDS

"Family Festival: Holiday Pops" San Diego Symphony continues its family holiday music tradition with popular holiday carols and more. 619-235-0804. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; $10-$15. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Whale of a Tail" Watch for migrating gray whales during Sea Days program and get up close to real whale baleen. Learn why these marine mammals swim more than 12,000 miles each year. Scripps Oceanography scientists share stories of their current research. Included in admission ($14 general), 858-534-7336. Saturday, December 17, 11am; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 3230 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Chocolates Chef shares professional chocolate-making techniques, shortcuts. Class makes variety of chocolate truffles, holiday candies, 858-442-5252. Friday, December 16, 6:30pm; $45. 18 and up. Charlie’s Classic Cooking, 1291 Simpson Way, Suite H. (ESCONDIDO)

Holiday Cookies Make special holiday cookies. Participants make five different kinds of cookies, take five dozen home. 858-442-5252. Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm; $45. 18 and up. Charlie’s Classic Cooking, 1291 Simpson Way, Suite H. (ESCONDIDO)

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Choice of San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (LA JOLLA)

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Sheep and Goats
I answered the call
Canyon View Church of Christ
Contact: 4292 Balboa Avenue, San Diego; (619) 235-3000 ext. 296 or email her: aormerod@SDReader.com. Or — easiest of all — go to SDReader.com/SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?
Pastor John McKeel: Life with a capital L.
I really believe life is an adventure and we’re here to experience the highs and the lows. I have little patience for people who have been given gift of life and squander it…. We need to get out and meet people and experience things. Here in San Diego, especially, we have the ocean, the beach, the mountains, and the most amazing mix of people that I’ve met anywhere.

SDR: What makes life such an adventure for you?
PM: I was working at a university in Phoenix and I hated every minute of it. One day my wife leaned across the breakfast table and said, “Honey, the last of the kids has left home. What do you say we sell the house and give away everything we own and buy that sailboat we’ve always dreamed about?” I thought she was joking…but when I came home from work that day, I saw a “For Sale” sign on the front lawn and the house sold the next day. After we brought our sailboat — the Santa Teresa — the patron saint of romance and head-ache sufferers — an appropriate name for a sailboat, we sailed down the coast, pulled into San Diego. We had some engine trouble and I think our anchor got stuck on the bottom here because we stayed ever since.
But here’s the strange part of the story. I went to kindergarten here in San Diego in 1956–1957, and I remember as a kid that my father and other men of the church were building a building. Mom and the other ladies were making the sandwiches…. and the kids were playing in the dirt. I had the most important job — I had a little red wagon and I’d fill it with nails and bring them to the men so they could build the building. What do you know? But 40 years later I’m the senior minister in that building. I had no idea it was until one day I was rummaging around in the attic and ran across some old bulletins. That’s when I realized I’d come home.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?
PM: We go to the waiting place…. When Jesus died on the cross, he was crucified between two thieves, and one of them turned to Jesus and asked him to remember him when he comes into his kingdom. And Jesus turned to him and said, “This day, you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43)…. There is a day coming when the world will end and the age is over and we all come to judgment. Meanwhile, the faithful wait in paradise…. But there is the paradise and the other waiting place. That’s the place of torment. If you remember in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19–31), Lazarus had a hard time in this life, but he went to the bosom of Abra- ham, and across the divide there was the rich man, traditionally called Dives, who is in anguish, also waiting for the judgment in a tran- sitory place, too, until judg- ment. But if someone doesn’t make it to heaven, then it’s a place that I don’t want to be. In other words, if you die and smell smoke, you’re in trouble.
— Joseph O’Brien

$15 Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages. 50 words or less, 50 cents for each additional word. Call Andra Ormerod: (619) 235-3000 ext. 296 or email her: aormerod@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 Full Moon Meditation
Friday, Dec. 16: Who We Really Are discussion group. 6:30-9:00 pm. Saturday, Dec. 17: Candlelight Service, 6:00-8:00 pm. Sunday, Dec. 18: Meditation/Auric Healing, 10:00 am. Lecture Service/ Messages, 11:00 am. Guest Speaker: Rachel Connelly. Christmas potluck and gift exchange following. Wednesday, Dec. 21: Reiki Practice Group, 7:00-9:00 pm. www.1st-spiritualistchurch.org. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Hebrews and James Epistles
Catholic Scripture study for 28 weeks, written by Scott Hahn and Mark Shea. Presented by Fr. Mitch Pacura and Fr. Scott Courtney, Fridays, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. EL CAJON 1510 Greenfield Drive (619) 586-8881

MISSION BASILICA SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ Candlelight Music Meditation
The Mission Basilica Choir, with Classic Brass, will perform its annual concert of lessons and carols. MISSION VALLEY 10818 San Diego Mission Road (619) 283-7319

CHRIST CHURCH UNITY Bring Some Joy to Your Life & Live Christmas To The Fullest
By joining us in prayer, meditation, uplifting music, and an inspired thought providing Bible-based message on Sundays at 9 and 11 am. Christmas Choir Concert, Sun., December 18, 5 pm. Candlelighting service, Wed., December 21, 7 pm, and Christmas Eve Candlelighting service, Sat., December 24, 7 pm. Christmas Day service, 10 am and 11 am. Prayer ministry: (619) 283-7609. Daily word: (619) 281-LOVE(5683). COLLEGE AREA 3770 Albatros Avenue (619) 283-2501

SAN DIEGO LDS TEMPLE Sights and Sounds of Christmas
Visitors can enjoy Christmas lights, festive music, and nifty scenes as they walk the beautiful temple grounds. Every evening from Sunday, December 3, to January 6, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. LA JOLLA 7474 Charmant Drive (619) 420-9544

ENCINITAS COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER Feeling at Home with Hanukkah
Participants will explore the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Friday, December 16, through Sunday, December 18. Information: (858) 766-0872, or email california@spiritualexercises.net. ENCINITAS 650 Benit Hill Road (760) 967-4200

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH Five Latin Masses
Every Sunday, 7:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:05 chant Mass; 12:30 low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low Mass. LOGAN HEIGHTS 621 Sardic St. (619) 239-8253

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH Mid-Week Advent Services
Join us as we anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus. Wednesdays at 10 am and 7pm. Read our newsletter at www.ourrederemersandiego.com. CITY HEIGHTS 1370 Euclid Avenue (619) 282-0757

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM Hanukkah Event
Lakeshore Spanish style, burritos and enchiladas, $5; bake sale; bazaar: Sunday, December 18, at 10 am and 7 pm. www.bethsholomtemple.com. Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am. CHULA VISTA 208 Mudrona Street (619) 420-6040

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH Looking for a New Church?
House of Prayer Lutheran Church, located in Encinitas, is a church with a friendly congregation. House of Prayer is an Anglo-Eastern integrated congregation. Please join us! Our Sunday services are at 9:00 am and 10:45 am every Sunday, Brunch will be served between services. www.hoplutheran.com. ENCINITAS 756 N. Rose Street (760) 745-3738

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.lajollactf.org. LA JOLLA 627 Center Street (858) 454-9636

CELEBRATION CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING Spiritual But Not Religious
Special Easy Xmas Eve Service at 4 pm (no service on Dec. 25), New Year’s Day Service at 4 pm. Join us on Sunday mornings for great music from our new Music Director, Christopher Spinks, who is a featured soloist at Agape International in LA. Conscious people. Enlightened Message. Come see our New Home! www.TheCelebrationCenter.org. SORRENTO VALLEY 5744 Pacific Center Blvd. Suite 318. (858) 320-0090

ST. PAUL’S CATHEDRAL PARISH San Diego Cathedral A Ceremony of Carols
By Benjamim Britten. Sunday, December 14, 4:30 pm. Sung by the St. Cecilia Girls Choir with harp. Christmas Lessons and Carols, 5:00 pm. The Cathedral Choir invites the audience to join in Christmas in word and song as they present their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. BANCHELLE 2728 Sixth Avenue (619) 289-7276

FOOTHILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Focus Bible Study Group
Invites you to dinner for those singles ages 40+. Come dine, worship, hear the Word. Dessert and fellowship to follow. Wednesday, 12:21, 6pm–9pm. $3. Room A1. Call Chas for information: (619) 368-0611. EL CAJON 365 West Bradley Avenue (619) 442-7728

Spiritual Rejuvenation Shabbaton
Rabbi Andrew Hahn’s (aka the Ktitan Rabbii) unique infusion of kirtan chanting and traditional Jewish liturgy. Three-day retreat: devotional singing, danc- ing, tai chi, torah study. Call (619) 239-7700 or e-mail shabbaton@divinebalance.com for more information.

SEASIDE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING
Kick the Dickens out of the Holidays!
Whether going solo or with a full house, enjoy 6 award- winning one-act comed- ies that will keep you laughing all night! Friday, Dec. 23, at 7 pm and Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 pm. Donation $7. ENCINITAS 1613 Lake Drive (760) 753-5786

San Diego Reader: December 15, 2011 61
Like Sheep

The wheels fell and sparks flew for both the brass and the woodwinds.

The following are classical music entries from the Reader’s “Jam Session” music blog. Click to SandiegoReader.com/weblogs/jam-session for more.

NEW CITY SINFONIA:
BAD DOES GOOD

What does one write when a group is doing a good thing but they’re not very good—at all? That was my experience of the New City Sinfonia.

I loved the group and their attitude. They were an amateur group, and I’ve made it clear that I respect the love that amateurs embody. The First Universalist Unitarian Church was the venue. Garrison Keillor would have called it “Our Lady of the Eternal Whatever,” but I found the space to be warm and welcoming. The music on the program was solid, and the audience was supportive.

The conductor directed our attention to the donations basket at the back of the hall. He let us know that the money went to buy scores for the orchestra and that the New City Sinfonia supports a charity each year. This year they are supporting Habitat for Humanity.

I found all of these things to be charming, and I was eager to hear the orchestra play.

I won’t dwell on it, but I’m confident each string player was playing a slightly different pitch, which created an anemic/starved quality. The wheels fell off and sparks flew for both the brass and the woodwinds. It was a mess.

But, I still enjoy the fact that this group exists and gives three concerts per year. I still respect the players and their commitment to being in an orchestra.

The audience gave them a standing ovation at the end of the concert. Who am I to say they did or didn’t deserve it?

HANDEL’S MESSIAH ISN’T CHRISTMAS

The Messiah has become a Christmas tradition, but of the three sections, only the first is related to Christmas. The text for the ever-famous “Hallelujah Chorus” is about “the end of days” and comes to us from the Bible’s last book, the Book of Revelations.

You know, the book that gave us the rapture, the antichrist, the beast with seven heads and ten horns, and giant locust-like creatures that sting people in the chest. Merry Christmas.

The “Hallelujah Chorus” is at the end of the second section of Handel’s Messiah. The third section is about the defeat of death. The text of the third section is from the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Romans, except for the very last chorus, which again comes from Revelations.

What of Handel’s Messiah is actually about Christmas? There are four brief recitatives for the soprano and one chorus that are taken from the Gospel of Luke regarding the birth of Christ. Most of the first section is about messianic prophecies from Isaiah and Malachi.

From start to finish, The Messiah is about three hours long, and of that music, approximately four minutes are about Christmas.

SILLY SHEEP: MESSIAH

Of the three sections of The Messiah, I think my favorite is the beginning of the second.

This section is based on the passion or sacrifice of Jesus, but once again, only a small section of text is taken from a gospel account. Most of the text comes from the Old Testament.

The second section uses Isaiah extensively, including, “All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53: 6)

The chorus — “All we, like sheep have gone astray” — is my favorite Messiah chorus. Handel has the chorus sing the phrase “All we like sheep” together before sending each section astray.

The tone of the music is sanguine and carefree, even playful. Then, in the midst of these frolicking sheep, Handel drops the hammer: “And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Playtime is over.

HANDEL’S MESSIAH HAS BALLS

The first performance of The Messiah was on April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland. It almost wasn’t performed because Handel’s music was considered to be “profane and subversive.” Jonathan Swift, of Gulliver’s Travels and dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, didn’t want singers from the cathedral to participate.

Swift relented, and the performance took place. A year later, Handel premiered a different version of The Messiah in London. Throughout the 1750s Handel tinkered with the score to suit different performers and occasions.

Mozart reorchestrated The Messiah and included new instruments from the orchestra of the classical period. In the late 1950s, Sir Eugene Goossens reorchestrated The Messiah and included new instruments from the 20th-century orchestra.

The original performance had a modest orchestra and chorus. Today there are “sing-along” performances of The Messiah with over 3000 singers.

Most performances of The Messiah fall between these two poles, but which approach is right?

Does it matter? Three thousand singers getting together for a community performance has one value, and 24 professional singers getting together for an “authentic” performance has a different value.

The sticking point could be in using “authentic” to describe a performance.

With The Messiah we have a difference between the original performance in Dublin and the second performance in London. Handel authorized both versions, so which is authentic?

Period performance people, those who would be “authentic,” use men on what have become the female parts of soprano and alto.

This is half-baked authenticity. The men singing alto and soprano today still have their balls. In Handel’s day, castrated men sang alto and soprano. Don’t call it authentic if they’re still in possession of the family jewels.
CLASSICAL MUSIC

“A Spotless Rose” Advent choral music by Poulenc, Ives, Howells may be heard, “with a special group of works centered on the image of Virgin Mary,” when Musica Vitale and organist Holly Jones perform. All Soul’s music director, organist Geoff Graham presents “new collection of French seasonal favorites.” Sunday, December 18, 4pm; free. All Soul’s Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

“Classical Holidays” The 45-piece Hillcrest Wind Ensemble performs music for Christmas, Chanukah, New Year’s, joined by local jazz vocalist Andrea Sperling. Portion of proceeds benefit Challenge Center of La Mesa. 619-692-2077 x814. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; $15. Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 6845 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)


Fallbrook Chamber Orches- tra Holiday Concert Selections from the Nutcracker Suite, Messiah, and many other holiday favorites. Join in on a Christmas sing-along finale! Meet and greet with orchestra members follows. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; free. Fallbrook Library, 124 S. Mission Road. (FALLBROOK)

Festive Holiday Music! Enter- tainment by Third Wheel Trio, “dedicated to expanding the traditional woodwind trio repertoire with a fresh, youthful perspective.” 760-753-7376. Sunday, December 18, 5pm; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday Pops Enjoy memorable yuletide tunes when San Diego Symphony, guest singer John Pogano, San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children’s Chorus, Mariachi Campana Nevin with Mónica Álbergo entertain. Christmas carol sing-along too. Friday, December 16, 7:30pm; $20-84.00. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)


ART MUSEUMS

“The Point of View” This retrospective includes more than 80 works, ranging in media from oil on canvas to watercolor and pencil sketches, created over the last 25 years by William Glen Crooks. His “outdoor ‘snapshots’ bring a freshness to the landscape genre by capturing the subtle modalities of atmosphere through the opacity of light and the transparency of shadow.” Through Sunday, April 22.

Oceanside native Everett Peck is an animator, cartoonist, illustrator, painter, best known for his television series Duckman (1994-1997). “It’s Not My Fault,” on display through Sunday, January 29, showcases Peck’s work over past 30 years, tracing his evolution as an artist from early concept sketches to recent large-scale paintings. Also on display: illustrations, concept drawings from Peck’s sketchbooks, preliminary and tracing his evolution as an artist from early concept sketches to recent large-scale paintings. Also on display: illustrations, concept drawings from Peck’s sketchbooks, preliminary and concept drawings from Peck’s extensive animation work.

Four MFA artists from UCSD were invited to collaborate with a professor on a new work of art or select an existing work establishing a strong visual and conceptual dialogue for “Vantage Point: UCSD Visual Dialogues.” View resulting work by students Ela Boyd, Chris Kar- dambikus, Brian Zimmermann, Alida Cervantes and professors Ernest Silva, Louis Hock, Ruben Ortiz-Torres, Anya Gallaccio through Sunday, January 15.

“Parallel! Visions-Visiones Paralelas” is a photography project connecting Oceanside teens with teens in Cartagena, Colombia, “bringing into focus two different yet parallel communities as seen through the lenses of the youth who reside there.” View "100 captivating photographs" through Sunday, December 18.

Local artist Cathy Breslaw created a site-specific installation using “industrial material to investigate her interest in how people relate to changing physical and intangible environments.” View “A Matter of Space” through Sunday, February 12.

“We Can Work It Out” finds artist Becky Gutin transforming museum’s lobby with “a playful installation” inspired by memories of growing up in Mexico City. “Working with Mexican cultural symbols such as mythical folk animals, tortillas, and miniature houses, she investigates the meaning of home, family and identity.” Closes Thursday, January 5. Free.88. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

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**Big Black Sun**

Art criticizes everything, especially the way art itself frames reality.

I know people who say they’re from the ‘60s as some people say they’re from Paris or New York. It’s not descriptive, it’s declarative, proudly (or smugly) so, and vaguely definitive of their politics. I don’t know anybody who says they’re from the ‘70s. Even if they are, it’s not a city they want to be associated with. In the 1970s, in the nation, and especially in its sunny, sick patient, California, enough was with. In the 1970s, in the nation, and especially in California, enough was with. In the 1970s, in the nation, and especially in its sunny, sick patient, California, enough was with. In the 1970s, in the nation, and especially in California, enough was...

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**ART**

W.S. Di Piero

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The show includes many photos of conceptual performance pieces, such as Barbara T. Smith’s invitation to women to come sit on a park bench in an art gallery for a day (provisions included). The images are spooky: the art act is long over, and the visual archive we possess requires tedious, detailed explanations of what happened. Without context or narrative, we’re lost, and the antsy spontaneity of the art drains away.

The studio used to be (still is for many artists) a laboratory space. In the 1970s, the studio could be an artist’s body, or a performance or installation site — garage, airplane hangar, school locker. Iconic subjectivity ruled. Artists used appropriated sources to sly, disorienting effect. Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel looted photographic archives of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, United Technologies of Sunnyvale, the Bechtle Corporation of San Francisco, and other California entities, then made a book of them, Evidence, without providing captions or context. The images — a vintage T-Bird in flames; technicians in hard hats wading through foam; a horse-hoof pressed on a fallen picture frame — are visual evidence of a completed reality that’s unknowable; they question the secretiveness and authenticity of any representation.

The Eternal Frame, made in 1975 by the collective “T.R. Uthko,” is a different beast, an intentionally creepy video reenactment of JFK’s assassination, with follow-up interviews of the actors, who note that during filming bystanders whooped when Kennedy got shot. Americans don’t hold copyright on grotesquely obscene behavior, and in any case, Frame makes its point: art criticizes everything, especially the way art itself frames reality. “Frame” plays on “Flame.”

Every representation, even the most revered, is by some measure a falsification, and sacralized political events need to be desacralized. I’m not a humorless man, until I become humorless. Call...
Chris Burden’s Trans-fixed, a 1974 performance-art piece featuring him being nailed to a Volkswagen in Venice, CA.

**ART MUSEUMS**

**“Infinite Balance: Artists and the Environment”** View first U.S. presentation of artists shortlisted for the Prix Pictet, the world’s top prize for photography and sustainability through Sunday, February 5. Exhibit showcases contemporary photographers including Sammy Baloji, Edward Burtynsky, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Susan Derges, Naoya Hatakeyama, Chris Jordan, Michael Wolf.


**“Mexican Modern Painting”** Exhibition features selection of 80 paintings dated 1907-1956 from the renowned Andrés Blaisten Collection. View work by artists including María Izquierdo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Alfonso Michel, Federico Cardoso, Angel Zárraga through Sunday, February 19.

“Experiments in Abstraction: Art in Southern California, 1945 to 1980,” also closing February 19, includes works from museums, permanent collection and some local loans, exploring diversity of post-war abstraction in Southern California.

“Walk from the Sun: Photography and Film” is a juried exhibit of photography and film by young artists. View work by artists including María Izquierdo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Alfonso Michel, Federico Cardoso, Angel Zárraga through Sunday, February 19.

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**“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 collection” with major loans from public and private collections, exhibit includes immersive light installations together with rare, ephemeral, and site-conditioned works, some seen in California for the first time in decades.” Through Sunday, January 22.

View "Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie," a new digital video animation through Monday, January 2, inspired by Steinkamp’s recent research into atomic energy, atomic explosions, and the effects of these forces on nature. The "enveloping panoramic work will activate a field of moving flowers and flowering trees."

Free-$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

**“San Diego’s Craft Revolution”** This exhibition reveals important contributions of San Diego craftsmen to the post-war Southern California art scene. Show explores progression from sleek modernism to unconventional handmade objects of use such as furniture, doors, jewelry, ceramics by over 60 artists. Exhibit is part of “Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980.” Closes Sunday, April 15.

“A Fantastic Voyage — The Art of Ynez Johnston,” opening Sunday, December 18, surveys six decades of the artist’s wood and bronze sculptures, paintings, prints, ceramics from 1940s to 2010, including recent works that have never publicly been shown. Closes Sunday, June 17.

“Maneki Neko — Japan’s Beckoning Cats — from Talisman to Pop Icon” includes selections from a collection of 155 cats given to museum by collector Billie Moffitt. Made in the 19th and 20th centuries, each cat is unique; most are made of clay, but some are wood, metal, ceramic, papier mâché. A fabricated cat with a paw upraised in the Japanese gesture of beckoning has been considered a good luck charm, drawing good fortune to individuals and businesses, since the Edo period (1603-1688). Enjoy the cats through Sunday, January 15. Free $.75. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Saint Bartholomew Museum features this painting, described as “the 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. Free. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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Cheapskate Me

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Cheapskate Me: Eclipse Chocolat

Last week I found a coupon that I thought I had lost. Yes, I can be a real cheapskate, and I use coupons and online deals sometimes. It allows me to eat out more often and at more pricey places than I could otherwise afford. I thought I put it in my wallet, but alas, it disappeared. When it appeared under my car mat, I couldn’t wait to use it. It was a coupon for Eclipse Chocolat in North Park, 2121 El Cajon Boulevard.

Eclipse Chocolat has been reviewed on Feast! before, and I certainly can’t add any superlatives to what’s been said about their wonderful chocolates. But my dealio wasn’t for chocolate, it was for brunch. We’ve been meaning to go for ages. No time like the present.

Eclipse Chocolat’s Sunday Chocolate Brunch is held from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. weekly. The menu changes seasonally, roughly every three months. It’s a three-course ($14) or four-course ($16) tasting menu that incorporates chocolate, vanilla bean or caramel in each plating.

I chose the cocoa-glazed bacon (with toast and orange vanilla-bean butter), apple-cinnamon stuffed french toast, and the dark-chocolate salted croissant. The bacon is thick cut and smoky, with a liberal dusting of unsweetened cocoa. The slightly bitter edge cuts through the rich, porky flavor. Nice. The french toast is not a soggy, heavy standard-issue stuffed type. It relies instead on the juiciness of the tart green apples, the lightly sweet caramel cream cheese, and the maple syrup for moisture. Much lighter and more flavorful. I can only manage a couple of bites of my croissant, but it’s very flaky, very crispy, and has wonderful dark chocolate and crunchy salt inside. The accompanying vanilla crème fraîche adds a great tangy touch.

John got the rosemary roasted fingerling potatoes, complete with our crispy fries, topped with lettuce, tomato, onion and kosher dill pickle. Includes select 16oz. draft beer for only $10.99 (Offer valid Mon-Fri 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.)

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local, organic food. Urban Gourmet sprouted up about three months ago at Fern and Grape in South Park with the goal of catering to the area's taste for healthy, fresh, and affordable eats.

“We want to know where our products are coming from — that it's at its freshest,” says sandwichista Alex Grant. “We like to support local businesses and local farms. Our wheatgrass is all grown in Temecula. We have a raw honey. This is a pretty big vegan area, so we want to cater to a bunch of different palates. Not just vegan or gluten-free but a wide variety of palates.”

Tapping into local favorites, Urban Gourmet features Caffé Calabria coffee, Viva Pops, and Big City Bagels, which are best savored as a breakfast sandwich with egg, bacon, and sausage or as a quick morning bite of coffee and a bagel with cream cheese, almond butter, or peanut butter for $2.99.

The green-certified hybrid Jewish/Turkish/Greek/San Diegan market and deli offers gluten-free options, is available for catering, and provides free delivery to nearby businesses. The deli touts fresh soups and salads, Dietz & Watson deli meats, hummus, and marinated artichoke and plans to start carrying local produce soon.

But the South Park–street-dubbed sandwiches and raw juices are the focal point of this community market and deli decorated by local artists Ryan Tanniscoli and Dok Whitson.

“The Fir is our ultimate veggie sandwich,” says sammie slinger Savina Tisnad. “It has avocado, bell peppers, cheddar, banana peppers, tomato, lettuce, sprouts, marinated onions, mayo, and mustard. It’s one of our bigger sandwiches.”

“The Hawthorne is probably the most popular,” says Grant. “It’s like a turkey club. Sourdough bread, light mayonnaise. We try to keep it light on all the condiments. Heavy avocado, light mayonnaise. Shredded lettuce, tomatoes, turkey, a good amount of bacon, and muenster cheese.”

“The Urban Gourmet is our signature,” says Tisnad. “It comes on squaw bread and has a cranberry balsamic drizzle, mayonnaise, pears, lettuce, turkey, bacon, and Swiss cheese.”

Sandwiches come with a choice of salad: house red-herbed potato, chipotle macaroni, or kale with seeds and Bragg’s Liquid Aminos. The Urban juice drink combines carrot, orange, and ginger, and the Energetic Cocktail is recommended if you’re feeling the first symptoms of a winter cold.

“The Energetic Cocktail has a little bit of everything,” says Grant. “Apple, orange, carrot, celery, and lemon.”

In tune with South Park’s canine-friendly community, Urban Gourmet offers free dog treats for in-house hounds.

Welcome Home — The Public House

Thursday night, John had just gotten back from a business trip to a city in the Midwest where, apparently, there is no good beer. Makes you appreciate what you have in your own backyard. So we headed up to the the Public House on Kline Street in La Jolla, which is definitely not in our “backyard” — we’re from the wrong side of the tracks (or 1-5, if you will), but they have good beer and lots of it.

There’s 43 rotating taps of Belgian ale, local beer, specialty brews, and hard-to-find microbrews, in addition to over 200 bottled beers. They also have a more interesting wine list than most beer places. I was pleasantly surprised to see a Filas Torretres from Mendoza, Argentina, a crisp, refreshing white wine that I haven’t seen on many wine lists.

The Public House’s restaurant is in the house portion of a converted home; the bar and patio is in the garage and driveway. I’ve never been in the restaurant — we always sit at the bar — but it looks pretty.

The bar crowd has always been friendly; someone usually strikes up a conversation with you. Tonight we’re commenting on the Seahawks/Eagles game on one screen and a Hooters Girl beauty pageant on the other.

I ask for a Saison recommendation from our bartender and go with the Brasserie Dupont Biere de Miel Belgian Organic Farmhouse Saison Honey Ale ($8), and John has the Great Divide Hades Belgian Style Golden Ale.

One of the day’s specials is the Cowboy Burger ($15.50), a half-pound Brandt Farms Angus burger topped with boneless short ribs, beef bacon, spicy cheddar, onion rings, and barbecue sauce. It sounds so over the top that I get it. John’s more conservative, opting for chicken fingers ($7.50) with choice of ranch or BBQ sauce. Both come with a side of fries.

My burger makes us both laugh when we see it. It’s definitely something to order on a first date. But I don’t have any problem diving in. It’s medium rare, just like I ordered, the bun is nice and sturdy (they make them at the Encinitas Aleghe, their other location), and it’s properly messy to eat. The short ribs make it a little chewy, but they are well cooked, with nice, crackly edges. Bacon’s crisp. The cheese was the only misstep — it wasn’t really melted, just sort of dried. Shoestring fries are my favorite, and these were crispy, salty, and good.

John’s chicken fingers were not the usual kid’s food. These were beer battered and perfectly fried to a dark, crunchy goodness. Nicely caramelized golden brown deliciousness. The chicken inside was juicy.
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Fundraiser Beers Only Come Around Once

For writers, it can often feel as though we’re typing hundreds of words and then jettisoning them into a black hole. It’s always nice to be reminded that people actually read what you put out there. Comments, retweets, and emails help keep one of the most solemn professions from being so lonely. It’s especially gratifying when proof of readership comes from individuals on a writer’s beat.

Yesterday I posted about Green Flash Brewing Company taking a beer they initially crafted to raise money to fight breast cancer and making it available year-round and nationwide. As part of that piece, I lamented the fact that most other fundraiser beers only come around once and then go away forever.

One such beer I cited was Ingrid’s One-in-Eight, a Belgian amber ale brewed collaboratively by Ballast Point Brewing Company and Coro-nado Brewing Company (CBC). No sooner had the cyber ink dried before I received a message from Ballast Point specialty brewer Colby Chandler, stating that he and CBC director of brewery operations Shawn DeWitt had just brewed Ingrid’s One-in-Eight the night before.

Talk about timing. And speaking of timing, the new batch will be ready to go by the start of the New Year. It will be a bit different, however, in that Chandler and DeWitt went with a California Ale Yeast versus the Belgian strain employed the first time around. Other than that, all of the ingredients will remain the same and, once again, proceeds from the beer (which was again made using donated time, supplies, and ingredients) will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Black Mountain Road: Surati Farsan Mart

The miserable traffic on Miramar Road gave me the perfect excuse to wait it out at Surati Farsan Mart at 9494 Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. Surati Farsan specializes in vegetarian Gujarati food. Gujarat is a state in western India; farsan means side dishes or snacks.

There are two large display cases of nātō, savory snacks, and mīthi, sweet ones. The dining menu is on the wall behind the register. If you’re not familiar with Gujarati food, grab a take-out menu for descriptions. You order and pay at the register and then wait for your number to be called to get your tray of food.

I order masala dosa ($4.99), sev puri ($3.99), and a rosewater lassi ($2.50). It’s strictly no-frills: food comes on styrofoam plates with plastic utensils. There are music videos playing on the TV; on weekends there’s usually a Bollywood film on.

It’s a crispy crepe rolled around spiced potatoes and onions. On the side is a bowl of vegetable soup, which you can pour over the crepe, and pale green coconut/curry leaf chutney. I usually cut off pieces and dip them into the soup instead, probably a faux pas, but I enjoy the crispiness of the crepe too much. The soft, spicy potatoes, and onions contrast nicely, and the cooling chutney adds a rich touch.

Surati puri are small, fried, whole-wheat shells stuffed with potatoes, beans, sweet and spicy sauces, and topped with crunchy noodles. These are most fun when you pop the whole thing in your mouth at once. Crunchy, sweet, tangy, spicy; with lots of texture from the potatoes, beans (tiny garbanzos and green mung), and crispy noodles.

The rosewater lassi provides a sweet-tart, floral coolness. I love flower-water-flavored drinks and desserts, but if it’s not a taste you enjoy, there are regular and mango lassis, too.

Surati Farsan Mart is off the beaten path but well worth a stop if you’re in the area. Surati Farsan Mart, 9494 Black Mountain Road (just off Miramar Road), 858-549 7280, surati-farsan.com.

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I saw the word “Mexican Soul” are up there, too. Fact is, I’m a chalkboard above a passage to says it’s Taco Tuesday. Points to asada tacos are $3.50. To, say, the Gaslamp on Taco an iced water. “Get you some- Which one?”

ceramic-looking bar. Glows, sitting up on designer white like the sunset outside. John warns me that this is street-taco sized. He makes a circle with his fingers and thumbs. Can see how for three bucks (and normally you’d be paying around $15 for a plate of three of them), people might have a size issue. Yeah, it’s that small. But it’s a thick corn tortilla, and I have to say, the pork conni- chile sauce combo (plus chopped onions) is fabulous and filling. Really flavorful. The con- chile sauce like goat cheese. It’s sqeuqly, drooly, rico suave all the way. Takes me ten minutes to get through, what with talking and all. Turns out this is one of six or so eateries that the chef Isa- bel Cruz has going. And they say she was involved in the Mis- sion in Mission Beach, North Park, and East Village as well. Good news is this doesn’t feel like a chain.

So Tuesday’s the deal. Though they do have daily happy hour, five to seven. But mostly I’d say it’s organic, dressed-up Mexican nosh for the sleek classes who don’t get down to the street a lot. Me, I’ll come back anytime, soon as I’ve moved up the food chain a little. But Tuesdays, I’ll certainly be back. Hey, this water’s delicious.

New Name for a Brew That’s a Treasure

It’s hard to find fault with anything produced to raise money to fight breast cancer. I mean, who does that? Well... sometimes I do. Obviously, the creation of such beers is a wonderful thing, especially when they taste great. Unfortu- nately, they’re almost always limited-edition beers; one-and- outs that merit fanfare then go away forever.

Ingrid’s One-in-Eight and Boob Check spring to mind. Both are outlandish fundraiser beers brewed with ingredients not typically found in standard-issue pale ales, IPAs, and stouts. The former was a Belgian-inspired amber ale infused with ginger and cocoa nibs brewed collaboratively in 2010 by Coronado Brewing Company and Ballast Point. The latter company was responsible for Boob Check, a reddish creation flavored with hibiscus, cherry, honey, and lime, which debuted earlier this month and should tap out before the year is up. It’s the beer and humanitar- inism equivalent of good news/bad news.

One brewing company has learned that good recipes and good intentions can coexist. Earlier this year, Green Flash basted out Treasure Chest, a Belgian-style pale ale fortified with the brewing company’s trademark hops forwardness and the flavorful funk of Brett- ananices. It raised thousands of dollars to support Chicks for Beer (a local non-profit founded by Ingrid Qua, name- sake of the aforementioned Ingrid’s One-in-Eight). It also stood out as one of the better beers to debut in San Diego in 2011.

Rather than retire the beer or bring it back every now and then like the beery version of a bake sale, they’ve decided to offer it year-round and nation- wide starting in January 2012. But don’t go into your liquor store looking for bottles bear- ing the image of a buxom pin-up girl. That artwork and the name Treasure Chest have been replaced by royal blue packaging including the beer’s standard logo and a new name: Rayon Vert. While the recipe features small changes, they’re nothing more than standard evolutionary improvements. The flavor profile remains the same, and charity angle or not, it’s still worth every penny.

Drink in the Education at Bottlecraft

It’s been said by brewers that no single ingredient has more influence on a beer’s flavor than yeast. One of my sources went so far as to say that yeast accounts for roughly 90% of a brew’s overall taste profile. Yet few beer drinkers know much about it. Like a foodie know- ing zilch about the contents of the spice aisle at their local grocer.

Unless you’re a brewer, there are few opportunities to get familiar with yeast. So, it’s nota- ble that a brew-free opportunity to get one’s brain and taste buds around the medium will be presented on Tuesday, December 13, in Little Italy.

Bottlecraft, a combination beer store and tasting bar, will host Neva Parker, the head of laboratory operations for White Labs, a Miramar-based company that’s the largest yeast pro- ducer in Southern California. She will guide guests through a tasting of six beers crafted using different varieties of yeast, pro- viding the scientific what, how, and why about yeast’s effects on each brew.

Parker provided a similar presentation at Sea Rocket Bistro during San Diego Beer Week, and it was one of the most interesting and educa- tional events during the ten-day span. The class will take place at 7 p.m. Admission is $15 and includes six four-ounce tasters of beer. Bottlecraft is located at 2161 India Street.

I put luck is with me! It’s Tues- day night, and this guy Billy — turns out he’s the manager — says it’s Taco Tuesday. Points to a chalkboard above a passage to a purple side room.

Oh, yeah. Chicken, carc- nas, soy chorizo, or tofu, $2.99. I mean, no way cheap compared to, say, the Gaslamp on Taco Tuesdays. And fish or carne asada tacos are $3.50.

They also have $5 margaritas all night from five o’clock.

John the barman brings me an iced water. “Get you some- thing tonight?” He hands me a couple of menus. I ain’t even gonna look.

“Was thinking about that taco. Would it be all right just to have that and this water?”

“Oh, sure. Not a problem. Which one?”

So, hey, A-plus for attitude. I go for the carnitas pork. Must say, you feel kinda cool, sitting up on designer white stools at this multicolored ceramic-looking bar. Glows, like the sunset outside.
Nothing Like a Dry Rub
Roasted tri-tip beef, rubbed all over with — no joke — coffee? I had this once before, but I keep coming back. It’s in a sandwich, along with smoked gouda cheese, tomatoes, mixed greens, garlic mayo. Oh, man.

Michael Karijanian’s the guy who makes it, and it’s his invention, he says. He actually massages the meat with dry coffee. Others may have poured, like, espresso over meats. But this dry rub he does (mixing in other spices) was just something he tried when he was fooling around with crazy ideas one day.

“Tasted pretty good,” he says, “so I offered it as a special. People kept asking for it after that, so I put it on the menu. Now it’s my most popular sandwich.” This is at his Sweet & Savory Café (4614 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-490-9140). And combined with his Armenian grandmother’s input, Michael just keeps experimenting.

At breakfast — and I’ve had this, too — the PB Omelet also includes chunks of that coffee-rubbed tri-tip, plus bacon and “our three-cheese blend.” But actually the standout there is the mug herby breakfast potatoes. Seven bucks.

Posted Dec. 7, 11:59 a.m. by Ed Bedford
wiches with it. They do this "every month or three."

I’ve "corned" brisket before, and I’ve made my own sauerkraut. It isn’t difficult, but it takes a lot of time and space in your refrigerator and kitchen. I figure this is going to be a bit of a spendy lunch, but quality ingredients cost.

It’s been awhile since I’ve been to the Linkery. I’d heard that they remodeled, and it’s an improvement. The dark booths in the back are gone, and the servers laugh, and after a brief description of my food she says, “Dig in!” I do, believe me.

It’s served open-faced style on beer bread with sauerkraut (Suzie’s Farm organic cabbage), thousand island dressing, and Pt. Reyes Toma cheese. The bread, sauerkraut, and dressing are all made in-house. It’s well-toasted to a dark, caramelized brown, and the pieces of corned beef that are sticking out are crispy and blackened with burnt ends.

I can taste allspice, coriander, and black peppercorn in my first bite. This is nothing like those corned-beef vacuum packs that appear in the grocery around St. Patrick’s Day. It’s not overly salty, it’s not at all fatty, and the beef flavor comes through. There’s an ample amount of it, too. There’s just enough sauerkraut to add a pickle-y crunch, and the dressing lends a rich, tangy-sweet touch. The Pt. Reyes Toma is a semi-hard, farmstead cows’ milk cheese with a creamy texture, buttery flavor, and a grassy-sharp finish. There’s not too much or too little of anything. The chips are crunchy and salty good, and the green tomato pickles are tart, spicy, meaty little bites.

The best part of this is that it’s well done. I don’t mean done well, I mean cooked deep, deep brown. I’m the one who always picks the dark chips out of the bag, I set my toasted marshmallows on fire, and if the popcorn picks up a bit of char in the pan, I’m in heaven. This sandwich is right in my sweet spot, dark brown without a hint of burned taste.

So, back to the spendy part. The sandwich is $15.50. That’s a lot for a sandwich. Is it worth that much? Yes, a thousand times, yes. Posted Dec. 7, 10:35 a.m. by Mary Beth Abate

Donovan’s Wades 20,000 Leagues Beyond Beefy Comfort Zone
Situated in the Gaslamp in the space that housed the failed Donovan’s Circle of Fifths (before that, the failed Australian resto, Bondai), Donovan’s Prime Seafood opened quietly earlier this year.

However, since landing a chef from the kitchen at the Grand Del Mar’s five-star fine diner, Addison, they’ve become significantly more vocal, touting his pedigree and seasonally driven cuisine. The rep of the Donovan’s family of restaurants is built almost exclusively on their treatment of mammals. So, I was intrigued to check out the sea fare at DPS (333 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp).

It’s still early, and clearly Durfield’s still settling in and fine tuning things, but there’s solid seafood cookery happening at DPS, and no matter how fancy and innovative the accoutrements, that is the most important factor at any seafood restaurant.

Post Dec. 7, 10:27 a.m. by Brandon Hernández

Backstory: The city has banned the biddies since 1997, making Coronado the sole city in the county to outlaw the raising of chickens. Ms. Crawford claims her chooks created not just an egg each day, they also delivered the poop that makes her tomato crop famous (see 3000tomatoes.com). “I depended on their eggs for breakfast. Besides, in this age of sustainable living, it’s very, very, chic to grow local and eat fresh.”

Two months ago, the city, uh, hatched a plan to “gather information” and ordered staff to lay out their findings at the December 6 council meeting. So today’s the day. Leslie needs backup. The meeting is at 3 p.m. at City Hall (1825 Strand Way, Coronado). Paint up placards saying “No Chooks, No Taxes!” and “Chickens Are People, Too” and “Don’t Egg
Date Street
Breakfast: Little
Italy Mercato
Saturday mornings in our
house almost always begin
with a trip to the Little Italy
Mercato at Date and India (9
a.m. to 1:30 p.m.). We’ve been
doing it since it first opened
with 40 vendors in June 2008.
It now has over 140 farm and
specialty booths and stretches
from Kettner to State.

Run by Catt Fields White,
who also manages the North
Park and Pacific Beach farm-
ers’ markets, the Mercato
showcases local fruits and
vegetables, herbs, flowers,
eggs, cheese, pastured chicken
and meat, and more. It’s easy
to graze your way through
free samples, but if you want
to graze your way through
them, there’s live music, holiday
encores hard to get to know,
but I was craving noodles.

So, I order the Spicy Khee Mao
noodles with chicken ($9.95)
and a small pot of ginger tea
($2). I laugh and nod when my
server asks, “Medium spicy?” I
know my limits.

This is a pleasant place to
just sit and sip a warm bever-
age. The two servers bustle
around quietly, and the sizzling
goes right on in the kitchen.
My noodles are in front of me
before I know it.

They are wide, flat, slippery
rice noodles, nicely firm, with
lots of tender pieces of white-
meat chicken, soft-scrambly
eggs, thick slivers of onion, red
bell pepper, and chunky green
bean pieces. The vegetables are
crisp-tender, and everything
is lightly cloaked in a pungent
garlic-chili sauce.
Today’s Wicked

“I used to have a ranch down Toluca way,” Guillermo says. “Lamb is very popular.”

Who says there’s no more new food to create?

Last big food invention I can remember around here happened a century ago, when Caesar Cardini accidentally invented the Caesar Salad. But, hey, how about Michael Karianian, the owner of Sweet & Savory in P.B., who recently came up with the idea for the coffee-rubbed steak?

Not sure if he was the first with that. Still, it started me thinking. People like Karianian are not on the Food Network. But they’re out there, and they have new ideas.

Here are two more chefs who’ve turned into food inventors I’ve come across in the last few weeks.

Scene One: PB, around the corner from Sweet & Savory: I’m wandering down Emerald Street on a sunny, windy day at lunchtime. Surfers are coming back from the ocean looking gritty, salty-mouthed, and goosilyingly from the waves. Notice a couple of them stopping in at an orange- and yellow-taco joint.

La Perla.

“Burrito Factory,” it says on the outside.

Actually, I was also on my way here because they serve lamb tacos, Toluca, Mexico—style — meaning, BBQ’d. When you put the right stuff with it, like mint sauce, or maybe chutney, or a green tomatillo salsa, you’ve got a real lamb burrito. Whatever, it’s good. But by no means is it all. Guillermo has other strings to his bow: he invents burritos.

“We have lived in Oaxaca and on the Yucatan Peninsula. Very beautiful, and full of great food, moles, cheeses. I’m always experimenting with these.”

One day, when Guillermo was playing around with some Oaxacan cheeses, he got an idea. Why not make a California-style burrito, with plenty of crispy fries and guac and carne asada and salsa fresca and cheese inside? He’d double-wrap it with two tortillas, add a layer of cheese in between those two wraps, then melt it so it sticks to the tortillas. The result is one whopping, awesomely crisp, and taste-bud-drenching burrito. Costs $7.99, and it’s totally wicked, but you’ll never get through it in one sitting. So you know your next meal’s totally taken care of.

Scene Two: El Cajon, inside a brand new microbrewery pub. The El Cajon Brewing Company.

Ten o’clock at night.

This place is the hope of El Cajon. City authorities are desperate to kick life into the remodeled downtown they’ve spent so much money on, including hundreds of thousands in loans to this place so it could get up and running.

What I’m really hoping is to get a swig of one of their on-site-concocted brewskis.

By chance, Chris Barr, the place’s executive chef, drops down on a bar stool next to me (and orders up a glass of, uh, Merlot, not a beer). We get to talking, and I slip my order in for a late meal. I’m looking over the usual pub fare when I come to this section: “Stuffed Burgers.”

“Say what?” I say.

“Because, hey: this is new.”

“My idea,” says Chris.

Here’s how it happened. One day, Chris was stewing about what new items he could bring to the new operation, and he had this thought: restaurant chefs are stuffing everything these days, from chiles rellenos to lobsters.

“Next morning, I suggested to Steve [Meadows, the owner, along with his brewer brother Dave], ‘How about a stuffed hamburger, where you stuff the actual meat patty?’”

Steve was for it. Chris came up with one stuffed with cream cheese, jalapeños, and bacon.

Steve liked it. “Steve suggested the Greek [a burger patty stuffed with feta cheese, olives, and purple onions], and then we did an Italian, with mozzarella, pepperoni, and sausage. People have gone crazy over them.”

No contest — I order the jalapeño-stuffed burger. It costs $8.95. (Dang, spotted the “Ultimate” too late; that’s where they dip the burger in beer batter and deep fry the whole thing for a dollar more.) Still, it’s totally delicious. The hot, peppery melted cheese inside the burger patty bursts in your mouth.

It’s a new experience. You wouldn’t think there’d be any surprises left with burgers, but Chris has pulled it off. I can hear future food historians: “That was one small step for burgers, one giant leap for burgerkind…”

And now I want to know: Any other gastro-inventions out there? ■

The Place: La Perla Cocina Mexicana, 745 Emerald Street, Pacific Beach, 858-274-3038
Type of Food: Mexican
Prices: Lamb taco, barbacoa-style, $2.50; Oaxaca Burrito, with carne asada, fries, guacamole, salsa fresca, cheese, double tortilla with Oaxacan cheese melted between, $7.99
Hours: 7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. daily
Bus: 30
Nearest Bus Stop: Mission Boulevard at Felspar

The Place: El Cajon Brewing Company, 110 N. Magnolia Avenue, between Main Street and Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, 619-873-6221
Type of Food: American
Prices: Jalapeño-stuffed burger (with cream cheese, jalapeños, bacon, $8.95; the Italian (burger stuffed with mozzarella, pepperoni, sausage), $8.95
Kitchen Hours: 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. daily
Buses: 815, 816, 873
Nearest Bus Stop: Douglas and Magnolia

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The San Diego Reader

The Inside Track

Far West finds no-fills recording in an Encinitas American Legion.

Legion Air. Last year, when the Far West band went looking for a place to record, they settled on the American Legion post in Encinitas. “Our drummer, Tony Sanborn, lives just south of Oceanside,” says Lee Briante. “His mother works in the kitchen at the American Legion. “Far West played their first shows in the hall after Legion. “Far West would spend the year ago. “Tony said, ‘Hey, can we play?’ And [the legionnaires] said sure. They were interested in having entertainment. They opened the doors to us. “They’re very open, and they give us feedback right away.”

Has the Legion atmosphere in any way informed Briante’s songwriting or the band’s performances? “We all agree in the band that having that venue outside of L.A., where it can be just a drag to play sometimes, is great. L.A. people have their arms crossed and there’s a lot of judgment going on.” He describes the Legion as having a honky-tonk vibe. “Everybody has a good time and nobody’s judgmental. In L.A., it’s not so easy to have fun.”

Briante says Far West will likely come back to the American Legion to record their next CD. Since there is no official stage, the band moves a pool table and sets up in a corner. But for purposes of recording, they spread out. “The drummer was in the dining hall, the bass player was in the kitchen, and I was in the bingo room.” In addition to digital release, copies of the Far West’s self-titled CD are available at the Encinitas American Legion post.

Dave Good

Local SoCal. “The show is made by local musicians, for local musicians,” says producer Joe Stevens, whose TV program So-Cal Showcase will debut in January on Time Warner public access channel 19. “Each 30-minute episode is dedicated to one artist or band. The first ten minutes, I interview the artist, and then the band goes up and gives a 20-minute live performance.” The show has so far taped hard rockers King Legend, rapper Destructo Bunny, 16-year-old singer/songwriter Shyla Day, Kitty Plague, and Happy Ron Hill. However, performers wishing to appear should be prepared to do more than just show up and play. “The best way for an artist or band to end up on the show as a guest is to attend the filming dates and donate their time to help produce or promote the show,” says Stevens, who also sings and plays guitar with the band Beer Money.

“I will choose which guests get priority based on how much time, effort, or resources they have put into the program as time goes on. We do not pick guests in consideration of clout or offers of money. No one can buy into the venue...[which are] only required to pay the bands that play their showcase — $150 to $250 per band — and provide a drink tab for them.”

San Diego has a long history of public-access music shows, some of them right out of Wayne’s World. Club 33 captured early-’80s performances by bands such as the Beat Farmers, metalheads ruled on Music Underground, local music booster Brad Cahill produced Songwriter Spotlight, a late-’80s jazz show called Music of Life aired in North County, Hot Traxx (produced by David Law) screened urban videos, Dimension Cable had Dimen-

(continued on page 82)
Local musician/music booster Joe Stevens producing a TV showcase for the cause.

A Jung Technology.

Carl Jung once posited, “The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.”

It was in this way that Bobby Bray (the Locust, Holy Molar, Inners), a student of Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts at UCSD, embarked upon the invention of the Pure Data Machine in collaboration with Bryan Oczkowski (Batwings, Christwaves).

“We decided we wanted something that doesn’t exist,” Bray says over a cocktail at the Camel’s Breath Inn, a few blocks from his Mission Valley practice space. “So we rolled up our sleeves and made it ourselves.”

The customizable effects controller is based on an open-source program called Pure Data, which was authored by UCSD professor Miller Puckette. The box of knobs, switches, lights, photo cells, and a joystick runs off of a thumb drive, so data is easily exchanged and modified. One of Bray’s and Oczkowski’s mentors, professor Tom Erbe, authors and shares plug-in effects for recording software under the brand SoundHack and has created many of what Bray considers to be Pure Data’s best effects. Like Erbe, the duo plans to share all of their innovations online and for free.

Bray’s PDM is intended to function as a guitar effects controller, while Oczkowski’s is designed to work as a sound generator. The project is a response to the prevalence of mainstream effects companies that dictate what can be explained otherwise via language,” Bray says. “If you believe that to be true, then you are going to become reliant upon effects companies to define what you can communicate.”

neighborhood, circuit-bending a Casio into an interdimensional communication device, and circuit-bending reality with mock salesman infotainment performances at bars, where he endeavors to sell free information about cymatics (wave behavior) via a homemade Chladni plate (Google it).

“This concept of proprietary information and capitalism are blocking the evolution of the collective unconscious,” says Bray, an adherent to Jungian psychology. “I want to do my part to try to unblock that in anyway I can...that involves music, science, art, and technology. That’s where I derive all my inspiration.”

— Chad Deal

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/jam-session
Thursday 15

According to the WIR, white buffalo are American bison considered sacred signs in several Native American religions. Last.fm says White Buffalo's "a throwback to the time of hard-touring, hard-drinking artists who lived what they sang about." That's the one. The solo-rolling folkie's family name is Jake Smith, and he carries a guitar and a tune like all of the above. I read an online review by a guy named Ben Salmon who called Smith's voice "canyon deep and sequoia strong — makes the above. I read an online review by a guy what they sang about." That's the one. The Monk? is. The San Diego Joey Harris and the Mentals in Bay Park...where, right 'round the bend, never checked in at the cantina-cum-rock spot, barroom-rock munchies at Tio Leo's. If you've ton on the hides....

Friday 16

...I'll stay with you till my seeds are dried assup. Local rock-roll luminary Mike Keneally will join Kofi Baker (yup, Ginger's son) and bad-ass bassist Robbie Pagliari (Ohm) to bring Cream tribute Extreme Cream to Brick by Brick Friday night. The Brett Ellis Band splits the bill in Bay Park...where, right 'round the bend, Joey Harris and the Mentals will feed your barroom-rock munchies at Tia Leo's. If you've never checked in at the cantina-cum-rock spot, it's a fun space with healthy pouts and lots of greazy treats to keep the buzz legal... Hipsters can't dance, but they sure look keel trying. Mr. Tube and Rafter will be shooting dub and dance-pop bullets at all them left feet at Casbah Friday night...Up the big hill, psych-rock quartet Pilots land at Tin Can Ale House.

Saturday 17

One of my favorite hard-rock singers Chris Cornell will take the stage at the Balboa Theatre downtown. He's out to tout this year's acoustic-live comp, Songbook. Dude's done no wrong (musically speaking) in that near 30-year career — Soundgarden, Temple, Audioslave, solo stuff. Even that James Bond track (“You Only Live Twice”)...that near 30-year career — Soundgar- den, Temple, Audioslave, solo stuff. Everybody should have a live klezmer record in their rack...and can't f-ing wait for the new record, which the band says picks up where 1996's Down on the Upside left off. It's due to drop next spring... Got a hanker- ing for some accordion jams? Well buff your boots, nos. as L.A.'s Very Be Careful will bring last year's cumbia classic Escape Room to the Ken Club. The up-and-coming San Diego trio Cumbia Machin will split the bill. Surf-jazz sibs Mattson 2 will be on the one at 98 Bottles. Check out the band's Feeling Hands for a primer.... Right down the road, Casbah hosts a 25-year reunion deal for the old Pink Panther island discs. The thrashcore crossovers' current world tour will kick in at Ruffy's Room Sunday night with Tim Raldo and his Filthy Fucks.... Else: NYC klezmer crew the Klezmatron will be at Anthology behind this year's Live at Town Hall. Everybody should have a live klezmer record in their rack....and Figgy Shuffledust dons his Bowie best while Jane's Diction does nothing shocking at Casbah. It's Shuf- fiel's annual yearly birthday bash. (Testing the copyscript) (Fuck off, Barnaby. Big jerk.)

Monday 19

After a couple solo discs, local indie hits Rob Crow and Zach Smith (Systems Office) reform as Pinback to play Belly Up with Ghosto Blaster. Pinback's due to drop and will prob- ably premiere its next Temporary Residence disc, Information Retrieved. That dealio's due "early 2012." Tim Can Ale House stages Bay Area experimental bands Kitchen Wallet, Orgasmatron (ex-Ancient Cruc, Vaginals), and Former Friends of Young Americans. You wouldn't believe how many bands there are called "Orgasmatron," from, like, every corner of the globe. What strange device is this?

Sunday 18

Full Speed Ahead, Sunday night. D.R.I. still stands for Dirty Rotten Imbeciles. The Texas quartet melded hardcore and metal in the mid '80s on punk essential Gambling with It, which makes my list (the long list, anyway) for desert-
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The cops came with riot gear and dogs. We were ushered down under the stage.

The rough cut of Eric Rife’s rockumentary Garageland begins with the shrill alarm of “Walk the Beat” by the Penetrators. And rightly so — some local rock historians say that the Penetrators, in 1978, were the start of San Diego’s original music scene, a time that the as-yet-unfinished Garageland hopes to document.

In 1977, the original Penetrators were singer Gerry Heffern, Joel Knak on drums, guitarist Scott Harrington, and Chris Sullivan from La Mesa on bass guitar. They played everywhere, it seemed, from Fairmount Hall to the California Theatre. Labels expressed interest, and one of their records landed in rotation at KROQ in Los Angeles. The band was seen by many, including Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

When Knak left the Hitmakers, he was replaced by a pianist and record-store owner named Dan McClain. The rumor was that McClain had not played drums professionally until the Penetrators, and it was uphill after that. McClain’s alter ego, Country Dick Montana, would move on to fame with the Beat Farmers. The big break never came for the Penetrators, and by 1984 the band was finished.

I talked to Chris Sullivan.

1978 WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU GUYS OPENED FOR THE RAMONES AT MONTEZUMA HALL, A SHOW THAT PEOPLE REMEMBER TO THIS DAY.

“I remember having the feeling of arrival, kinda like, Here’s your shot, kid — show them what ya got.”

VIOLENT OUTBURSTS AND INSURRECTION FOLLOWED WHENEVER THE PENETRATORS WERE ON A BILL. DID IT EVER GET OUT OF CONTROL TO THE POINT THAT YOU WERE SCARED?

“No, I always felt like we were the ringmasters. The wildest time may have been a show at the California Theatre with the Ramones. The cops came with riot gear and dogs. We were ushered down under the stage and out a side door into waiting cars.”

WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND?

“I was thinking, Cool. This is like a Beatles movie.”

THE PENS HAD BIG FANS IN STEVE ESMEDINA, THE READER MUSIC CRITIC AT THAT TIME, AND JIM MCINNES, WHO WAS A DJ AT KGB FM AND A SUPPORTER OF LOCAL BANDS.

“Jim first came to see us the first time we played with the Ramones. He loved the music and was, and is, a sharp wit. I kept after him, trying to get a job at the radio station. He finally said to just come on down to the station and talk to some people. I don’t miss many opportunities, so I came to the station and talked myself into a job.”

YOU WORKED THERE WHEN I DID…AND FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN’T REMEMBER WHAT IT IS YOU DID.

“At first it was market research, and then I went on to giving station tours, working promos, driving the van, and eventually pulling some on-air shifts.”

THE PENS HAD ANOTHER FAN NAMED EDDIE VEDDER, WHO WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TIME. DID HE EVER HELP ROADIE YOUR BAND’S GEAR? AS I RECALL, HE HUNG AROUND THE CLUBS AND HAD PLAYED IN A BAND CALLED BAD RADIO.

“I wish he did; it would have made a great story! I know the show we did at San Dieguito High School left an impression on him [Vedder attended the North County high school; he would later tell a reporter that the Penetrators were an influence]. It was another one of those riot situations.”

I REMEMBER YOU AS A SHARP-DRESSED MAN. THIS WAS DURING A TIME WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE WORE JEANS AND WHATEVER FREE T-SHIRT WE COULD MOOCH FROM TOURING BANDS AND RECORD LABELS.

“I grew up in Yonkers and the Bronx in an Italian, black, and Puerto Rican neighborhood. Talk about style and attitude… My mentors were guys like Dion and Jackie Wilson. I lived right near the Apollo Theatre and in the Belmont section of Little Italy in the Bronx. You had to have great hair, sharkskin jackets, and Beatle boots, because style meant a lot.”

THOSE ZEBRA BOOTS YOU WORE AT SDMA THIS YEAR… MAN, WHERE DO YOU SHOP?

“Most of my clothes I pick up at second-hand stores. The leopard and zebra boots I got from a guy in Mexico. Seems like the Latin culture still likes Cuban heels and pointed toes.”

WHEN THE PENETRATORS DID COME BACK

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When Rob Crow and Zach Smith formed Pinback in 1998, they quickly became one of the most-talked about San Diego bands in indie rock (even if they weren’t necessarily all that famous in San Diego). Their melancholy, atmospheric style, built on interlocking patterns created by Crow’s guitar and Smith’s bass, seemed made for movie soundtracks. (At least one song did appear in a movie, the box-office dud Soundtracks. (At least one song did appear in a movie, the box-office dud Soundtracks.) Nonetheless, Crow and Smith have kept Pinback going in one capacity or another. Last year, they staged a short tour as a duo. They called it “Pinback Presents the Rob and Zach Show.” More recently, they released two vinyl-only EPs in extremely limited quantities. From what I’ve heard of them, the EPs are among the best work Pinback has ever done. Reportedly, there is a new full-length release coming out early next year. Ghetto Blaster also performs.

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

PINBACK: Belly Up Tavern, Monday, December 19, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $18, $20.

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

This Week’s Shows

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885. Thursday, 8pm — Joshua White. $10. Saturday, 8pm — Mattison 2. $5.


Across the Street: 4601 Park Bl., University Heights. Saturday, 7:30pm — Psychosally, Kristen Sadler, Joseph Vincent Group. Alt rock/acoustic. $6-$10.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891. Sunday, 6pm — The Klezmatikos. Jewish roots music.


Bar Pink: 3820 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194. Thursday, 10pm — Nena Anderson and the Mules. $5 or donate unwrapped toy. Friday, 10pm — The Styletones. Punk. Saturday, 10pm — Neon Beat. With DJ Junior the Discopunk. Wednesday — Stevie & the Hi-Star.


Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Friday, 8pm — Extreme Cream with Mike Renally and Kofi Baker. $10.


Cosmos Coffee Café: 8278 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa. Saturday, 7pm — Melanie Devaney.


Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292. Thursday, 9pm — Save Amos. $5. Friday, 9pm — One I Red. CD release. With Bella Novella and East of Sweden. $6. Saturday, 9:30pm — Homeless Sexuals, Coda Reactor, the Natives. $3.

Fluxx: 500 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-8100. Sunday, 9pm — Ferry Corsten. EDM. With the Office Twins and DJ Flo. $15-$25.


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White Arrows is another one of those bands that first came to the internet. When Schiff was at college, he posted his songs on YouTube, and based on the response, he couldn’t wait to get back to his native Los Angeles and start a band, even if his stuff had no discernible direction. “From the beginning, everyone had a hard time pinpointing exactly what the sound was.” They have direction now and describe the band on their Facebook page as “the blackest white band.”

A curious fact: Schiff got his sight gradually, and by the age of 11 he could see. Did the real world match his imagination? “The only thing that really struck me when I first saw what everybody else saw was lines. I had no concept that a straight edge existed. I got really sick the first time I put on glasses because everything was really intense, and I was focusing solely on the geometry.”

Love Inks also performs.

WHITE ARROWS: Soda Bar, Saturday, December 17, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. $7.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/notes
Thursday, 7:30pm — Magic 92.5 Quiet Storm. With Brian McKnight, Al B. Sure!, Force MD’s, S.O.S., and Jon B. R&B/soul.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Wednesday, 10pm — Ikaiika Beamer. So Cal reggae/hip-hop/Hawaiian.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
December 22 — Black Cherry X-Mas Party.
December 23 — Dopamaina.
December 30 — All-4-One.
December 31 — Kinky.
January 7 — DJ Quik.
January 20 — Pat Travers.
January 21 — Jackyl and Sledd.
February 3 — Mutemath.
February 4 — Adam Ant.
February 10 — Chuck Pyle.
February 23 — Gretchen Peters.
February 24 — Arturo Sandoval.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
December 23 — Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour.
January 15 — David Garrett.
February 14 — Jimmy Emmanuel.
February 25 — Jake Shimabukuro.
February 26 — Lila Downs.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
December 23 — Bonkers! Dance Party.
December 26 — The Fire Eaters.
December 30 — Wendy Bailey.
December 31 — Beehive & the Barracudas, Christmas Island, Mrs. Magician.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
December 23 — Cash’d Out.
December 27 — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven.
December 28 — Leftover Salmon.
December 30 — The Greyboy Allstars.
December 31 — The English Beat.
January 4 — Dick Dale.
January 6 — Pato Banton.
January 13 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.
January 15 — Handsome Furs.
January 20 — Agent 51 and Pivit.

January 23 — Mark Hummel’s Harmonica Blowout.
January 26 — Lucinda Williams.
January 27, January 28 — Ozomatli.
February 2 — Joe Walsh.
February 3 — Keller Williams.
February 4 — Martin Sexton.
February 7 — Dr. Dog.
February 18 — Atomic Punks.
February 19 — Steve Poltz Third Annual Birthday Bash.
February 23 — Ra Ra Riot.
February 28 — Los Lonely Boys.
March 3 — Jackie Greene.
March 30 — Michael Rose.
March 31 — Super Diamond.
April 14 — Pine Mountain Logs.
April 21 — Cat Empire.

December 23 — Chasing Claymores, Curt Owen, Red Ribbon Army, Lucky Wild.
January 7 — Spiders from Bars.


Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.

EVENYONE’S A CRITIC

**BOOM TIC BOOM**

**Allison Milller**

By Andrew Hamlin

As I’ve mentioned elsewhere, this music produced a profound spiritual experience wherein I, a proud atheist, felt an overwhelming connection to the One, something beyond space and time, in a perpetual state of being and transformation. Will this do that for you? I don’t know. But I think it’s worth a try. “You don’t need to believe in God to believe in transcendence,” Tim Quirk once said, and I’ve taken that to heart, even as what I described above transcended the heart.

On a more pragmatic level, you don’t need the above experience to plug into this. If you care that Miller and her bassist Todd Sickafosse logged time as Ani DiFranco’s rhythm section, I’ll mention that, but if you hate “chicks with guitars” the way one friend of mine does, I hope you won’t bear a grudge. Miller’s trio (sometimes quartet) delivers a constantly shifting sound, three (sometimes four) parts not competing for your attention, exactly, but proceeding confidently, trusting that you’ll listen exactly when your head gets right. I can’t think of much other current music this rich in multilayers. Living testimony to the power of the collective. If it gets you to the One on top of on the one, welcome the bonus.

Pink Martini — Larger Than Life

By Barrett Cullom

Pink Martini took the stage just after 8 p.m. The little orchestra filled the stage with players and beautifully restored venue with sound. Opener “Amado Mio” revealed Storm Large, the Martins’ interim lead vocalist. She looked as she sounded: tall, blonde, and ready to entice. Flamboyant bandleader and grand pianist Thomas Lauderdale was in complete control of the festivities throughout the evening, giving music lessons between each song.

No less than seven different languages were sung, highlighted by Malaysian singer Sean Ghazi’s beautiful duets with Storm Large on “Let’s Never Stop Falling in Love” and “Get Happy/ Happy Days.”

For the encores, the Martins were joined by the Bonita Vista High Marching band and color guard, in full uniform, waving their colorful flags and swinging their tubas! The finale, “Brazil,” looked like a Brazilian carnival onstage — larger than life.

Concert: Pink Martini

Date: November 12

Venue: Balboa Theatre

Seats: Center orchestra row S

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**Tin Can Ale House:** 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8225.

December 22 — Skyline Union, Tracy Shedd, Kelsey Ray Little. December 30 — Street of Little Girls.

December 31 — River City and Western Set.

**Valley View Casino Center:** 3500 Sports Arena BL, Midway District, 619-224-4171. April 10 — Kelly Clarkson. April 28 — So Cal Reggae Festival 2012.

May 13 — Roger Waters.
Japanese Restaurant: Balboa Park

Monday-Saturday

Donato’s Italian Restaurant: Alpine

Monday-Friday

Emilianos Mexican Restaurant: Allied Gardens

Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks.

Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off all appetizers.

Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 off all appetizers.

Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, $5 cocktails, $3.50 imported bottles, $3.50 house margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

Mr. Peabody’s: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: 3-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, $3.75 mixed drinks.

Mr. Peabody’s: Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, $3.50 house margaritas.

Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

Carmel Mountain

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

Carmel Valley

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

wetstonewinebar.com

amaterrace.com

margaritaville.com

corneliusbeverages.com

Vinum

Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off domestic, $2 off imported bottles, $2 off well drinks.

Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 off domestic, $3 off well drinks.

Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 premium drafts, $5 cocktails, $6 martinis.

Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off domestic pitchers all day.

Pal Joey’s: Daily, all day: $3 you-call-it Thursdays.

Close: $9 beer pitchers, $9 margarita pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers.

Satin Lounge: Thursday, 9pm-close: $1 Bud drafts.

San Diego Reader December 15, 2011
Happy Hour

$6 margaritas, mojitos. $2.95 tacos, $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

Danny’s Palm Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 wells.

Del Mar

Zei’s Del Mar: Monday, 4-6:30pm: $5 “M” drinks: Moscow mules, margaritas, martinis, mojitos. Tuesday, 4-6:30pm: $1/2-price flatbreads. Wednesday, 4-6:30pm: $1/2-price bottles of wine.

Downtown

House of Blinds: Daily, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3.95 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

Patrick’s: Daily, 11am-5pm: $2.50 beer bottle. $3 wines, Bud Light pints, $4 caliber margaritas, bloody marys.

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

Time Out Sports Bar: Monday-Wednesday, 3-7pm: $2.50 16-ounce draft Time Out Lager, Bud, Bud Light. Sam Adams, $3.50 1/2-off appetizers. Thursday, all day: Thirsty Thursdays: Buy one picher, get second 1/2-off.

Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints, $4 craft/ import pints, $4.50 goblets, $4.25 wells, $3.75 house martinis, $2 off wine by the glass. $6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

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.

Monkey Paw: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $1 off drafts and cocktails.

East Lake

Smokin’ Sam’s BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4.50 martini, $8 sangria. Doggy happy hour: $2 beef & rib rolls.

El Cajon

Flinn Springs Inn: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.50 domestic bottles, $3 wines.

Encinitas

Blue Fin Sushi Bar: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-6pm: $1/2-off wine, beer, sake, select appetizers, sushi rolls.

EstBSDido

Vino Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 appetizers, tacos, $4.50 wines, $3 doggie bites.

Fallbrook

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

Golden Hill

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

Grantville

JT’s Clubhouse Pub & Grill: Monday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $1 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-11:30 close: $35 draft. Thursday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. $2.50 1/2-lb burger with fries. Saturday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 4-8pm: $3 house beer, $3/2-off all food. Sunday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints.

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas & well drinks.

Harbor Island

The Boathouse: Daily, 2:30pm-5pm: $1.99 margaritas, $3 Calvados margaritas, $3 Karl Strauss, $4 mojitos.

Hillcrest

The Alibi: Daily, all day: $3 dinner, $7 happy hour.

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

Wine Steals: Tuesday, 5-7pm: $5 wine tasting.

Imperial Beach

Club Bananas at Lydia’s Cafe: Daily, open: 11pm $3 wines & domestic.

 Kearny Mesa

Pampas Argentine Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7:30pm: $3 wines, $4 wine specials. Discount empanadas and appetizers.

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

Los Cabos Cafe: Daily, 5-7pm: $4 well, $4 house wine. Miso, $3.50 sake, $3.50 well, $4 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Lincoln Park

L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Plaza: Monday-Saturday, 4-8pm: $2 domestic drafts. $2 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: $1 drafts. $1 tacos & wings.

Linda Vista

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas & well drinks.

Little Italy

Anthology: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $2 house wine, $3 domestic pints, martins, margaritas.

El Camino II: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 margaritas, sangria, Corona, Corona Light. 1/2-off quesadilla & nacho plates. Sunday, 10am-4pm: $1 mimosas.

Fat City Steakhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, $3 wells, $4 house wine, $3/2-off all food.

Puerto La Boca: Daily, 4:30-7:30pm: $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, well drinks. $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.

Lakeside

Coach Stop: Monday-Friday, 9am-noon: $2 off all beer, $2.50 large drafts, domestic bottles. 7-11pm: $1.50 1/2-lb. drafts, $6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

Lemon Grove

Dirk’s Niteclub: Monday-Saturday, 4:30pm: $3 off all drinks $4.50 or less. Sunday, 6pm-2pm: $1 off bloody marys.

Leucadia

Bar Leucadian: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.75 house wine.

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.

Bamboo Hut: Daily, 3-7pm: Buy large beer, get small house sake free. $2.75 small beer, $3.25 house wine.

Mira Mesa

The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-7:45pm: $4 margaritas. Tuesday, 7pm-7:45pm: $2 kamikazes. Wednesdays, 7pm-7:45pm: $3 domestic drafts. Thursday, 7pm-7:45pm: $2.50 well drinks, $7 domestic pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: $3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: $3 bloody marys.

Mission Beach

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 for one cocktail, $1 for one beer, shots.

Mission Hills

The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: $1.25 off beer and wells.

Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: $2 domestic bottles and drafts, $3 hous, food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, $1 off well. Sunday, all night: $5 mules. $15 off wine bottles.

Mission Valley

The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 Gold margaritas, $3 house wine, $2 drafts, $3.50 wells. Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2 drafts. Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off any tequila shot, $3 house wine, bottled beer.

National City

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

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: Monday-Friday 3-7pm: $2 domestic beer, $3 import & local beer, $4 house wine. Saturday-Sunday: all day: $4 mimosas, bloody marys.

North Park

Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, 5-8pm: $3 domestic wells, $4 well drinks, $5 imported pitchers.

Live Wire: Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off drafts and cocktails.

Oceanside

Islander

Bar Pink: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $1 off drafts and calls.

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

U-31: Tuesday, 5-8pm: $2 drafts, tacos, Saturday, noon-6pm: $3 you-call-its, burgers. Sunday, noon-6pm: $2 Budweiser, mimosas.

Oceana Beach

3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: Tuesday-Saturday, 6-4pm: $4 sangria, $4 glass of wine, $3 specialty cocktails.

Blue Parrot: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm. All drinks and appetizers 1/2-price (all day Monday).

Oceanside

Aryana at Holiday Inn: Daily, 5-7pm: $2 domestic wells, $3 premium, glass of wine. Appetizer specials.

P’s & Q’s Sports Pub & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic pints, $3 premium pints. $3 chicken wings.
OLD TOWN
Casa Guadalajara: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Free appetizers. $3.50 well drinks, margaritas, drink specials.
Cosopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 5-6pm: $3 wells, house wine, and drafts.
Harney Sushi: Wednesday, $5 specialty cocktails.
Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $3 appetizers, $5 drinks, house wines, $1 off pitchers.
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines. $1 Taco Tuesday.

PACIFIC BEACH
Pacific Beach Ale House: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2 price appetizers.
SD Tap Room: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off appetizers. $3.50 wine and sake.
Sinh Sad Café: Daily, 4-9pm: $1.50 drafts, $2 wells, shots, $2.50 imports. 11am-9pm: $12-$15 hookahs.
Tony Roma’s: Daily, 1-4pm: $3 wells, drafts. $3 off appetizers.

POINT LOMA
Jimmy’s Famous American Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: 1/2 off all appetizers, drafts, wells, and select house wine.
Paradise Lounge and Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2.50 well drinks, domestic bottles, $6.50 domestic pitchers. 6-9:30am: 1/2 off breakfast.
POWAY
Kaminski’s BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: 1/2 off all appetizers, drafts, wells.

RAMONA
Boll Weevil Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2 off all pitchers.

RANCHO BERNARDO
Bernard’O Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7pm: $4 wells, $2.75 domestic, $3.50 imported/specialty, $4.75 house margaritas, $5 house wine.
Café on the Park: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm: $3 wells, $4 house margaritas, 1/2 off house wine by the glass, $1 off beer. Complimentary cheese & crackers, 1/2 off appetizers.
Capi Blu: Daily, 3-7pm: 1/2 price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS
Dei Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4pm-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona, $3 wine; $1 off all appetizers.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO
Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: Daily, 4-6pm: $2 drafts, 1/2 off all appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

RANCHO SANTA FE
Delicius: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

SAN MARCOS
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines. $1 Taco Tuesday.

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OLD TOWN
Casa Guadalajara: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Free appetizers. $3.50 well drinks, margaritas, drink specials.
Cosopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 5-6pm: $3 wells, house wine, and drafts.
Harney Sushi: Wednesday, $5 specialty cocktails.
Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $3 appetizers, $5 drinks, house wines, $1 off pitchers.
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines. $1 Taco Tuesday.
Rewind the Clock

He’s nostalgic for something that’s gone, not hopeful for what could be.

Jacob Marley’s isn’t the only Ghost of Christmas Past. Everyone probably has a few. They may not arrive in chains, shaking a bony finger at the void, and whispering “beware.” In fact, they may be recollections so fond they’re painful. The season conjures the ghosts of seasons past. That’s the painful. The season conjures the fact, they may be recollections so fond they’re “rewind the clock.”

Sater (book and lyrics) — that and you can’t Bacharach (music) and Steven Sater (book and lyrics) — that and you can’t Burt Bacharach is 83 — so where did he find

Some Lovers, music by Burt Bacharach, book and lyrics by Steven Sater
Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
Directed by Will Frears; cast: Jason Danieley, Michelle Duffy, Andrew Mueller, Jenni Barber; scenic design, Takeshi Kata; costumes, Jenny Mannis; lighting, Ben Stanton; sound, Leon Rothenberg; orchestrations, Jonathan Tunick
Playing through December 31; Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623

In the story, Della and James are so poor their furnished flat almost qualifies for the “mendicancy squad.” The “two foolish children” sell their greatest treasures — his watch chain and locks of her hair — to buy gifts for each other: pure tortoise shell combs, and The Watch. O. Henry says their extreme sacrifices make them as wise as the magi.

As in a play by Alan Ayckbourn, Some Lovers takes place in multiple dimensions. Young Ben and Molly share the stage with older Ben and Molly. They become, for each other, Ghosts of Christmas Past and Future.

Della and James make almost a third couple, since their story unfolds, a section at a time, during the 95-minute, intermissionless musical.

Sater, who wrote the book and lyrics for the Tony Award–winning Spring Awakening, makes good use of the cross-referencing, at first. The young lovers look at what they’ve become and comment. The older ones look back. They recall the sparks of love and conflict. The technique gives the older Molly a line you’ll never hear in real life. She tells her younger self, “God, you’re boring. No wonder he left me.”

Burt Bacharach is 83. Burt Bacharach is 83. Burt Bacharach is 83. Burt Bacharach is 83 — so where did he find the energy and the imagination to write such a rich score? Is 83 the new 63? Even so, how many 63-year-olds can compose 18 songs that circle the zodiac of love, from sprightly infatuation to hard, jaded truths, to the possibility of love reborn?

And how many can weave them into what feels, in some ways, like a single song, or Goldberg Variations on a theme? The songs both break

Jenni Barber and Andrew Mueller as Young Ben in Some Lovers
away from and then echo each other. In effect, they do what the book does: pit then against now, musically, and the differences resonate.

Bacharach gives each performer at least one knockout number. Young Ben (Andrew Mueller) gets the rockier, “Welcome to My World”; Young Molly (Jenni Barber) picks up on the Christmas Past and Future theme in “Living with a Ghost”; Ben (Jason Daniel-Sater’s strongest writing build- ion of songs, parts tend not hopeful for what could be. The problem is: the characters aren’t worthy of the music. Look past Sater’s inge-

Because the music often references itself, especially the beginnings of songs, parts tend to feel repetitive. That said, the score, much more often than not, is a wonder. The problem is: the characters aren’t worthy of the music.

Snow Carr, Randall Dodge, Phil Johnson, and eight-year-old Caitlin McAuliffe, who alternates as Cindy Lou Who with Kerry Margaret Rubenfire’s Max. A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show Sound effects wiz. Scott Paulson performs a concert reading of original material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show Point Loma AACTers Stage stages Dylar’s adaptation of Dickens’ classic in 1940s radio style. CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATER, 2822 S. CARLSBAD ST., CARLSBAD. 7:30PM AND 8PM, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Greetings And “greetings” to Mira Mesa Theatre Group for its first full-length play in a decade: Tom Dudzick’s “boy bringing fiancé home” holiday comedy. EPICENTER, 8400 MIRA MESA BL., MIRA MESA. 8:30PM–11:00PM, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 17.

It’s a Wonderful Life Play Cygnet Theatre presents its extremely popular holiday show. In this staged version of the movie, you now only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you see how it’s made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, actors reading lines, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. The story’s still a grabber: what would life be like without George, whose selfless generosity abandoned his dreams for others? The show boasts, among other features, Tom Andrew’s Craig Noel-winning performance as George. Worth a try.

The Grinch Stole Christmas The Old Globe carries on another tradition of offering a new one-person adaptation of the Dickens classic in 1940s radio style. LIBERTY HALL THEATER AT PARA- DISE VILLAGE, 2700 E. 4TH ST., NATIONAL CITY. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM SATURDAY, 7:30PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 22.

La Pastorela de Valor Welk Resort Theatre presents the popular comedy in which “Sister convents a cattiness class with no holds barred.” WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 8PM AND 8:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAY, 8PM AND 8:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Late Night Catechism Welk Resorts Theatre presents the popular comedy in which “Sister” conducts a cattiness class with no holds barred. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 8PM FRIDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 16.

Jingle Bell Rock Welk Resort Presents presents its new Christmas show, singing popular holiday songs in a doo-wop, a cappella style. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 8PM AND 8:30PM SATURDAY, 8PM AND 8:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

A Christmas Carol The Radio Show Point Loma Actors Theatre stages the story about “those years around the sea- town corner and out of all sound except the distant speaking of the voices I sometimes hear a moment before sleep.” POINT LOMA ASSEMBLY, 3035 TAFT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-225-0044. 7:30PM FRIDAY AND SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

A Christmas Carol The Radio Show The Old Globe hosts a celebration of Christmas in Ireland “music, song, traditional dance, storytelling.” BALboa Theatre, 886 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN. 619-570-1100. 7:30PM FRIDAY.

Camelot King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, and Queen Guinevere’s tragic triangle at Vista’s Avo Playhouse. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA. 760-724-2110. 8PM SATURDAY, NOON SUNDAY.

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol The old curmudgeon’s in Julian for the holidays, where he’ll find the true meaning of life and love amid horse-drawn carriages, strolling carolers, and spiced cider. JULIET TOWN HALL, 2219 MAIN ST., JULIET. JULIANTOWNHALL.COM. 7PM FRIDAY, 1:30PM AND 7PM SATURDAY AND SUN- DAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas There’s a new Grinch in town and he’s a hoot. Steve Blanchard’s natty enough to inspire trepidation but establishes a instant rapport with his audience. He captivates and entertains with laughter. It’s clear early on that the Grinch’s heart isn’t just “full of unwholesome socks.” Along with the traditional holiday show the Old Globe carries on another one: it hires local actors, among them Steve Gunderson (terrific as Old Max the dog), Geno and Nancy does he know that the Archangel Michael’s keeping a close eye on their journey. William Virchis directed.

Lylem Theatre, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Lamb’s Festival: The Spirit of Christmas Present Kerry Meets her annual Christ- mas story’ somewhere uptown, today. Neighbors isolated from each other come together and experience the play’s title: “The Spirit of Christmas Present.” The outcome is never in doubt. What propels the production are terrific musical arrangements (Ivon Lonren and Leonard Patton) and real close to the vest harmonies. Kathi Gibbs Woods heads the cast as Mrs. Riley, a homeless, mystical woman able to forge unsuspected links. Jeanne Reh’s excellent costumes range from chic to hand-me-down. Worth a try.

Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 OR- ANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0060. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM AND 8:30PM SATURDAY, 8PM AND 8:30PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Jingle Bell Rock Welk Resort Presents presents its new Christmas show, singing popular holiday songs in a doo-wop, a cappella style. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 8PM AND 8:30PM SATURDAY, 8PM AND 8:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

La Pastorela de Valor Welk Resorts Theatre presents the popular comedy in which “Sister” conducts a cattiness class with no holds barred. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 8PM FRIDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 16.

Learn to Be Latina Enrique Urrea’s equal opportunity offender has toured the country. But Diversionary’s iffy production makes one wonder why it gets so much play. In order to advance her career, exec tell Hanan Musha- lani, a promising young singer, that she isn’t marketable. She must drop her Lebanese heritage and pose as a Latina (she must “keep the West and drop the rest”). Diversionary’s staging, by an uncredited director, has sketchy scenes, languid pacing, and uninspired choreography. It becomes clear that the script needs externals — offensive racial slurs, an abysmal hand puppet — to prop up a flimsy story line. Along the way, the playwright dabbles with the politics of gender, iden- tity, and sexual preference. But they linger in the more than any- thing else, as pseudo-validations of the story. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4454 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Life of a Sofa Vista’s Broadway Theatre hosts the world premiere of Randall Hick- man’s vignettes about the various owners of a sofa over 100 years. Each takes place at Christmas. BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROADWAY, VISAYA. 760-586-7005. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 7:30PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Little Women Patience Playhouse stages Peter Clapham’s dramatic adaptation of the Louisa May Alcott novel about sisters growing up in Civil War America.
Restaurant Gift Certificates

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at The Omelette Factory

$10 for $20
at Bombay Coast

$15 for $30
at Boll Weevil

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Patio Playhouse, 201 East Grand Ave., Escondido. 760-746-6669. 6PM
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Martinis N’ Mistletoe
The Redd Tones, a Las Vegas lounge act, present “a wacky mix of
traditional holiday music, popular songs, and special Broadway
selections.”
MOXIE AT ROLANDO THEATRE, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N, College Area.
858-536-7600. 3PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Mistletoe, Music, and Mayhem
Now in its second year at North Coast Rep, this wacky satire of
Yuletide doings could become a tradition for the company. Creators
Matt Thompson and Phil Johnson have added new material and filled
out last year’s effort to 90 minutes. Some bits are funnier than others
(among them a 12-year-old from hell who sits on Santa’s lap and gives
him what for; and ornaments that watch love bloom before their eyes).
What’s consistent all evening is the performers’ versatility. Jaque Willie,
Tony Houck, Kevin Koppman-Gue — household names in theater circles
—and new faces Heather Paton and BJ Lawrence Bledsoe through dozens
of characters, accents, and costumes, always with admirable precision.
NORTH COAST REPETORY THEATRE, 6870 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach.
858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUN-
DAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Mr. Scrooge & Mr. Dickens
PowPAC presents the traditional A Christmas Carol, but with Charles
Dickens readings sections from his manuscript.
POWPAC, POWAY’S COMMUNITY THEATER, 13250 Poway Rd., Poway.
858-679-8080. 7PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH
DECEMBER 18.

National Comedy Theatre
The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv
comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is
“appropriate for all audiences.”
NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 In-
Via B St., Mission Hills. 619-295-4995.
7:30PM and 9:45PM FRIDAYS and Saturdays, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft
Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853.
“When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone
becomes a suspect.”
MIXTAPE AT CAFE, 1439 East Valley Park-
Way, Escondido. 7:30PM FRIDAYS and SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Santaland Diaries
New Village Arts presents David Sedaris’s story of an out-of-work
actor who takes a job as an elf at Santaland. Samuel Sherman
directed. Daren Scott reprises his role as the actor/elf.
NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B State St., Carlsbad. 760-433-3245.
8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUN-
DAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

Some Lovers
The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of a new musi-
cal by Steven Sater (book and lyr-
ic) and Burt Bacharach (music).
Will Frears directed the piece, a re-imagination of O. Henry’s “The
Gift of the Magi.”
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 Old Globe
Way, Balboa Park. 619-234-5623.
7PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, 2PM
AND 7PM SATURDAYS AND SUN-
DAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

The Messiah
Community Actors Theatre presents a musical drama, adapted and
directed by Jennie Hamilton, about “a story that can never be told too
many times.”
COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2917 54TH ST., COLLEGE AREA.
619-264-3391. 7PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 3PM
SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

The Musical “Annie”
Star Theatre stages the popular musi-
cal about never giving up hope. Songs include “It’s the Hard Knock Life,”
“Easy St.,” “N.Y.C.” and the ever-
optimistic “Tomorrow.”
STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY.,
Oceanside. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 3PM
AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Scripps Ranch Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning musical
about a day in the life of Charlie Brown and cartoonist Charles M.
Schulz’s Peanuts gang. Joey Land-
wehr directed.
SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO ROAD., SCRIPPS RANCH.
858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 17.
Glad tidings, of coming holiday gifts:

**The Artist**

“I won’t talk!” silently mouths an actor in the silent movie being made inside *The Artist*, a film that is itself almost entirely silent in speech. Soon after, a studio sign says: Please Be Silent. But you will be hearing the humming sound of your own thoughts, along with laughs, as you submit happily to Michel Hazanavicius’s film.

Like the best parts of Martin Scorsese’s *Hugo*, this strange new film is in love with movie love. The French director, whose clever but corny Bond parody *OSS 117* did not prepare me for this, has made a silky valentine to silent Hollywood. Come Oscar time, the buzzing hive of modern Hollywood may respond with a prize or two (I personally nominate the lead actor). This black-and-white film has an impeccable spirit of devotion to old show biz and to our imagination of what it once was. It doesn’t have to be wildly funny or perfectly plotted to sustain its power of artful silence (words are heard only near the end, and the simple story requires few on-screen dialogue cards).

The ace card is the casting of Jean Dujardin as American star George Valentin, whose popularity withers as sound comes in. His old-style Brilliantine hair and “pencil moustache” are often braced by a huge grin. He looks terrific in costumes or, even better, a three-piece suit. He loves life, and movies, and women, and mirrors, and his dog Jack, a virtual clone of Asta in the *Thin Man* series (he is played by three Jack Russell terriers: Uggie, Dash, and Dude). As jaunty George grins, poses, and wanders, his sad wife droops like a potted palm (Penelope Ann Miller had more fun as Edna Purviance, Charlie’s favorite costar, in 1992’s *Chaplin*). George’s bounding gusto recalls Douglas Fairbanks Sr., the Hollywood “king” (before Clark Gable) who aged quickly after sound came in. He looks like the forgotten ’30s star Warren William, and he soulfully echoes John Gilbert, another major moustache and a gifted actor who was ruined less by talk than the control mania of the Mayer-Thalberg regime at MGM. Despite the devoted support of Greta Garbo, Gilbert became a truly painful figure, and Hazanavicius was smart not to overdo the comparison.
Resisting sound, George produces a silent film (a bomb), and then sulks and drinks, gives up the mansion, auctions its treasures, even sadly fires his devoted servant (James Cromwell, almost as loyal as the dog Jack). Through it all, Dujardin has great dignity, is hugely likeable, and pulls off touches of comic poignancy not far from Chaplin’s.

As Peppy Miller, who grabs the golden ring of sound and whose love for George stalls for a while in wasteful friendship, Bérénice Bejo is certainly committed (in life she is Hazanavicius’s partner). She sure is peppy, though female stars of the era had more flesh; the skinny gals rose up later, with Ida Lupino, Lauren Bacall, and Veronica Lake. Bejo, who looks like a prettier Carol Burnett, is a plot device to bring on the smiles, kisses, and meet-cutes. She is what that era would have called "swell."

Dujardin’s true costar is the immaculate design, the old devices (spinning headlines, dissolves, wipe cuts, well-dressed crowds), the not-too-computerized vistas of classic L.A.—above all, the lovely tonalities of gray and silver, which are mostly quite close to what old movies looked like. The actors (Cromwell, Miller, Ed Lauter, Malcolm McDowell, and, as the studio boss, John Goodman) fold into the atmosphere like pale, mute ghosts of themselves. The film murmurs delicate echoes of A Star Is Born and silent comedies and that great, joyful lie about the coming of sound, Singin’ in the Rain. You don’t need to be a buff to feel the pleasure.

Guillaume Schiffman’s photography rivals Gordon Willis’s for Zelig, Woody Allen’s tricky comedy about ’20s celebrity mania. The wittiest touch is that George so loves his silent-but-virile world of movie heroics that he seems to think and dream in silence. In a nightmare, he hears simple bathroom devices making noises, like subversive imps. Talk threatens his complacently happy posturing as a star, though he is never a dumb ditz like Jean Hagen in Singin’ in the Rain. (But is George really an artist? His films seem pretty bad.) The retro clichés are not stale—as Hazanavicius has said, the “grammar of the movie is to play with clichés, and the clichés protect each other.”

In the later, 1932 segment of the film, the official portrait of President Calvin Coolidge in a public building is several years too late, and the use of yearning music from Hitchcock’s Vertigo is 26 years too early (and rather impudent). But that piffle works surprisingly well and is clearly Hazanavicius’s tribute to a greater artist. Less witty than Zelig, less rich in Depression emotion than Pennies from Heaven, less stunningly stylized than Kerry Conran’s Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow, this oddball charmer is still a triumph, marching blithely to its own, silent drummer. Dujardin, so much more than a nos-talgia moustache, gives it the heart of a star.

The Artist opens December 23 at Landmark’s Hillcrest and La Jolla Village Cinemas.

★★★★

Carnage

If you want a talkie—All Talking! All Snappping! All Bitching!—the motor mouth is Carnage. The mouth comes with a good body, for no one in the past 20 years has made movies more lucidly designed or crisply controlled than has Roman Polanski. Consider Bitter Moon, The Ninth Gate, The Pianist, Oliver Twist, and The Ghost Writer. This is hardly surprising, for back in 1973 Polanski directed what may be the most handsomely packaged narrative film of the modern era, Chinatown.

Carnage, another fine-looking job, is an effectively filmed play. Yasmina Reza’s Tony-winning drama The God of Carnage is in go-for-the-jugular, theatrical debt to Edward Albee and his two-couple spin of squirming and laceration, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Yep, the Woof is at the door again. The revelation, by now fairly redundant, is that every sophisticated adult has a child inside, screaming to get out and make a mess.

Alan (Christoph Waltz) and Nancy (Kate Winslet) to­gether come to the tasteful Brooklyn flat of Michael (John C. Reilly) and Penelope (Jodie Foster) to apologize for their son having injured the other couple’s boy in a rage (the kids are barely seen; one is played by Polanski’s son, Elvis). It doesn’t take long for nervous but gracious maturity to quiver, crack, and fly apart in verbal ambushes, lubricated by deluxe scotch. Proud adulthood, symbolized by Penelope’s precise stacking of her art books, sinks into recrimination and gender hostility.

The acting marathon is adroitly blocked and paced by Polanski and impeccably shot by Pawel Edelman. We can relish the mommy-lady control wires of Foster as she turns into a crass shrieker; the Euro-hauteur of Waltz (the Nazi marvel of Inglourious Basterds) as he spares everyone with sly zings—when he’s not on his cell phone, compulsively arranging a corporate cover up; the blunt, amiable guyness of Reilly, who finds his meatball gravity in the line “They don’t give a shit!” Above all, the flaking composure of Winslet as she disintegrates into disgust and ballistic vomit (funny, if you remember her surviving Titanic).

This is marginal Polanski from a minor play, yet it has an infallible equilibrium of actors. The verbal and emotional pinballing is worthy of directors Mike Nichols and Robert Altman in high form. The sense of a vain, shallow society exposing its brittle bones is fairly comical, though finally less Virginia Woolf than Who’s Afraid of Neil Simon? This is your chance to witness the drowning of a cell phone as a symbolic castration, and a hissy fit of hysteria caused by the violent emptying of a purse. Such vulnerable dopes, such silly seriousness.

Carnage opens December 23 at Landmark’s Hillcrest Cinema.

★★★★

Reviewed in the movie capsules: Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, The
Many reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubio, Scott Marks, and Danielle Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — The falsetto-voiced darlings, the Chipmunks and the Chipettes, fall off a cruise ship and are beached on a tropical isle for fun and song, as animation joins live action. With help from Justin Long, Jason Lee, Anna Faris, Amy Poehler.

The Descendants — Alexander Payne's (Sideways) — Fearing a possible breach of the “no child left behind” clause, it's up to Santa’s son, Arthur, to save the family business by delivering one last present. Other than the fact that all of the characters appear to suffer from rosacea rhinophyma, this witty, handsomely assembled film is on Hawaiian time and floats well in a train depot in 1930. Lonely, brilliant, and cute, he wins the friendship of a girl (delightful Chloe Grace Moretz) and the enmity of a scowling station cop (Sacha Baron Cohen, who lumbers). The story is rather skimpy for the machine of magical memory that Scorsese piles onto it, and the 3-D is a mixed blessing. But the story launches into cine-retro heaven when he salutes George Melsís (Ben Kingsley), the silent-movie pioneer of kitschy fantasy. The effusion of clips, studio sets, and vintage tunes is a hymn to movie bliss, although Scorsese's core sensibility as an artist is not really in the Méliès line. This is a personal work but also commercially driven (even bloated), and the tension of that is fascinating. 2011. — D.E.★★★★ (CARAMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE MISSON MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Hugo — Martin Scorsese goes to town (Paris) with CGI effects and 3-D and the fantasy story from Brian Selznick’s book about Parisian orphan Hugo Cabret. Asa Butterfield is Hugo, maintaining the clocks in a train depot in 1930. Lonely, brilliant, and cute, he wins the friendship of a girl (delightful Chloe Grace Moretz) and the enmity of a scowling station cop (Sacha Baron Cohen, who lumbers). The story is rather skimpy for the machine of magical memory that Scorsese piles onto it, and the 3-D is a mixed blessing. But the story launches into cine-retro heaven when he salutes George Melies (Ben Kingsley), the silent-movie pioneer of kitschy fantasy. The effusion of clips, studio sets, and vintage tunes is a hymn to movie bliss, although Scorsese’s core sensibility as an artist is not really in the Méliès line. This is a personal work but also commercially driven (even bloated), and the tension of that is fascinating. 2011. — D.E.★★★★ (CARAMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE MISSON MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Hugo — Directed by Martin Scorsese, it’s from the studio that brought us The Dark Knight Rises and the Batman icons, a mashup of the Méliès line. This is a personal work but also commercially driven (even bloated), and the tension of that is fascinating. 2011. — D.E.★★★★ (CARAMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE MISSON MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

In Time — If time were currency, would you hoard it for eternal life or make every day a risky spree of mortality? In the near-future of an L.A. shot with elegant noir streamlining by Roger Deakins and directed by Kow. Brit stylist Andrew Niccol (Gattaca), people live to 25, stop aging, please the target demographic. But into the singing, dancing, ice athletics, big-eyed cuteness, and ethnic types as sea life, the global warming-and melting message slips like a cold shiv. 2011. — D.E.★★★★ (CARAMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRAS MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE MISSON MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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 slyly machinated ambition, he excites other tough guys: Paul Giamatti, Ryan Gosling, Jeffrey Wright, and, making a big speech about loyalty, Philip Seymour Hoffman (also a tough gal, Marisa Tomei as a barricuda reporter). Nothing new here or as entertaining as 1964’s The Best Man, and the wink at abortion is iffy, yet this ensemble effort maintains a curiously chilly heat of interest. 2011. — D.E.★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Immortals — Director Tarsem Singh (The Fall, The Cell) has been called a visionary, which presumably means he has an eye for interesting visuals. And that’s almost enough to carry you through this bit of buff, burnedished bloodshed, a mashup of 300 (invading barbarian army against civilized Greeks), Troy (immortality through deeds vs. immortality through offspiring), and the myth of Theseus and the minotaur. But so much else here is pedestrian, except for Mickey Rourke, who has a good time as the cruel conqueror who dares to make war on the pretty, pretty gods. 2011. — M.L.★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; SAN MARCOS 14)

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In Time — If time were currency, would you hoard it for eternal life or make every day a risky spree of mortality? In the near-future of an L.A. shot with elegant noir streamlining by Roger Deakins and directed by Kow. Brit stylist Andrew Niccol (Gattaca), people live to 25, stop aging,
and then must buy, steal, or gamble time to keep living. Justin Timberlake is the cocky but time-short rebel, and doe-eyed Amanda Seyfried is the spoiled princess who, Patty Hearst–like, joins his revolt against the pampered plutocrats led by her father. It’s a true Hollywood fantasy about a charming but time-short rebel, and doe-eyed Amanda Seyfried the spoiled princess who, with her father (John Hurt) steals silver spoons. She bathes, and has sex in a sand trap (but not with her dull new groom). Her impish father (John Hurt) steals silver spoons. Keifer Sutherland has tantrums, Charlotte Rampling is bitter, Charlotte Gainsbourg is a sadly sane sister, and Stellan Skarsgard is a crude, obnoxious billionaire. Oh, and a rogue planet is approaching Earth. We pray for the comedy to end with this debacle and master-of-art-tedium Lars von Trier. It’s like an Ingmar Bergman parody stuck at a cheap sci-fi convention. Since Von Trier scandalized Cannes by saying he might be a Nazi, it is possible to convene a trial for aesthetic crimes! 2011. — D.E. 

** (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

### Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — Animation joins live action on a tropical island

** ★★

** FILM FESTIVALS

#### FILM FORUM

** San Diego Central Library

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** Troop 1500** 2005. Ellen Spiro’s documentary follows a “unique Girl Scout troop which unites mothers and daughters monthly behind the bars” of a Texas prison. Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.

#### DIVE-IN THEATRE

**Pearl Hotel**

4950 Pacific Beach Drive, Point Loma 619-226-6100

**National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation** 1989. Enjoy a Christmas comedy following the misadventures of the Griswold family with Chevy Chase, Beverly D’Angelo, and many others. Wednesday, December 19, 6 p.m.

**THE WORLD ON A STRING**

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad • 760-602-2026

**Caliente Fiestas**

**San Diego Christmas Library**

820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5800

**Sunday Bloody Sunday 1971. John Schlesinger’s film starring Murray Head, Glenda Jackson, and Peter Finch follows a “free-spirited young bisexual artist and his simultaneous relationships with a female recruitment consultant and a male Jewish doctor.” Sunday, December 18, 2 p.m.

**The Muppets** — Any similarities between Jim Henson’s antron-fleece assemblage and back-screenwriter Jason Segel’s Fleece job are coincidental. Bright lights, brittle colors, forced cheer, and production numbers lifted from a Dr. Pepper commercial (and backed by a knitting-needle-through-your-ears score) combine for a fatal dose of nostalgia. In the past, at least we had high-powered celebrity cameos to bank on. This time, the only celebrity that people can muster is James Carville, Judd Hirsch, and Jack Black. 2011. — S.M.

** (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; MIRAMESA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

** My Week with Marilyn — A gossipy peakaboo based on Colin Clark’s memoir as an assistant on the English set of 1957’s The Prince and the Showgirl. He has a crush on Marilyn Monroe, who reciprocates voluptuously (this may be mostly imagined), while costar and director Laurence Olivier fumes. Eddie Redmayne is appealing as coltish Colin, and Kenneth Branagh impersonates Olivier rather well. But Simon Curtis’s slight, engaging movie belongs to Michelle Williams. As Marilyn Monroe, she mixes the famous sizzle with catty, vulnerability as a natural star who doesn’t believe in her talent but can manipulate males. She rescues Marilyn from her image as a controlled dummy. With Zoe Wanamaker as Paula Strasberg, as cuddly as a blowtorch. 2011. — D.E. 

** (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20)

#### New Year’s Eve — Another holiday slaughtered, processed, shrink wrapped, and shipped to market by director Garry Marshall (Valentine’s Day). Another massive cast (Ashton Kutcher as the world’s prettiest gubby hipster, Katherine Heigl as a jilted caterer, etc.), another whirwind of plotlines and significances: birth, death, first kisses, dreams come true, marriage, romance. Was anything left out? If so, it wasn’t for lack of trying. Why, there’s even a horny grandpa! Michelle Pfeiffer provides perhaps the film’s only honest moments as a disappointed doormat with a list of resolutions. 2011. — M.L.

** (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

** Puss in Boots — The DreamWorks cartoon team spins off the Hispinco cat from the Shrek series for his own adventure. Kids may take it hard when
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**CHULA VISTA**

AMC Palm Promenade
77980 Rancho Mission (888-262-4386)
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**3:50 EVERYONE Until 4pm**

**4:00 ADULTS After 4pm**

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December 15, 2011

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**POINT LOMA, $450.** Room for rent. Ocean close in Ocean Beach. RN or LVN student or graduate. Private entrance, prime location in PB. Dogs OK upon approval. No cats. Large, fenced yard. Call Troy, 760-450-4299.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $700.** 1 bedroom, full bath, walk-in closet. Crown Point, close to the bay. 1/2 utilities. Laundry in unit. No pets. 858-232-7641.


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**PACIFIC BEACH, $1000.** 1800 sq ft. 2BD/1BA luxury Town home. Private entrance, prime location in PB. Dogs OK upon approval. No cats. Large, fenced yard. Call Troy, 760-450-4299.

**POINT LOMA, $450.** Room for rent. Ocean close in Ocean Beach. RN or LVN student or graduate. Private entrance, prime location in PB. Dogs OK upon approval. No cats. Large, fenced yard. Call Troy, 760-450-4299.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $700.** 1 bedroom, full bath, walk-in closet. Crown Point, close to the bay. 1/2 utilities. Laundry in unit. No pets. 858-232-7641.

MISSION BEACH, $895. 1BD+1BA apartment, 5108 Muir Ave. 1 block to beach. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH, $960. 1BD+1BA apartment, 2680 26th St. Close to everything! Half block to beach. No pets. 619-290-0481.

MISSION BEACH, $1000. 2BD+2BA large apartment. OCEAN BEACH, $1400. 2BD+1BA large apartment. All amenities. Pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 619-962-9549.

MISSION BEACH. $249 & up motel weekly rates. Full kitchens, cable TV, furnished. Santa Clara Motel, 809 Santa Clara Place, San Diego, 92108. 619-488-1113.

MISSION BEACH. $1200. 1BD+1BA cottage with garage, 2010 Cable Street. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH, $1400. 2BD+2BA large apartment, 2680 26th St. Close to everything! Half block to beach. No pets. 619-290-0481.

MISSION BEACH. $1500. Studio+1BA, large studio, partially furnished. At the Ocean Beach Pier. Ocean views, company renovated. No pets. 5067 Niagara. 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-862-9549.

MISSION BEACH, $1850. 2BD+1BA, large apartment, upstairs. $500 Off first month’s rent. 5112 Midway Ave. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH. $1500. 2BD+2BA large apartment. 3BD+1BA, large apartment. $300 Off first month’s rent. 4714 Point Loma Ave. Laundry, parking. No pets. Tenant pays all utilities. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH. $1550. 2BD+2BA apartment. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4255 Del Mar Street. 619-298-0059 or 619-224-0006.


MISSION BEACH. $2200. 2BD+2BA large apartment. 2BD+2BA large apartment. 2BD+1BA cottage with 1 garage. 2010 Cable Street. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH. $2250. Studio+1BA, large studio, partially furnished. At the Ocean Beach Pier. Ocean views, company renovated. No pets. 5067 Niagara. 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-862-9549.

MISSION BEACH. $2500. 2BD+2BA apartment. 2BD+2BA apartment. 2BD+1BA large apartment. 3BD apartment. Across street from beach. Parking. Large private patio area. Laundry facilities. 5183 West Point Loma Blvd. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION BEACH. $2895. 2BD+1BA large apartment, upstairs. $500 Off first month’s rent. 4714 Point Loma Ave. Laundry, parking. No pets. Tenant pays all utilities. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH. $300 Off. 1BD+1BA apartment. 5108 Muir Ave. 1 block to beach. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.skbnic.com.

MISSION BEACH, $815. Studio+1BA, large studio, partially furnished. At the Ocean Beach Pier. Ocean views, company renovated. No pets. 5067 Niagara. 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-862-9549.

MISSION BEACH. $1000. 2BD+2BA apartment. OCEAN BEACH, $1400. 2BD+1BA large apartment. All amenities. Pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 619-962-9549.

MISSION BEACH. $1050. 1BD+1BA apartment. 2680 26th St. Close to everything! Half block to beach. No pets. 619-290-0481.


MISSION BEACH. $1150. 1BD+1BA, large downstairs apartment in North Pacific Beach. Stov, refrigerator, garage space, coin laundry. Cell OK with extra deposit 2.5 blocks to ocean. Available 1/15/12. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. 858-270-2071.

MISSION BEACH. $1195. 1BD+1BA apartment. 2BD+1BA in very attractive property. Partial bay view. Steps to Sea Beach. Open house Saturday, 12/17, 10:00-11:00. 3803-1/2 Riviera Drive. TPPM. 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

**A puzzler and a writer?**

**THE READER PUZZLE:**

**RULES OF THE GAME**
1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week on sandiego.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it in 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 personal message. This is a great way to express yourself! You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate entries.
3) The puzzle contest-ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year.
4) Entries must be received by 6:00 p.m. on 6/29/11 for 6/30/11.
5) The puzzle contest-ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year.

And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

**NEW RULES**
Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous Reader baseball caps 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.

**Across**
1. ATM entry
4. “That’s my ____ fact!”
17. Beats
18. Funnywoman Sedaris
19. Hook (up)

**Down**
1. Evening dress
2. Hit song on “Beatles ’65”
3. A-Rod, e.g.
4. It may be tragic
5. “Deadly” septet
6. Coming of ___
7. Plain and kind
8. Croc’s head or tail?
9. “____ Mama Tambien” (2002 film)
10. Mao ___-tung
11. “Wait!”
12. Rebellion on the briny
13. “Gypsy” composer
14. Teens might try to hide them
15. Oscar winner who played Murray’s daughter on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”
16. DNA element
20. Not for children
21. Spanish “but”
22. DEA agent
23. Kid’s sandwich staple
24. Powerful engine
25. Beach sight
26. “Good job!”
27. Admission
28. “Quit dreaming!”
29. In plain sight
30. NATO member
31. Frequently, to a bard
32. Armada value
33. “It’s a ____”
34. Common phrase on a wedding mission will only be counted when you 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 personal message. This is a great way to express yourself! You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate entries.

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:**

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**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

- **Carolyn Clark, Lakeside, 1.** My evil twin refused to be born, so I get blamed for everything!
- **Robert Crumrine, San Diego, 1.** Winning isn’t everything, but losing isn’t either.
- **Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, 1.** Revolution went backwards, wouldn’t we all be fish?
- **Dale Thompson, San Diego, 1.** You can get there late, but you can’t get there dead.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1125.** 1BD+1BA upstairs apartment. 5 blocks to Vons Shopping Center. Updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1165.** 1BD+1BA apartment in pristine, central location. New updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. 858-272-4398.


**PACIFIC BEACH, $1200.** 1BD+1BA apartment in pristine, central location. New updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1250.** 1BD+1BA apartment in pristine, central location. New updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1295.** 1BD+1BA apartment. Open house Saturday, 10:00-2:00. Excellent location near Sh Beach. Recently remodelled unit with excellent light. 1536 Pacific Beach Drive #1, TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreygnespm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1395.** 1BD+1BA apartment. Open house Saturday, 10:00-2:00. Excellent location near Sh Beach. Recently remodelled unit with excellent light. 1536 Pacific Beach Drive #1, TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreygnespm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $1495.** 2BD+1.5BA townhome. 4 blocks to Vons Shopping Center. Beautiful, newly remodeled. Perfectly located property. Two blocks to Bay Drive. 619-286-3400.


**PACIFIC BEACH, $1950.** 1BD+1BA apartment. 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.
A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit one complete puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle and get it to us by 100 a.m. on Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words at most, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate entries.
3) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

NEW RULES:
Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous Real Ale baseball caps or T-shirts. Subscription to your mail must be attached the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ___________________________
State:_________ Zip Code:__________

Please check one:

Hat:  ___________
T-shirt: $ M _______ X ___________

This week’s winners:

Robert Crumrine, Downtown, 1. Old car, old house, old clothes, old lady. Time to get some new things.
Larry Clark, Clairemont, 1. Treat a house like royalty, but after two hundred hand them a broom.
Hiroshi Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 1. Is beauty in the eye of the beholder, is noise in the ears of the listener?
Larry Redner, UTC, 1. Sign in F Street's front window this week: “Merry Xmas.”

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!
Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDRreader.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: (All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)

☛ Robert Crumrine, Downtown, 1. Old car, old house, old clothes, old lady. Time to get some new things.
☛ Larry Clark, Clairemont, 1. Treat a house like royalty, but after two hundred hand them a broom.
☛ Hiroshi Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 1. Is beauty in the eye of the beholder, is noise in the ears of the listener?
☛ Larry Redner, UTC, 1. Sign in F Street’s front window this week: “Merry Xmas.”

186 South Diego Reader

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LITTLE ITALY, 945.

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EL CAJON, $925 & UP

EL CAJON, $1150.

Real Ale baseball caps or T-shirts.
**Typo Patrol Results**

**Table of contents**
- p. 13 should be 4
- Blurt
- p. 75 XX should be 76
- p. 76 74 should be 75
- p. 76 Alphabet should be Alphabet
- Marvin Wager (Clairmont) $40
- Frances Puente (Norm Heights) $10

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/style/word orthography. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins $10 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).

---

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**EL CAJON, $800-900 & UP**


**EL CAJON, $950 & UP**


---

**LA MESA, $1599**


**LA MESA, $1199**


---

**LA MESA, $790**


**LA MESA, $1250**


---

**LA MESA, $945 & UP**


**LA MESA, $970**


---

**LA MESA, $995**


---

**LA MESA, $1010**


---

**LA MESA, $975 & UP**

18D+1BA, 1 BD+1BA, 2BD+1BA house, patio, front porch, hardwood floors, heat. In the heart of beautiful La Mesa. Need to see to appreciate. 619-490-9577.

**LA MESA, $895**


---

**LA MESA, $1199**


---

**LA MESA, $1375**


---

**LA MESA, $1590**

3BD+2BA house. Patio, front porch, hardwood floors, heat. In the heart of beautiful La Mesa. Need to see to appreciate. 619-490-9577.
Brainstorms

by Don Rubin

Watch it!

Creating puzzles is our daily job. We do our serious work as a night watchman at a flea market.

Grab a flashlight and tell us which of the following items are on the table.

- pliers
- India ink
- dustpan
- trumpet
- hatchet
- plunger
- stapler
- toaster
- wok
- cake pan
- Walkman
- headphones
- juicer
- colander
- spoon
- electric mixer
- two batteries
- sewing machine
- pencil sharpener
- camera (and flash)
- fire extinguisher
- dish drainer
- four dishes
- tape dispenser
- measuring cup
- rolling pin
- pepper mill
- steam iron
- chainsaw
- percolator
- accordion
- desk lamp
- clarinet
- flashlight
- candlestick
- typewriter
- golf club

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: _____________
Personal Message: ____________________________________________________
Please check one:
Hat: __________ T-shirt:  S _______ M _______ L _______ XL _______

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Checkmase

White  Black
1.  QxNch  KsN
2.  RxQ mate

**Brainstorm Puzzles:**

**Rules of the Game**

1) Submit a 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 PM on the Friday before publication.

2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and address. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 PM on the Friday before publication AND include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

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

4) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to Puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .PGF format. 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

5) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

6) Late entries will not be considered.

7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

8) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

**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.

**This Week’s Winners:**

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)

---

LA MESA, $995 & UP.

LA MESA.

LA MESA.

LAKESHORE, $715.

LEMON GROVE, $1595.

LEMON GROVE, $740.

LEMON GROVE, $595.

SPRING VALLEY, $675 & UP.

SPRING VALLEY, $925.

Central San Diego

BAY PARK, $1100.
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“Then, there’s all the reasons we’ll never ever know about. There’s someone at least bringing attention to the fact that we’re never going to know about them!”
LEAD STORY
— London Fashion Week usually brings forth a shock or two from cutting-edge designers, but a September creation by Rachel Freire might have raised the bar: a floor-length dress made from 300 cow nipples (designed to resemble roses). Initial disgust for the garment centered on implied animal abuse, but Freire deflected that issue by pointing out that the nipples had been discarded by a tannery and that her use amounted to “re-fashioning.” She also noted that with mainstream entertainers such as Christina Aguilera, it was easy to be so busy with the animal-abuse angle that she was largely spared having to explain another issue — why anyone would want to wear a dress made with cow nipples.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit!
— Death is big business in Japan, with 1.2 million people a year passing away and overtaking the country’s cemeteries and crematoriums. With the average wait for disposal at least several days and space running short in funeral homes, “corpse hotels” have opened in many cities, with climate-controlled “guest rooms” renting for the equivalent of about $155 a night, with viewing rooms where relatives can visit the bodies daily until cremation is available.

WEBER
— The world’s real economy may be flaccid, but not necessarily the make-believe economy of online multiplayer games, according to reporting by the Wall Street Journal (July) and the website Singularity Hub (August). For example, entrepreneur Allian Graef’s Amuse Changzhou is worth millions of real U.S. dollars, earned mostly by managing rentals of make-believe real estate and brokering make-believe money transactions in the game Second Life. Graef also commands top (real) dollar for her designs of make-believe fashions for players’ game characters (avatars). Two other companies are suing each other in federal court in San Francisco over the copyright to their lucrative business models of creating make-believe animals (horses, rabbits) that sell very well to players who take on as game pets for their D&D characters or breed them to make other make-believe animals.

WEIRD SCIENCE
— Artificial meat (grown in a test tube from animal stem cells) has been theoretically planned for about ten years, but a European Science Foundation audience in September heard predictions that lab-grown sausage might be available as soon as next year. The meat is produced in sheets (“shmeat”) and would be prohibitively expensive at first, in that the largest specimen produced so far measures only about one inch long and a third of an inch wide. The biggest drawback facing artificial muscle tissue: even lab-grown muscles require exercise to prevent atrophy.

— In an art-science collaboration in August, Dutch artist Janna Essaidi and Utah State research- er Randy Lewis produced a prototype bulletproof skin — or at least skin that would limit a .22-caliber bullet to only about two inches’ penetration into a simulated human body. Genetically engineered spider silk (reputed to be five times stronger than steel) was grafted between layers of dermis and epidermis.

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS
— Turned down once before, liquor manufacturer EFFGN completed Germany’s Federal Patent Court in September to award trademark protection to its schnapps with the brand name Ficken, which in German translates directly into what in English is known as the F word. The court acknowledged that the name is unquestionably in poor taste but is not “sexually discriminatory” and does not violate public morals. In fact, the court noted, the word is widely used in Germany. (In March 2010, the European Union trademarks authority granted a German brewery the right to call its beer “Fucking Hell” — the first word of which is the actual name of an Austrian village and the second a German word referring to light ale.)

People with Issues
— In October, a court in Ottawa, Ontario, sentenced pornographer collector Richard Osborn, 46, to a year in jail on several charges, but dismissed the more serious child porn counts. Judge Robert Fournier ruled that Osborn’s hard-core images of Bart and Lisa Simpson, interspersed with shots of Osborn himself masturbating, aided by a Cabbage Patch doll whose mouth had been cut open. At one point, a disgusted Judge Fournier cut off the presentation of evidence. “Enough,” he said. “We are not paid by the taxpayers to sit here and torture ourselves.”

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