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Dialing for dollars Last week’s revelation that San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders proceeded with Qualcomm’s Snapdragon Stadium promotion even though the office of city attorney Jan Goldsmith said the gambit was illegal has drawn little public comment from the city council. Goldsmith’s opinion held that an action as significant as the temporary renaming of Qualcomm Stadium, accompanied by enormous new signs on both the interior and exterior of the venue, needed city council approval. As it happened, Sanders ignored Goldsmith’s December 7 advice and joined Qualcomm chief Paul Jacobs and others at a dedication of the new signage a bit more than a week later. A few days after that, Qualcomm and the City signed a one-page understanding by which the cell phone giant agreed to pay $1000 for the advertising rights. (Other documents regarding the transaction, including evidence of payment, have yet to be released by the mayor’s office.)

More than a few city hall insiders note that Sanders has taken full advantage of the strong mayor system of government approved by voters a year and a half ago.

Though afraid to go on the record, more than one city staffer claims that Sanders and his people pay little attention to the city council’s prerogatives under the law, as exemplified by the Snapdragon tangle. The measure that ultimately tilted the City’s balance of power in favor of the mayor, June 2010’s Proposition D, was backed by a host of major business interests, including Qualcomm founder Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan. They gave a total of $10,000 to the campaign committee, which ironically called itself San Diegans for Accountability at City Hall. The couple had given maximum contributions to Sanders’s 2008 reelection bid.

But the key to the city council’s quiescence about the Snapdragon deal, some observers say, is the fact that Jacobs, his family members, and Qualcomm colleagues have backed many other city politics. Even those whom Jacobs and the company haven’t supported in the past are looking for future money from the La Jolla billionaire and his friends, the sources say. Jacobs has been an Obama backer. The couple’s local political causes have included the election of Democrat Marti Emerald to the city council and a failed 2008 city attorney bid by GOP councilman Brian Mainschein. The couple also gave the maximum to Emerald’s failed Republican opponent, April Boling. Mrs. Jacobs has backed Democrat Todd Gloria and joined her husband in supporting Democrat Scott Peters for city attorney in 2008. They gave the maximum to Democratic city councilwoman Sherri Lightner in 2008 and are expected to do the same this year. The couple’s pick for mayor this year is GOP district attorney Bonnie Dumanis. Others with close ties to Qualcomm have also been major financial players in San Diego races. Including Jacobs, company employees gave a total of $4331 to Sanders in 2008.

Day of the political dead South Bay Democratic assemblyman Marty Block, ramping up for a run for state senate this year, has shut down his old assembly campaign committee but not before making a final payment of $5000 to legendary Sacramento campaign consultant Richie Ross. (In his memoir, My Letters to Dead People, published last year, Ross tells all about a raft of former clients, including former San Diego state senator Lucy Killea and her late husband Jack: “You and Lucy were two of the first three people hired to work for the CIA. You both were assigned to the American Embassy in Mexico City when Che [Guevara] was killed,” Ross writes. “When Lucy was running the first time, you tried to give us a lot of information you had about her opponents. You gave us credit card receipts, phone bills, cancelled checks.” The consultant says he told Killea, “Jesus Christ, Jack, we can’t use this stuff. We aren’t supposed to have it. It’s illegal. We could never explain how we got it…. Your network of retired military spooks in San Diego must have been something. I probably met some of them at your funeral. But they weren’t going to introduce themselves to me as old spies.”)

According to a January 4 campaign filing, Block raised $6900 in 2011 from donors continued on page 46

Muddling Through — but Watch Europe

By Don Bauder

The United States and San Diego economies should muddle through in 2012 — growing very slowly — unless an economic civil war of sorts erupts in Europe. It’s already rumbling and could cause a global recession that would be a rerun of 2008. New Jersey economist A. Gary Shilling calls this looming war the Teutonic North versus the Club Med South.

While the Northern European countries have generally built economies based on hard work and prudence, the Southern European countries, by and large, have built welfare states on piles of debt, while citizens evade taxes. In 1999, the countries banded together in the eurozone with one currency and one central bank but no common fiscal policy. This meant that money could be shoved out to both the disciplined and undisciplined, and the former, it should have been obvious at the time, would one day have to bail out the latter. Now it’s happening: the northern countries have to rescue their profligate member nations to the south, and northern voters don’t like it.

If struggling Greece withdrew from the European Union and defaulted, Portugal, Spain, and Italy would probably follow. Banks would crumble; some of them might be American banks. Troubled Club Med countries account for much of eurozone economic activity: Germany is largest with 27.3 percent of the zone’s output, but when combined, alling Italy (16.7 percent) and Spain (11.4) add up to more than Germany’s. Of the University of California San Diego explains that Germany once had rigid labor laws; it was extremely difficult to lay off a worker. Ten years ago Germany went through a restructuring and now has fluid labor markets. Generally, the Club Med countries in the south have not done that. “The conventional view is that Greece and Italy have thoroughly irresponsible policies, including not introducing German reforms,” says Starr. This imbalance threatens the to European nations, hold derivatives that could set off a chain reaction, and are intertwined with European banks. “I am deeply concerned. This won’t be confined to Europe if things blow up there.”

In Europe, leaders are kicking the can down the road — avoiding real solutions (if there are any) until current officeholders step down. There is an election in the United States — historically, no time for risky initiatives. So the world economy, “Europe is definitely going into recession.” The questions are how deep it will be, how long it will last, and how much damage it will do to the world financial system.

Starr’s University of California San Diego colleague James Hamilton also warns that Europe could upset apple carts all around the world. “The biggest problem is financial,” says Hamilton. American banks have loaned money
Funds for Educa — No, Funds for Us

By Susan Luzzaro

Last week, Sweetwater’s interim superintendent Ed Brand suspended the Funds for Education Committee, saying, “I can stop the grief right here.” This is the second time Brand’s private-sector fund-raising efforts have ended in controversy.

Brand was Sweetwater’s superintendent from 1995 to 2005, when he retired. Last June, he was rehired to clean up the district after superintendent Jesus Gandara, indicted by the district attorney last week, was forced out.

Back in the 1990s, Brand set up a committee called the Corporate Development Team to negotiate contracts with prospective school-district vendors. Headed by former Sweetwater coach-turned-consultant Gary Zarecky, the team made deals that included up-front payments. The advance money went into the newly created Master Associated Student Body Fund, controlled by the district.

An example of a deal the team negotiated was a district-wide contract for senior class rings and caps and gowns. Previously, contracts and funds for this were handled by students at each school. According to a June 6, 2002 Union-Tribune editorial titled “Students Gouged,” the contract put $50,000 into Brand’s master fund, but students ended up paying as much as $50 more for their rings.

The editorial asks: “Are government contracts that require vendors to make an upfront donation to the government agency actually proper and legal? And what about Brand’s taking a larger and larger chunk each year of upfront monies for his own spending pri-
orities, and trustees even getting a slice for their own discretionary spending?”

A more controversial contract was the one with Pepsi. A November 30, 2001 “Profit and Loss Statement” for the “Master Associated Student Body Accounts” shows an “Initial Pepsi Deposit” of $1.4 million and “Pepsi Deposits” of $611,000. Among disbursements are “Bonus Payments” of $87,000, “Commissions” of $1.2 million, a “Board Allocation” of $3000, and “Superintendent Allocation” of almost $92,000.

The 2002–2003 San Diego County Grand Jury’s final report cites issues at Sweetwater worthy of deeper investigation, including “the handling of money (about $40,000/yr) returned to the District by sales from the Pepsi-Cola machines” and “money issues related to other vendor contracts such as senior class rings.”

Given the concerns voiced by the grand jury, citizens, and editors, it is surprising that Brand would reestablish his committee to raise funds from vendors. But Sweetwater’s...
LETTERS

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

Better Bookie Service

Being a longtime sports bettor and onetime bookie, I took interest in “My Bookie Says, ’Meet Me at Arby’s’” (Cover Story, January 5). Overall, it’s a good account of the small-time bookie. The only problem I have is, the story leads one to believe that this guy is driving from North Park to Oceanside to collect or pay on small amounts ($30, $25, $15) of money. What’s that about? He should find another bookie that will carry small amounts ($30, $25, $15) of money. What’s that about? Name Withheld by Request via email

Elizabeth Salaam responds: Tony does not drive to Oceanside every week.

TJ’s The Better Place

Re “My Bookie Says, ’Meet Me at Arby’s’” (Cover Story, January 5).

Why would anyone use a bookie in San Diego for sports bets? Spend a few dollars, get a passport card, go to Tijuana.

Name Withheld by Request via email

Comments from Reader website

Cover

Published January 4

If Tony really wants to get to Italy with his wife, he’d be better off spending an equivalent amount of time and effort on a part-time job and just saving up the money. Plus, if he were to spend the next few years learning to speak Italian, I’m sure he’d be able to have a much better experience and avoid the extra costs associated with not knowing the language. Then instead of the trip costing $10k, it might cost only $5k, and the experience will be far more enjoyable and memorable.

By Fred Williams 7:12 a.m., Jan 9, 2012

Movie Review

Published January 4

Where did “Le Quattro Volte” play in San Diego? Never heard of it. Similarly, “Le Havre” a friend saw it and told me, I blinked before going and overnight it had disappeared.

Also, you are over-selling “Buck” who was a pretty unpleasant guy, truth be told, with an affinity for horses but not for any human being. Ditto your thinking about the very boring wish-it-were-a-real-Western, “Blackthorn.” “The Artist” also is an homage, but it turned out to be good for two naps after the Christmas exhaustion, and I’m not even counting my companions’ snoozes. Finally, “The Help” was such an insult to everyone that it shouldn’t have been on any list.

“Midnight in Paris,” “Of Gods and Men” especially and “A Better Life” deserved their honors. They should have been joined by “Bill Cunningham,” “The Lincoln Lawyer,” “The Mill and the Cross,” “Oranges and Sunshine,” “Project Nim” and “Our Idiot Brother.”

But thank you for not bringing up that scam of scams, Terrence Malick’s ridiculous “Tree of Life,” punctuated by the tattoo of patrons’ footsteps as they walked out of the theater, one after another, for the first hour of too many.

By monaghan 4:40 p.m., Jan 4, 2012

Continue on page 52

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We huddled by the frosted glass door just inside of the entrance to the home of a man we’d met only 15 minutes before. It had been Shawn’s idea to stash us two doors down. Our temporary host had been in the middle of cooking a spaghetti dinner when Shawn knocked on his door and asked if he would hide us. While waiting, we made small talk with Shawn’s new neighbor (“So, you just moved in? You like it here?”). Once we received Shawn’s text (“3 minutes”), we left our host upstairs so we could go down and watch the door. We were listening for Shawn’s cough — the signal that would tell us to open the door and surprise the birthday girl as she was walking by. Instead, we heard a hiss. “We’re waiting for your friend who lives two doors down who is about to walk by — we’re surprising her for her birthday. Your friend’s upstairs, your dinner’s all ready, it smells great, enjoy.” His back hugged the wall as he climbed the stairs. The three of us caught our breath and returned to our post. Less than a minute later, we heard the cough.

When I opened the door, Kimberly turned her head toward the noise. While she was looking bewildered, I said, “Oh, hey, what are you doing here?” We were just visiting our friend upstairs. What are you guys up to?” Katie and Jane flashed Cheshire cat grins.

Shawn grabbed Kimberly’s arm and gushed the secret he’d been keeping from his wife for weeks. “Hon, our reservations aren’t at seven, they’re at eight. And I’m not even going to dinner with you!” I whispered, though I fear I came out more like a hiss. “We’re waiting for our friend who lives two doors down who is about to walk by — we’re surprising her for her birthday. Your friend’s upstairs, your dinner’s all ready, it smells great, enjoy.” His back hugged the wall as he climbed the stairs. The three of us caught our breath and returned to our post.

I pulled the door open wide and our three heads bobbed forward in unison, faces beaming in anticipation of the big reveal. But instead of Kimberly and Jane, Robert appeared in the doorway with a baguette. “He’s not my boyfriend,” he said.

“Shhhh!” I ordered, grabbing the stranger and pulling him inside.

The guy recoiled as we cornered him and laughed in voiceless huffs. “I’m so scared, I don’t know what’s happening,” he said.

When I recovered enough to speak, I said, “We killed your boyfriend, he’s in the closet at the end of the hall...”

Katie and Jane struggled to breathe through muffled hysteric. “Okay,” I whispered, though I fear it came out more like a hiss. “We’re waiting for our friend who lives two doors down who is about to walk by — we’re surprising her for her birthday. Your friend’s upstairs, your dinner’s all ready, it smells great, enjoy.”

His eyes widened, and his hand involuntarily crushed the midsection of the baguette. “He’s not my boyfriend,” he said.

When I opened the door, Kimberly turned her head toward the noise. While she was looking bewildered, I said, “Oh, hey, what are you doing here?” We were just visiting our friend upstairs. What are you guys up to?” Katie and Jane flashed Cheshire cat grins.

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When I opened the door, Kimberly turned her head toward the noise. While she was looking bewildered, I said, “Oh, hey, what are you doing here?” We were just visiting our friend upstairs. What are you guys up to?”

I nodded. “Had to take it easy, I did something,” I said.

“Shawn had made arrangements to pay and then left us to it. Once we had the first bottle uncorked, we toasted to Kimberly’s husband for being so thoughtful and generous. Her eyes welled with emotion, not for the first or last time that evening.

I had no intention of ending up as sick as I had been that morning, so I made sure to drink a glass of water for every few sips of wine. With a sober chauffeur at their disposal and no recent hangovers to hold them back, the rest of the ladies carried the Bacchanalian torch. I knew we had achieved full inebriation when Kimberly attempted to refill her little lady flask with wine left in the glasses on the table.

We were the second to last table to leave, just before 11 p.m., but the restaurant employees were all smiles, insisting we wait for our ride inside where it was warm.

I’m surprised Shawn was able to drive with all the noise in the car. At our request, he blasted everything from Exotica to Cypress Hill, while we sang along and danced as much as our seatbelts would allow. “I can’t believe you picked them all up,” Kimberly said to her husband through a lazy, appreciative smile. We were dropped at our homes, one by one, first Jane, then Katie (each taking their time getting into the house as they said long goodbyes to the birthday girl), and finally my place.

“So, you’re sober, huh?” Shawn seemed to miss nothing.

I nodded. “Had to take it easy, I did..."
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Heymatt:
I’m saving up vacation days at work so I can go into space. Who’s been up there longest, and does he have any tips for how to enjoy such a vacay?
— Rocket Man, via email

Forget board shorts and pj’s. No golf clubs. Pack up some dumbbells, maybe, and ankle weights if you’re planning a long stay. Beano might be good as a courtesy to your rocketmates.

The two spaceketeers who’ve amassed the most hours up there are both Russian. Valery Polyakov orbited Earth for a continuous 14 months in the mid-’90s. He’s the one who needed to exercise to keep bone and muscle from atrophying, as they do in a weightless environment. Sergei Krikalov retired after 803 days in space, but he accumulated that in six different flights. As far as we could figure, neither one said anything in English about what to pack for a trip. A little vodka, maybe? Following a perusal of space tourist info, it looks as if most of what you’ll need will be supplied. Though, if you’re planning a stop-off at the International Space Station, you might bring your own science experiment (sprouting a sweet-potato-with-toothpicks in space?) or crossword puzzles to keep you from getting underfoot. One American astronaut wrote about his fantasy of a plump pair of double-Ds weightlessly bobbing, but I guess you won’t need to pack anything for that.

Have you looked into this subject at all, Rocket Man? The world has about a dozen companies (including the Hilton hotel chain) involved in one way or another with the idea of shooting civilians into the blackness of space, but the adventure comes at a price. Forget shopping for cruisewear and find yourself a few banks to rob. The seven people who’ve already taken to the skies (one woman, one man went twice) paid between 20 and 35 million dollars each for between 8 and 15 days. At Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic, one of two big hitters in the field, it will cost you $20,000 just to put your name on the waiting list.

Branson’s VG is homeported at the center of all North American space tourism — Spaceport America, Upham, New Mexico. Upham, population zero, is 20 miles from nowhere, 40 miles from Las Cruces. VG has yet to launch anyone, but they’ve tested vehicles of their own design over the past five years. It’s not a vertical launch. Six passengers and two pilots will be in a powered pod/plane—like craft hooked between two large planes joined at the wings.

The two planes take you up, and when you reach 50,000 feet they rev the rockets on your pod, drop it from the dual-plane contraption, and off you go at 3000 miles an hour. What Virgin’s offering at the moment is a three- and-a-half-day experience, three days of on-the-ground training, three hours of weightless, suborbital fun, with a take-home DVD. Total price, $200,000. Whee! Three days in Upham! Many grand plans are afoot for other kinds of trips, details available at Virgin’s “Accredited Space Agents,” the closest of which is in — shocker — Beverly Hills.

Less publicized but more accomplished is Space Adventures, sharing facilities with Virgin in Upham. They’re in cahoots with Russia, using Soyuz vehicles, so your takeoff is NASA-like and vertical. They’re the ones who sent the seven civilians to the space station. On their list of stuff to come is a three-week space tour that includes 16 days in the space station with a 5-day side trip to circle the moon from a distance of 60 miles. Pony up $100 million, please. You can also opt for just an Earth-orbital cruise (once around every 90 minutes) or a one-hour suborbital jaunt for just the fun of weightlessness at 360,000 feet. Starting to think you might need a copy of Space on $5 a Day? Space Adventures will spare your wallet with a trip in a Boeing 747 that does aerobatics to create zero-gravity inside the cabin. You’ll be well within Earth’s atmosphere, of course. And you don’t get astronaut wings, as you do with the other flights. Five thou per person or 165K for a 36-passenger group rate. Can’t wait to see the coverage of some movie mogul’s daughter’s giggly sweet-16 in the Boe- ing. You know it’s coming.

So, what else is the world planning to add to space clutter? Russian Orbital Technologies promises a seven-room luxury hotel (inflatable) by 2016, with your choice of vertical or horizontal sleeping pod, a sightseeing tour of the moon, three nights in zero gravity, real space food, sponge baths only, and no alco- hol. This five-day package costs a mil. Several other companies also have space-hotel plans, or “habitat modules,” as one calls them. Space tourism is the subject of many sci-fi books and films and at least two college courses. A Japanese designer won a contest to create a line of hyperspace clothing, which included a wedding dress. The 2Suit company makes space-suit jammies specifically designed for weightless sex. And if you fear losing touch with progress in the field, subscribe to UniGalactic Space Travel Magazine.

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San Diego: The Downward Spiral

Lackluster DUI Performance During New Year’s Weekend Threatens One of Metropolis’s Last Remaining Distinctions as America’s Bleariest City

“I mean, what’s next? Bloomington, Indiana, taking the title for America’s best weather?”

ROOTING THROUGH GASLAMP TRASHCANS FOR EMPTY BOTTLES AT DAWN — “Pathetic,” mumbles Eric McReady, longtime homeless veteran and veteran observer of San Diego’s party scene aftermath. “I’ll be lucky to find enough bottles to get lunch at the Mangy Panda Chinese Buffet on 45th. People just didn’t get their drink on this New Year’s.”

McReady’s command of the facts makes it clear that he isn’t just crying into his empty beer bottle; “For the past two years, we’ve led the nation in drunk driving. That, combined with our ranking as America’s ninth drunkest city, made us tops in the imbibing department. No other city could match us, not even Trenton, New Jersey — and those people have a reason to drink, believe you me. When people wanted to know where to go to get blasted, the obvious answer was San Diego. Add that to our explosive growth in the craft beer department, and from the high to the low to the end of the show, San Diego was America’s alcoholic capital.”

But now? “Now, I dunno. The empties don’t lie, and neither do the headlines. Nearly a 30% drop in DUI arrests this weekend, compared to last year — and it’s not like last year was all that impressive. What does it say about a city’s morale when it can’t even be relied on to go out and get hammered? How depressed do you have to be to not even have the wherewithal to drink away your depression? I see tough times ahead. ‘Happy New Year,’ my butt.”

Anti-Faith Group Claims Middle Finger Statue Would Express “Marines’ Attitude Toward the Enemy, Toward Death, and, Arguably, Toward Any Deity That Would Make a World Screwed Up Enough to Necessitate the Existence of the Marines.”

“A fitting salute, and a fitting tribute.”

OVERLOOKING A VALLEY WHERE MEN TRAIN FOR WAR — Former Army major James Torpor wants to make it clear that he doesn’t hate dead soldiers. “In arguing that the Camp Pendleton memorial cross is unconstitutional, I am not in any way arguing that we ought not to memorialize those who have given their lives for this country in military service. But as head of Atheists in Foxholes, I think it both dangerous and distasteful to sanction the display of a particular religious symbol on public land. You put a cross on a hillside, and next thing you know, you’re stoning women accused of adultery. The Bible is clear on the matter, Jesus or no Jesus.”

That’s why he has proposed an alternative memorial: a huge, granite middle finger, to be placed where the cross now stands. He’s even begun a Kickstarter campaign to secure funding for the project, and has already collected over $11 toward his goal of $50,000. “Finally, it’s a more fitting tribute,” Torpor argues. “Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter — it says so right there in Scripture. He offered no resistance. If there’s anything that’s the total opposite of what it means to be a Marine, I’d say that’s it.”

Atheists Propose Alternative to Camp Pendleton Cross

Dept. of Justice: Award to Family in Military Jet Crash Creates “Dangerous Precedent”

“Almost factual news”

IN CHAMBERS, FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, SAN DIEGO — “I know everyone thinks this is a special case,” says Department of Justice attorney Walter Hardass of the ruling that awarded millions of dollars to the surviving relatives of the three people killed in 2008 when a Marine Corps F-18 Hornet fighter jet crashed into a home in University City, near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “You know — an American jet taking out American citizens on American soil. But the fact is, thanks to the Alien Tort Statute of 1789, foreigners can sue in U.S. court over acts committed outside of U.S. territories.”

Hardass points to the 2004 Supreme Court ruling on Sosa v. Alvarez Machain as an example. “According to Sosa, the [statute] permits an alien plaintiff to file a tort claim against any person over whom the United States has personal jurisdiction... Yeah, you’ve got to have specificity similar to the 18th Century common law causes that were actionable under the [statute] at the time of its passage, but the specificity lauded by the Court in United States v. Smith covers the typical elements of a criminal cause of action, such asactus reus, mens rea, harm, causation, remedy, and defenses. There is more than a little evidence to suggest that errant drone attacks, conducted within a nation that is technically an ally — read: Pakistan — could fall under such causes. “I’m not saying that the family in this case wasn’t deserving,” concludes Hardass. “I’m saying that the United States should think about being more careful with its firepower. War is expensive enough without involving the justice system.”

“Dangerous Precedent”

U.S. Government Ordered to Pay $17.8 Million in Damages After Jet Crashes into University City Home and Kills Inhabitants; Officials Worry that “Now, the Family of Every Tom, Dick, and Harry Who Gets Tagged by an Errant Drone or a Misdropped Bomb will Be Suing Us.”

“I mean, we kill a lot of people, some of them by accident. Where does it end?”

WHERE MEN TRAIN FOR WAR — Former Army major James Torpor wants to make it clear that he doesn’t hate dead soldiers. “In arguing that the Camp Pendleton memorial cross is unconstitutional, I am not in any way arguing that we ought not to memorialize those who have given their lives for this country in military service. But as head of Atheists in Foxholes, I think it both dangerous and distasteful to sanction the display of a particular religious symbol on public land. You put a cross on a hillside, and next thing you know, you’re stoning women accused of adultery. The Bible is clear on the matter, Jesus or no Jesus.”

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The new LenSx® Custom Cataract Laser is up to 10x more precise than traditional cataract surgery options

What are Cataracts?
Cataracts develop gradually, and can appear in adults around the age of 40. By age 80, over 50% of adults have developed cataracts in at least one of their eyes. Cataracts form a cloud on the lens of the eye that impedes vision both near and far.

In a normal eye, the retina focuses light images through the lens. The retina sends the image to the brain via nerve signals. Once cataracts begin to develop, the lens becomes clouded and loses the ability to transfer crisp sharp images.

What Cataract treatments are available?
Until now, most cataract patients have undergone surgery to replace the lens of their eye with an artificial intraocular lens (IOL). This is generally referred to as standard cataract surgery, and is covered by Medicare and most insurance plans. After IOL surgery, a patient will enjoy restored vision and never develop a cataract in that eye. However, even though these IOLs are effective in creating sharp vision, some patients may still require contacts or glasses to deal with issues related to astigmatism and presbyopia.

There is a higher standard of IOLs and techniques that help people see near and far, that are used under Custom Cataract Surgery. These improved IOLs and techniques have a strong track record of reducing or eliminating a patient’s need for glasses by decreasing astigmatism and presbyopia.

Custom Cataract Laser
Previously, standard cataract procedures were conducted by a surgeon creating a manual incision with a blade. A manual surgery has a margin for error that can increase risks and negatively impact outcomes. With the introduction of the first FDA approved Custom Cataract Laser, Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care now can create incisions and potentially reduce astigmatism without blades.

These laser incisions are proven to be more precise and accurate, thereby avoiding some of the dangers of standard cataract surgery. For some parts of the cataract surgery, the laser has been shown to be up to 10x more precise than the manual techniques. Combining this more accurate and precise laser with the world-class surgeons at West Coast Eye Care, incisions are more precise and vision results are more predictable.

The Custom Cataract Laser is not just for Cataract patients
Custom Cataract Laser surgery is similar to the technology used for blade-free LASIK. Most people understand that blade-free LASIK is more safe and accurate, but don’t realize that LASIK is normally not the best option for people over 45. This is attributed to the fact that LASIK cannot prevent presbyopia. Patients over 45 that choose to undergo LASIK, may still require contacts and glasses for near vision because the natural lens inside the eye continues to change with age.

What if I have Presbyopia?
Presbyopia is a condition in which the lens loses its flexibility, which makes it difficult for you to focus on close objects. Lens flexibility is required to be able to focus on objects up close and at a distance. As people age, typically the lens loses its ability to change and focus up close.

Individuals who are over 45 and require glasses for reading, are most likely affected by presbyopia. Presbyopia is a normal part of the aging process and impacts everyone. Patients with presbyopia now have a choice to have a procedure called refractive lens exchange (RLE) to replace the natural lens of the eye with multifocal intraocular lenses (multifocal IOLs). These multifocal IOLs differ from standard IOLs in that they help focus near, far, and in between. Most patients will never have to use contacts or glasses ever again. Being an elective surgery, this procedure is generally not covered by insurance. Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care can now utilize the blade-free cataract laser to perform RLE with greater safety and precision than ever before.

See near, far, and in between without glasses
“My vision had gotten to the point where I was really struggling to read and had also given up my hobby of crafting almost entirely. The day after my first procedure, everything I saw was so bright and shiny – it was wonderful. Wherever I look, everything is so clear and vivid. I used to have trouble reading text on the television and seeing street signs clearly. Now I can just sit in my chair and see everything on the television clearly, even without my glasses.” — B. Walters, Alpine, California

Barry Katzman M.D.
Dr. Katzman has been practicing ophthalmology for over 20 years. He has been published in several research journals and has been involved in hundreds of FDA clinical trials to improve the quality of refractive eye surgery. He is the recipient of numerous awards such as being named America’s Top Ophthalmologist by The Consumer Research Council of America and was also selected for the Patient’s Choice Award. He was also named one of the top doctors in San Diego. Dr. Katzman performs cataract surgery and refractive surgeries including LASIK, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and presbyopic vision correction.

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Prosthetic “Parity” in California Has a Long Way to Go

POST DATE: Saturday, December 31, 2011

In the fall of 2010, I was starting to have a lot of problems with my stump, skin irritation leading to scarring and an eventual minor surgery to remove scar tissue. During this time, my employer changed insurance providers, and I was introduced to the OG of managed health care: Kaiser Permanente. My new docs referred me to the Kaiser prosthetic clinic, and I thought all was well.

Then I got a phone call. The amputee clinic scheduler couldn’t schedule me. Why? I didn’t have coverage for prosthetics. “Now,” I thought, “that can’t be right. I’ve been assured that California has prosthetic parity laws.” Well... kinda. California’s Health and Safety Code Section 1367.18 says that...they have to cover prostheses...if you opt for the coverage. [But] the broker who sold the plan never offered it, in direct violation of the law. Should be an easy fix, right? Appeal the denial, point out the error, and they’ll fix it. Well, not quite.

After the denial, I sent a letter to KP’s Member Case Resolution Center, quoted the relevant section, and demanded coverage. After a second denial, I filed a complaint with the Department of Managed Health Care, which regulates HMOs in California. It seems I was the first person to make a complaint with regard to this law, so what was supposed to be a two-week review process stretched to nearly three exhausting, infuriating months.

In the end, the DMHC saw things my way. Kaiser upgraded me to a plan that included coverage for prosthetics. Of course, it took them another three or four months to approve the new socket I needed, but at least I finally won. Limbs are not a luxury item, and we all — amputees and not — need to keep working to improve parity laws. And be prepared to fight for what you need from any insurer. They’re all evil.

During this time, my employer changed insurance providers, and I was introduced to the OG of managed health care: Kaiser Permanente. My new docs referred me to the Kaiser prosthetic clinic, and I thought all was well. During this time, my employer changed insurance providers, and I was introduced to the OG of managed health care: Kaiser Permanente. My new docs referred me to the Kaiser prosthetic clinic, and I thought all was well.

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**By Patrick Daugherty**

**Postseason Mashup**

If you look you can find some San Diego in Saturday’s 49ers/New Orleans playoff game. This, by the way, is as close to the NFL playoffs as we’re likely to get as long as Norv, A.J., and Cap’n Dean have the wheel.

New Orleans will show up at Candlestick Park with their All-World quarterback, Drew Brees, who, not that long ago, was quarterbacking for San Diego. The Chargers drafted him in 2001 and he became starting quarterback the following year. Brees remained in San Diego through the 2005 season. The Saints offered him a six-year, $60 million contract with $10 million guaranteed.

Chargers passed.

At the time, New Orleans was the village idiot of the NFL. Being traded to New Orleans was like being shipped off to the Republic of Cameroon. One was traded to Swampland and never heard from again. As the 2006 season opened, New Orleans was coming off a 3-13 season, guarding a formidable history of losing. The Saints didn’t make the playoffs until the 20th year of their existence. They didn’t win a playoff game until their 33rd year. And that’s where things stood when Brees showed up in 2006, just in time to celebrate a 40th season of despair.

Since then, since leaving San Diego for football obscurity, Brees has been selected to five Pro Bowls, named Sports Illustrated’s Sportsman of the Year, and named Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year. When New Orleans won Super Bowl XLV, Brees was crowned Super Bowl MVP.

It’s futile to wonder what would have happened if Brees had stayed with the Chargers. Still, if I had to guess, I’d say Norv Turner would have sucked the life out of him until he became another reliable underachiever. The man has his ways.

The 49ers have a tight connection to San Diego by way of their head coach and once Coro-
nado resident, Jim Harbaugh. He was a Chargers quarterback in 1999 and 2000, at the end of his NFL career, joining a list of other over-the-hill quarterbacks who once worked for the Bolts (Johnny Unitas, Jim McMahon, Doug Flutie).

Harbaugh has a gold standard football pedigree. Son of a football coach, who coached at Michigan and Stanford (defensive coordi-
nator). His brother, John, is head coach of the Baltimore Ravens. His sister, Joani, is married to Indiana University men’s basketball head coach Tom Crean.

Harbaugh was a three-year starter at Michigan, won the All This and All That awards. And blah, blah, blah.

Came into the NFL in 1987 as a first-round draft pick for Chicago. Lasted 15 years in the NFL, which is four-plus times longer than the average NFL player gets. But, he never became a name quarterback, never a Favre, Montana, Manning, or Brady.

Harbaugh always has a plan. All the way through his past eight seasons in the NFL he worked as an unpaid assistant coach for his dad, who was then head coach at Western Kentucky University. Young Harbaugh was an offensive assistant, scout, and recruiter. In 2002, Western Kentucky won the Division II national championship and Harbaugh took a job with the Oakland Raiders as underling and assistant coach, graduat-
ing to quarterbacks coach in 2003.

Then, his first head-coaching position at the University of San Diego. USD plays Division II football in the non-scholarship, football-only, ten-teen Pioneer Football League. Other than San Diego, all members, save for Drake University, are east of the Mississippi. So, Harbaugh played in a no-name Division II conference, had no scholarships to hand out, his school had an in-
state tuition of $30,704, conference members were thousands of miles distant; in other words, his life was a Class A recruiting nightmare. He coached USD football for three years (2004, 2005, 2006), won the Pioneer Football League championship in ‘05 and ‘06.

In December 2006, Harbaugh got a battlefield promotion to Division I, Pac-12 beauty subdivi-
sion, otherwise known as Stanford.

The team finished 2006 (the last pre-Har-
baugh season) with a 1-11 record. Harbaugh had that losing program playing in a bowl three years later, went 12-1 the following year, and beat Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl. Stanford was ranked fourth in the nation when Coach moved on to the NFL.

He took over a San Francisco team whose ownership is bizarre, even by NFL standards. The team did not have a winning record over the previous eight seasons, fielded a quarter-
back who played as if he had PTSD, the owners preferred living in Youngstown, Ohio, and had gone through five head coaches in eight years. Harbaugh took that team, in his first year, to a 13-3 regular season record.

It’s a better coach than he was a quarterback. Incredible.
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#1 La Costa Canyon Ditches Rival Torrey Pines with Late Run

Carmel Valley — Torrey Pines and La Costa Canyon renewed the section’s best basketball rivalry on Friday night, January 6 — and the top-ranked Mavericks earned bragging rights for the entire season. La Costa Canyon pulled away late for a 51-38 win over Torrey Pines, its first victory on the Falcons’ home court in four seasons.

“It’s crazy to play here. The fans are so great on both sides and you can hear them all game,” said La Costa Canyon senior guard David Travers.

La Costa Canyon (16-1) led 8-6 after a defensive first quarter, and the Mavericks closed the second quarter on an 11-2 run to take a 26-15 lead. Throughout the game, points were hard to come by for both teams.

“You have to work just to get open,” Travers said. “Both teams know each other so well, and both sides know each other’s plays.”

In the third quarter, La Costa Canyon led by as much as nine until Torrey Pines (8-7) fought back into the game. The Falcons scored the last five points of the third quarter and the first four points of the fourth, tying the game at 34 on a Garrett Galvin jumper with 6:40 remaining.

“Garrett and Joe [Rahon] went on a run and handedly broke the game open offensively,” said Mission Hills junior center Kameron Rooks.

Of them could really shoot,” said Mission Hills guard Kibret Woldemichael almost single-handedly broke the game open offensively. In the middle of the quarter, Woldemichael scored eight straight points — including three-pointers on consecutive possessions — to stretch the Mission Hills lead to 18 points.

“Those two three-pointers during that spell kind of set the tone offensively for us,” Hofmeister said.

better games we played,” Hofmeister said. “That is a quality team — they’re as athletic as anybody we have played — and to go on the road and beat them by 17 is big.”

Mission Hills (10-6) had a 24-18 halftime lead and took control of the game by playing stifling defense to start the second half. The Grizzlies held Monte Vista (10-6) scoreless for the first six minutes of the third quarter and limited the Monarchs to three points in the entire period.

“The key was to let them shoot, because none of them could really shoot,” said Mission Hills junior center Cameron Rooks.

While Mission Hills kept Monte Vista off the board to start the third quarter, Grizzlies junior guard Kibret Woldemichael almost single-handedly broke the game open offensively. In the middle of the quarter, Woldemichael scored eight straight points — including three-pointers on consecutive possessions — to stretch the Mission Hills lead to 18 points.

“Those two three-pointers during that spell kind of set the tone offensively for us,” Hofmeister said.

Lincoln guard Tyrell Robinson leans in for a shot against three Taft defenders in the SD-LA Challenge.

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– EVE KELLY

We spent an afternoon testing black tea in anticipation of my mother-in-law’s annual visit. Husband Patrick was assisting. The salesman at La Mesa’s All Things Bright and British said that it’s important to prepare tea with a rolling boil, so our kettle boiled for an hour straight as I poured cups and Pat sipped.

“When there is a diem in front of you that absolutely must be carped, reach for a cup of Tazo Awake,” I read from the package, settling a cup of Tazo Awake tea ($3.49 at Target for 20 bags).

Patrick groaned at the tortured Latin as he sipped. “Strong enough,” he said, “but I could use stronger.”

“How about this one?” I asked. “Celebrating people, planet, and pure tea,” I read off of the Numi Organic Breakfast Blend ($6.49 for 18 bags at Whole Foods).

“I like it,” Pat answered. “A pleasant smell with a rich herby spice to it. A cozy tea.”

Choice Organic English Breakfast Tea ($4.49 for 16 bags at Whole Foods) lacked the aroma. “Kind of robs you of half the pleasure,” noticed Pat. “As with coffee, the smell is half the pleasure.”

“What about this PG Tips tea? It claims to be ‘England’s No. 1 Tea,’” read Patrick ($7.99 for 80 bags at World Market) was not a keeper. “Tastes like the tea you get at a cheap diner.”

Dilmah Tea ($3.99 for 50 bags at World Market) was a disaster. “It’s colored hot water,” said Patrick.

I ignored the argument bait and passed him a cup of Taylors of Harrogate Yorkshire Gold ($5.99 for 40 bags at All Things Bright and British) sparked a discussion of proper tea flavor.

“These make me want to lick the back of my teeth or pucker my lips,” complained Patrick.

“I love that in a tea,” I replied. “The tea needs that edge to cut through the flavor of the cream and sugar.”

“Well, Sophia [our British friend] says her dad is fond of PG Tips, but as far as she can tell, it’s not too far from Lipton. And, she says, ‘I refuse to refer to anything Lipton puts out as tea.’”

“She’s correct. The flavor is like Lipton tea, but in a bigger way,” Patrick said, sipping. “It’s sort of like India Pale Ale — intentionally bitter.”

I poured a cup of Typhoo for him ($6.99 for 80 bags at World Market). “I like this one. It feels virile — strong, masculine, virtuous.”

“Okay, tough guy. It’s a keeper.”

Dilmah Tea ($3.99 for 50 bags at World Market) was not a keeper. “Tastes like the tea you get at a cheap diner.”

Twinings Irish Breakfast Tea ($3.49 for 20 bags at World Market) suffered the same fate of flavorlessness. “It’s colored hot water,” said Patrick.

Patrick gave a B grade to both of the Trader Joe’s teas, English Breakfast Tea ($1.99 for 48 bags) and the Irish Breakfast Tea ($2.99 for 80 bags). “Not going to set the world on fire, but decent.”

The Allegro Breakfast Blend set Patrick’s world on fire. “I’m chugging this down,” Patrick oozed ($4.99 for 20 bags at Whole Foods). “It has an unusual smoky flavor, which I find delicious.”

The tin of Republic of Tea British Breakfast came next ($11.79 for 50 bags at Whole Foods). “I like the spiced wine smell it has. Like a holiday cider. But is it worth the price?” Patrick asked.

The two Barry’s teas: Gold Blend ($7.99 for 80 bags at World Market) and Classic Blend Tea ($8.99 for 80 tea bags at All Things Bright and British) sparked a discussion of proper tea flavor.

“These make me want to lick the back of my teeth or pucker my lips,” complained Patrick.

“I love that in a tea,” I replied. “The tea needs that edge to cut through the flavor of the cream and sugar.”

“Why would you ruin tea with cream and sugar?” he asked.

“You’re Irish nana. God love her, would roll over in her grave to hear you speak of tea with no cream or sugar.”

We moved on.

The last group of teas was by Taylors of Harrogate, and only their English Breakfast Tea failed the test. “This tea is a little bit sharp,” said Pat. The Scottish Breakfast Tea brewed up with a fresh herby smell and a round, balanced flavor. But it was their Ceylon Tea that had Pat waxing poetic. ($7.99 for 50 bags at All Things Bright and British for English, Scottish, Ceylon.)

“This tea has me feeling like Bilbo Baggins sitting by his fire in the Shire.”

I ignored the argument bait and passed him a cup of Taylors of Harrogate Yorkshire Gold ($5.99 for 40 bags at All Things Bright and British). Patrick smiled. “It tickles the nostrils, fills the mouth with flavor, and finishes with a tingle. It leaves me with a feeling of health, happiness, and goodness.”

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I wanted to be the Julia Child of the art world.

I would bring fabulous art and artists into your living room — inspiration was on its way! How hard could it be to get an art show on television? It was an obvious omission and a tremendous opportunity. I had a spot for my Emmy picked out.

I started my research, and after a five-minute Google search (“San Diego television art shows”) found that San Diego had no such show. Easy breezy, I thought, and formed a game plan: I would start out locally, just like Julia, get a following, and put the art of San Diego on the map. After local (and immediate) success, I would then move to a national/international audience, all the while never forgetting my roots and pimping out our great city. I would be the artist from San Diego discovering art wherever it might be, making the art world accessible and enlightening all. I would be an ambassador for art. Soon enough, I’d be on Dancing with the Stars.

Ten minutes’ more research and I discovered that I wouldn’t be breaking new ground after all. There been two previous successes featuring art on TV at a worldwide level. Rather than being disappointed, I decided to take this as exciting news.

The Oprah of the TV art world was Bob Ross. Mention art and TV in the same sentence and without a doubt the “man with the afro” will come up. Bob Ross was a legend; his PBS show Joy of Painting reached 93.5 million households. With his calm demeanor and smooth voice, in 26 minutes he would miraculously paint happy clouds, pretty mountains, or some other picturesque scene. Bob died in 1995, yet Bob Ross Incorporated is still successful: his art kits, video lessons, T-shirts, and instruction books sell very well.

The other tour de force was Sister Wendy, the art-history world’s favorite nun. Her BBC series Sister Wendy’s Story of Painting was a hit, and she had a large following in Europe and the States. Sister Wendy left the world of television in 1997 and now lives a life of solitude.

So, with the main competition no longer alive — and Sister Wendy focused on her prayers — I saw my opening. Painting with Prudence would take the TV world by storm! The show would make art exciting and fun. I’d travel the world looking at great art; I’d talk to artists, visit museums and galleries and fabulous locations — oh, and I’d throw in a few art tips and lessons along the way. Like Julia, I’d
be a charming snob, one who would educate the world and make the arts cool.

I assembled my team. My friend Jim had recently moved from San Diego to Dallas, his head spinning from a recent divorce. Lacking a full-time job, he jumped right in. Jim came with over 20 years’ experience as a writer and creative director at top advertising agencies.

My 75-year-old mother, who lives in Boston, was also on board. In her late 60s, my mother had enrolled in a Dreamweaver web-design course at Harvard Extension. During her first class, she called me up and whispered into the phone, “I am the oldest one here — older than the professor.” I pretended shock, then instructed her to stop messing around, turn off her cell phone, and focus on the class. When she completed it, she called to proudly tell me that other students had dropped out, but she had prevailed. With credentials and no salary demands, my mom was our official web designer.

I, of course, was the “talent,” an MFA from Pratt Institute, a professional artist “with an eye for adventure,” living in San Diego. With no money, no salaries, and basically no clue, we three set to work.

Jim and I educated ourselves by purchasing a “TV Pitch School,” home-study course (pitching is Hollywood-speak for presenting and selling a show concept). The 15 audio CDs from Mark and Jeanne Simon taught us “how to pitch like a pro.” From the audio CDs we learned that a sizzle reel was mandatory.

A sizzle reel is similar to a short commercial and is used to present a show concept to networks, producers, production companies, and agents. We needed a sizzle, and we needed it soon.

Jim jumped at the chance to leave Texas. He flew west for five days of location shooting. I expanded the team and called in two additional friends to help out — Chip Halsey and Walid Romaya. Chip had graduated from UCLA in 1980 with a minor in Film Studies. He wrote, directed, and co-produced his own feature called The Groundskeeper. Now he works in real estate, and with the market moving at a snail’s pace, he had time to kill.

Everyone knows the secret in Hollywood — little people with big heads. They look great on film. I am an average person with an average head.
Chip was great at keeping us focused, asking pertinent questions such as: “Exactly what are we doing here?” and “What is this all about?”

Walid, also a businessman and want-to-be reality-TV person, has a show and business called The Prince of Wines. Walid came with an abundance of reality-TV chops and graciously shared his expertise. Most importantly, Walid came with a camera.

Let the games begin.

Day 1. We began filming in my teeny tiny 250-square-foot studio in Little Italy. With three men and me in the small space, it was beyond cramped, and the men had to take turns in the studio. Jim was keen on showing the romance of being an artist. He wanted to capture every inch of the space; lighting and sound strategies were discussed and analyzed. They filmed paint tubes, brushes, paintings, and books. My terrace garden was sure to be a highlight and selling point, so the team climbed out my window and jumped onto the not-so-stable tar-paper roof to film. Horticulturists, don’t get excited: my garden consists of a few potted plants positioned to break up the monotony of the gray rooftop and cinder blocks. But Chip and Walid were pros, and they had the ladder out, shooting film from all angles while Jim kept an eye out for incom-ing aircraft. He shouted, “Cut — incoming!” often. I was busy perfecting my enthusiastic and welcoming hand movements, sort of a ta-da! motion meant to imply, Look, sitting on tar paper under the flight path is fabulous. Fun fun fun!

I was feeling great about life until later that night when we sat down to watch the reels. Reality hit me, and I went into shock. Seriously, what was I thinking? I looked like an idiot. I was an idiot. Obviously, I’d failed to think this brilliant idea through. I wasn’t even remotely comfortable being on film. (Jim said, “Wow, high definition is not kind to you.”) Here’s a Hollywood secret: little people with big heads look great on film. I am an average person with an average head — disastrous! What we needed was a hot 20-year-old who could step in and take over the role.

Jim, despite his far-from-comforting observation, wouldn’t hear of it. He’d determined that my whack-a-doodle life was the story and that was what we were going to sell. There was no time
## Little Italy Farmers’ Market

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Every Saturday, rain or shine

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One coupon per customer per booth.

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Every Tuesday

Rain or Shine

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**Save $1!**

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Located at State & Date

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**San Diego Reader**

January 12, 2012

27

**Organic and Sustainable Produce**

“From our Family to Yours”

Try our fresh picked Sweet Valencia Oranges

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**Terra Bella Ranch**

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the Little Italy Mercato Saturdays 9 am to 1:30 pm

and the Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers’ Market 2 pm to 6:30 pm

Year round, rain or shine.
for my insecurities and angst. I put on a brave face and prayed for softer lighting. The team was counting on me. In the future, I would not be so easily flustered. I would forge onward and channel Julia.

Day 2. We hit the road. Jim liked to film what he called “eye candy.” He wasn’t referring to me — we popped up to La Jolla. We did shots of driving down Prospect Street, sitting at the Children’s pool, and chatting it up with tourists. We shot scenes at the MCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) and La Valencia. Chip was angling the shots, while Jim told what to say and do. We filmed the waves, me painting the waves, me talking to the seals, talking to dogs, me waving while driving, me eating, me sitting and laughing — we did it all. I changed outfits in Gaylord, my Miata, so that every shot looked like another day, another time. Day two went very well, and I was gaining a bit of confidence, I was wondering what designer I would wear for my Good Morning America interview.

Day 3 brought glitches. Like any production (I assumed), things did not run smoothly; my experienced volunteer San Diego crew had to get back to their paying jobs. The camera went with them. Jim, who’d declared himself producer and director, took charge, bought a camera. Filming continued. Next stop, Old Town. Jim’s theory was that Old Town had a similar look to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Never having been to San Miguel, I couldn’t dispute this. So I was filmed walking around random buildings, shaking maracas, and pretending to be in Mexico. Frida Kahlo would have been proud.

From there we moved

The Hammering Man sculpture in La Jolla. Jim liked to film what he called “eye candy,” and he wasn’t referring to me.
**HEMORRHOIDS**

...Bleeding??

...Pain ???

A medical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational ointment versus placebo to possibly stop active hemorrhoidal bleeding. If you have a history of prior hemorrhoidal bleeding or are at present having rectal bleeding from previously-diagnosed hemorrhoids you may want to consider this study.

To Possibly Participate in This Study:
1. Men or Women, 18-75 years of age
2. History of Hemorrhoids and prior episodes of Rectal Bleeding
3. History of Itching or pain caused by Hemorrhoids
4. No history of prior surgery in the last 3 years for Hemorrhoids

**Participants May Receive At No Cost:**
1. Exam and Consultation with a Board-Certified Physician
2. Study-Related Labs, EKG, Colonoscopy (if not done in the last 5 years), Study Medication or Placebo at No Cost and requires No Insurance
3. Compensation for time and travel

**INTERESTED CALL**

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**WOMEN WITH FIBROIDS & HEAVY PERIODS**

A 9-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for women with fibroid tumors of the uterus with heavy periods who want an alternative to surgery.

To possibly qualify for the study:
1. Women, 20 years of age and older
2. Must have a history of fibroid tumors of the uterus
3. Periods must be heavy and occurring every 24-35 days

Qualified participants may receive at no cost:
1. Study-related exam and consultation with a board-certified ob-gyn
2. Study-related labs, EKG, Ultrasound, Dexa bone scan, and study medication
3. Compensation to $900.00 for time and travel

**INTERESTED CALL**

MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

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to Balboa Park, where we filmed the fountains, the rose garden, statues, and the cactus garden. It was during the cactus-garden scene that Jim said, “Your shirt makes you look like a disciple of General Mao.”

Another Miata outfit change, and we filmed more of Prudence painting, Prudence chatting, Prudence laughing, Prudence walking, Prudence driving. We took enough footage for ten complete episodes.

The next challenge was to transfer the film onto the computer, a task that was out of my league and that baffled Jim. I enlisted a former student, Jake. Jake’s mom let us hang out at her house while Jim and I made food and soda runs.

Day 4. It was time to work on the voiceover. This was trickier than expected and gave me a whole new appreciation for TV commercials. Jim found his directorial mojo and had no trouble voicing his opinion. Apparently, I am Sybil and have multiple voices. Jim yelled, “Get rid of Little Debbie! Sound normal!”

It was painful to repeat lines such as “My new TV show is a fun mix of painting, travel, and adventure to entertain and inspire you.” It had everything but the kitchen sink. Jim kept his patience; I kept (some of) my sanity. But it was taxing all around.

Jim took the material back to Dallas with him. At this point, his ace producer/director unleashed a bit of a bad attitude and started whining. Granted, he hadn’t expected to have to learn computer editing and sound skills. We couldn’t find a film editor on craigslist who wanted to work for free, so I told him he had to figure it out. I tried to...
Clinical Research Opportunity for Depression

**DEPRESSED?**
Sad? Down?

*Take action today.*

You may qualify for a local research study for people aged 18 years or older with depression.

Some people may receive an approved medication, while others may receive an inactive placebo.

Compensation for your time and travel is available.

*Health insurance is not required*

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**Ladies…not in the mood?**

**Depressed?**

A clinical research study is underway to evaluate pre-menopausal women who have been dealing with a decrease in sexual desire. To qualify for the study you must be:

- Female, 21 years of age and over
- Feeling mild depression for at least 4 weeks
- Be in a heterosexual relationship for at least 6 months

---

**Distracted?**

You may have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD.

We are seeking participants ages 6 to 65 (non-smoker) to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication for ADHD.

If you qualify you will receive study related care & study medication at no cost.

*Insurance not needed*

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**Do you take a prescription 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.

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Around 1 in every 140 people develops schizophrenia. That’s why we’re conducting HBDE, a clinical research study to compare an investigational medication to aripiprazole (an approved schizophrenia treatment) in people aged 18 to 65.

Any study-related medications/procedures would be provided at no cost to you.
be as supportive, even sending off a book on the basics of film editing. Still, Jim moaned and groaned for three weeks straight. I wasn’t expecting to have to edit this stuff… I don’t know how to add music to a video. Blah blah blah.

Meanwhile, I was busy living my life as an artist. We needed my story. I may have had only the one title, but it was a crucial one. Miraculously, Jim figured everything out. He took over ten hours of film and pieced it together into a two-minute, 30-second sizzle reel. Jim also wrote a “one sheet” (Hollywood-speak: a one-page advertisement for the show). He came up with catchy slogans. “How far will she go to inspire you?” and “Enjoy the ride!” I feared that these made me sound like a hooker looking for action, but Jim was proud of his work. Who was I to question my producer/director/editor/marketer? He’d put in long, hard hours with no pay. So I went with it.

Back in Boston, my web-master mom secured and created a web page. She was a champ, and survived me and Jim giving her orders left and right. There were a few hiccups. YouTube was new to her; putting a video on the site was a challenge. She called in her team, neighbor Tom and friend Dave, and they all worked it out. The web page, with its YouTube link, was up and running.

Another lesson learned from the 15-CD home-study course was the importance of attending conferences: these were necessary to sell the show. The conferences come with a heavy price tag — a $500–$600 entrance fee per person. Our commitment to the project was solid, so we anted up. Armed with a working web page, catchy business cards, folders with personalized labels, and new shoes (for me), we felt prepared and...
Our first conference was in Santa Monica. We had done our homework and knew who we wanted to meet and pitch to. We targeted various companies and networks. But as soon as we walked in the door, I felt as if I’d landed on Mars. I actually lost my breath. I was sure I’d throw up. Not only was I universes outside my comfort zone, I was clearly out of my league with these Los Angeles TV-types.

Jim, on the other hand, in his Versace shirt, strutted in as if he owned the place. He was in his element. “I am with my people,” he said. Then he said, “I am going to make more money than you are, because I have more titles.” A Hollywood tycoon was evolving before my eyes.

Again, I tried to channel Julia for support, and then some dude from the Kardashian clan walked past me, and I had to sit down. I mulled over my options. I could throw up, smack Jim on the head, cry, and go home. Or I could rally.

I rallied. People need art; it was my duty to move forward. For two days, we pitched to anyone and everyone. We attended every talk, cocktail hour, and informational meeting. We met executives at top networks, production-company owners, agents, and interns. Jim stalked an Oprah person in the men’s room. We worked every angle. The feedback we got was tremendous. Great show, wonderful idea, great story, best pitch ever! It was a love fest, and although we had no offers, we felt giddy and proud.

One of the lessons of the business is that a “no” is better than a “maybe.”
in thoughts about where the show should be marketed. I was keen on selling it locally, especially trying for KPBS, while Jim wanted to hit it out of the park and get a national network. After that first day of filming, I didn’t feel ready to deliver a show on a national level; I wanted to get more — or any — experience and build from there. “This is our first painting,” I said. “We can’t expect it to go straight into the MOMA. First, we need to get into a local group show.”

Jim didn’t see where he fit in on the local level. But after attending our second conference, we still had no buyers, so Jim took a closer look at PBS. They were offering a national competition for a new TV show under something called the Diversity and Innovation Fund. I am an educated white woman. I play tennis and summer in Maine. There is nothing diverse about me. But as hard as I tried, I couldn’t talk Jim out of this one. Jim’s neighbor in Dallas, a lesbian, had produced a show or two on PBS, and he got her on board for the project, awarding her several titles. So now our “diversity” consisted of two educated, white, straight people and an educated white lesbian (from Texas!) and a show about art. Jim put everything on hold to wait for the results. When the rejection came, he was devastated. I was shocked he was shocked. He wanted to try to continue to work with his neighbor, but she stopped returning his calls.

Three conferences later, we were all the wiser, a bit beaten up... and still not on the air. The sad lesson we learned was that the arts are a tough sell, not a priority for television. If I could gain, lose, and again gain 300 pounds while painting, well, that is a show that might sell. Or maybe I could participate in a death-defying stunt while in a museum. Apparently, my life needed to be in danger.

The mother of all meetings, which Jim worked hard to get, was with the Discovery Channel. Jim had visions of Painting with Prudence airing right before Anthony Bourdain’s No Reservations. The Discovery Channel said that they would not touch art or a female host. One network executive told us: “Look, art is a gamble. We’re all praying to keep hold of our jobs. Right now no one is thinking outside the box.” Jim lost a bit of steam. He headed back to Dallas. I headed back to my apartment under the flight path.

Deterred, stymied, discouraged, but not beaten, we hold our heads high. Jim had to get a paying job and was unable to put more time, effort, or money into the project. I needed to focus on painting, on selling some paintings so I could pay my rent on time and stop

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Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing anxiety and excessive worry.

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Eligible participants will receive study-drug and study-related office visits at no cost, and may be reimbursed for travel expenses for each completed visit.

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

To learn more, call (858) 836-8350.
relying on friends to feed me. When I met up with Walid, Prince of Wine, he gave me a sympathetic look: he understood the toll of putting yourself out there and trying to succeed in a crazy TV world.

I am still under the flight path, still loving my life as an artist. As for *Painting with Prudence*, once in a while I throw it out on a local push. Just the other day, I sent our package to the Oceanside channel, KOTC. *PWP* could start there. Who knows?

Check out our handiwork (paintingwithprudence.com) and make sure to click on the sizzle reel. Maybe one day the TV world will tire of the Housewives of New Jersey and be ready to celebrate the arts — with or without me as host. My mom is standing ready to update the web page. ■

— Prudence Horne

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**ConstiPAINtion From Prescription Pain Medication?**

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**760.758.2222**
A woman goes over 2000 miles west and ends up in the same place? How is this possible?

I didn’t pull that question out of the MindTrap deck (note the cultural reference that makes me feel smug), but I did move from the state of Ohio to Ohio Street.

I am a suburban transplant to the gentrified neighborhood of North Park. So the million-dollar question becomes, am I a hipster? Clearly I’m not, because I would be denied entry for simply uttering the word hipster.

After scouring Urban Dictionary entries for the definition of hipster, a strong case could be made that I’m a budding hipster. I hope I won’t become so entrenched in this counterculture that my behavior becomes pretentious or douche (synonyms from the Urban Thesaurus). No matter what the label, there are times I just feel like a rube from Ohio who’s in over her head trying to swim in the sea of clothes worn for irony and music that may or may not contain robots. But I’m happy to report that I’m perfecting my doggie paddle while still wearing my floaties. I was craving creativity, and, it hurts me to say: nonconformity.

In Ohio, conformity slowly creeps in until you’re so entrenched in it, there’s no escape. So I fled in search of a better, perhaps more bohemian lifestyle that included beautiful weather.

Side note: This amazing weather is doing a real number on my Ohio psyche. In Ohio, if it is 75 out it doesn’t get dark at 5 p.m. My space-time continuum has been broken...but no worries, and no snow scrapers.

Heaven forbid a little rain should fall (that’s the Ohio in me speaking...).
I was checking out the art of Ray Street one drizzly night while the rest of North Park was holed up inside. In their defense, the San Diego art scene is new to me, and my enthusiasm wouldn’t be dampened. So I like art, my Netflix queue is filled with independent documentaries, and I’m halfway through On the Road... Am I a hipster? There are no Andy Warhol prints on my wall, my Netflix queue is filled with movies made for the “ABC Family” crowd starring Melissa Joan Hart, and I’m only half way through On the Road because I’m not feeling what Kerouac has to say.

I present to you Exhibit A: Every piece of clothing I purchased in the past month has been from thrift shops or Hunt & Gather. Is this me satisfying my eclectic new fashion sense or a product of limited transportation and income? It’s a toss-up in my book.

Exhibit B: I enjoy consuming insane amounts of caffeine while working on the next epic anything at the corner table upstairs in Claire de Lune. In fact, I’m drinking a large iced latte as I write this. I’d say score that in the hipster column.

Exhibit C: My apartment on Ohio Street is decorated in the spirit of my parents’ first home, circa Ohio 1983, complete with wood paneling and carpet just shy of shag. Thanks to IKEA, my roommate’s record collection, and eBay (where else are you going to find a macramé owl?), our place is a hipster paradise.

My defense is, What else are you going to do with wood paneling? “Balls to the wooden walls,” is what I say.

Exhibit D: I’ve somehow found myself drinking a large number of PBRs. I honestly don’t know how that happened. I hadn’t even seen a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon in decades. Have I been drinking the non-conformist Kool-Aid, or am I just cheap?

I use sarcasm in large doses, relish obscure cultural references, and won’t let anyone forget I minored in film. Simply put, I value creative freedom and expression above all else. If I’m walking down University Avenue and someone says, “Hey, look at that hipster,” I won’t cringe or argue. And if there’s a day when I’m acting too pretentious for my own good, I’ll remind myself where I’m from. I’m from Ohio, and get up at 9 a.m. to watch the Buckeyes play football. I take solace in the fact that on my corner there are men training in MMA like a lonely island in the Sea of Hip. I’m proud to say I own a television, and I enjoy watching it. And, lastly, I’ll argue till my last breath.
breath that it is wrong to have less than five-percent body fat with no discernible muscles, and chicken wings should always be featured on a bar menu.

We’re a combination of our experiences, and at the end of the day I’m glad I have a little of each Ohio in me.

Doggy Doo On a Village Woods Balcony

Author: Kevin Six
Neighborhood: Linda Vista
Age: 46
Occupation: Actor and playwright

Editor’s note: This is the winner of November’s $100 second-place prize for our monthly neighborhood-essay contest.

The kooky neighbors are at it again at Village Woods. The upstairs neighbor finally rented her apartment to a weirdo. But before I go on about the new weirdo upstairs, I need to explain about the sliding glass doors at Village Woods, as they will be figuring large and loud into the story.

The sliding glass doors look and act like any sliding glass door from the late ’70s. They are heavy and they slide, metal-on-metal, into fairly well-seated groves. This sound, however, is worse than anything the ’70s wrought, and the ’70s wrought a lot of loud noise (Iron Butterfly? Anyone?). Especially over wood-framed ticky-tack with no insulation.

“Noise from a sliding glass door? Come on,” I hear you saying. To which I answer: Come over at about 4:20 a.m. any weekday morning or 5 a.m. on weekends and you can hear.

Scratchy metal death. Loud, booming, scratchy metal death. It has awakened me and my wife (who officially wants to have nothing to do with this blog, or my previous blogs) every morning since the new neighbors moved in. At 11:30 p.m.

Welcome, neighbor.

Now we come to the dogs. Oh, dogs. I actually like dogs. I pet them, I scratch behind their ears. I talk baby talk to them, embarrassing their owners and anyone else near enough to hear a grown man talk-
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ing baby talk to a dog he’s never met. I am 100% sure I would pet, scratch, and babble to the dogs upstairs. During regular business hours.

The problem is that the neighbor is a lazy idiot. She lets the dogs out to do doo-doo on the balcony above me every morning between 4:20 and 5 a.m. Four twenty? In the morning? Are you blankety-blank kidding me? Even the stoners next door are asleep at 4:20.

I have never seen or heard those dogs being walked — and I’m a nosy neighbor. Aren’t you supposed to walk your dogs in the morning and at night so they do their doo-doo at decent hours?

The thing that keeps hikers going is an insatiable desire to see what is beyond the crest of the next hill. Even late in the afternoon, when we know that we really should be getting back to the car before night-fall — the time when hungry mountain lions are most active — we can’t resist the temptation to trudge a little bit farther up to the next crest, just to see what’s on the other side.

In 2004 I went on a short hike, equipped with nothing but a pocketknife, at one of the trailheads near the Japatul Fire Station. It was an early afternoon in November, and a small rain storm was approaching. With the arrival of the first few drops of rain, I started back to my car in the gravel parking lot.

When I reached the car, I was surprised to see a hiker who had just arrived, getting ready to start out on the trail. I thought it was a little crazy to start on a hike in such weather, but this guy obviously came prepared. He had a huge
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backpack that looked like it must have weighed a hundred pounds. He was a tall guy and strong, obviously not hampered by the weight of the pack. He was younger than me, or so I assumed (it turns out he was actually ten years older than me). I greeted him, and he said, “Hello.”

As my interest in East County hiking trails increased, I had purchased some videos and a book (Afoot and Afield in San Diego County) by Jerry Schad, and because of them I recognized the guy with the big backpack and realized what a dedicated hiker he was.

Eventually I started an email exchange with Jerry. He was working on a new edition of his book. I had some questions for him, and he invited me to make suggestions for the new edition.

In 2007 I again met a stranger at the park—Jerry was actually ten years older than me. I greeted him, and he said, “Hello.”

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The man was overweight, with a big pot belly. Clearly no match for Jerry Schad. I let him approach as I was about to get into my Civic, and we chatted a bit about the local trails. He seemed to know a lot. I asked him about Bell Bluff, and he told me how to get there from Alpine, and told me that he and his dog had hiked there the long way, from Japatul Road.

I was astonished that someone with his body could have done such a thing, but he described the route in convincing detail. Then he asked me if I had been to C——, saying that it was the greatest hike in the area, so great that it should have been a national park.

It turns out that he was exaggerating a bit, but after much determination, overcoming the man’s poor directions, my son and I found the place, and it became my favorite place to hike in all of San Diego County. I taught a night class for one semester that fall at Mesa College where, once a week, I would get an amazing gourmet dinner at the little restaurant managed by the Culinary Arts department.

One evening I saw Jerry there eating dinner at the next table — Jerry was on the full-time faculty there — and so we launched into a discussion about our favorite

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topic. I asked him why C—— was not mentioned in any of his books. I assumed he would be familiar with the place. He was, and he told me that he hadn’t written about it out of respect for the people living in that quiet community, with lots of horses but no marked trailheads or parking lots or geocaches or any of that sort of thing (but, I must say, with its share of off-road motorbikers). I never did buy the last edition of Jerry’s book. By the time it came out, I felt like I had hiked San Diego County and I was eyeing Riverside County, San Bernardino County, and Arizona for new adventures. And so I didn’t think about Jerry Schad for a while.

The thing that keeps hikers going is an insatiable desire to see what is beyond the crest of the next hill. I wonder where Jerry Schad is now. Wherever it is, we can surmise that he’s already over the crest of the nearest hill and moving on to the next, higher one, heavy backpack and all — and not waiting for us stragglers. ■
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Under the radar
continued from page 2
including La Jolla media maven Barbara Bry, Rancho Santa Fe’s Pauline Foster, ex-Democratic congresswoman and state bullet train boardmember Lynn Schenck; San Diego State University academic Rochelle Treger; and former city councilwoman Abbe Woflsheimer.

Foster, mother-in-law of newly named Homeland Security assistant secretary Alan Bersin, is a longtime backer of Democratic causes. Besides Block, her latest contributions: $1000 to Susan Davis on September 26, bringing her total for Davis in 2011 to $2000. Foster also gave Democratic congressman Bob Filner, currently running for mayor, $500 in March. Block gave himself a head start on 2012 by transferring $642.08 from his assembly campaign to his senate account. Meanwhile, downtown arts patron Danah Fayman anted up a total of $5000 for Barack Obama on September 27.

— Matt Potter

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

Watch Europe
continued from page 2
might bounce along the bottom this year — not go into another 2008. But stay alert.

If there is a European recession, but only moderate conflagrations in the world banking system, the United States and San Diego should struggle through this year without major trauma. “I don’t think [eurozone woes] will have that much impact,” says Kelly Cunningham, chief economist of the National University System Institute for Policy Research. Europe is not a big market for San Diego goods and services, he points out.

The San Diego economy will grow only 1.8 percent this year, adjusted for inflation. That’s the best in six years “but not enough to bring unemployment down,” he says, predicting that the jobless rate will average 9.8 percent, just a hair down from last year’s 10 percent. “We are adding jobs, but they are not mid-wage jobs; they are low-end, low-skilled, or high-end, such as in technology or management.” Housing will not provide oomph. In 2009, and again in 2010, the number of housing units approved for construction was the lowest since the Great Depression. Last year, housing units leapt 42 percent, but the number was still the third lowest on record. Cunningham doesn’t see much of an improvement this year. Population growth will continue to be slow.

He says that the presence of the military is our largest industry, followed by manufacturing (including defense manufacturing), biotech, and tourism. Both defense and tourism could be somewhat vulnerable, he says.

Susan Bruinzeel, senior director of planning and research at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, says 6 percent of San Diego’s overnight travel is from abroad (not including Mexico). Britain is the largest market. The possibility of European woes “is on our radar,” she says. In June, British Airways started a direct flight from London to San Diego, and it is bringing in visitors from a number of countries. “So far, it’s been successful; we’re not worrying about it going away,” she says.

Alan Gin, economist at the University of San Diego, also thinks European megrrms will not make a big dent in San Diego this year. “The probability of another downturn in San Diego is about 30 percent,” says Gin. He believes unemployment will average around 8.5 percent, with industries such as health care, administrative services, leisure and hospitality, and biotech showing strength. However, if there is Europe-generated turmoil in the finance industries, biotechs could have problems raising capital.

Cunningham and Gin are not bullish on consumer spending. Between 2006 and 2009, it dropped by 17.4 percent, the biggest plunge in 70 years, notes Cunningham. Sales rose in 2010 and last year, but spending is slowing.

That’s why Gin, in assessing commercial real estate, thinks retail is a weak spot, partly because of the growth of online marketing. But Gin thinks office and apartment markets will do well.

But all economists warn to keep your eye on Europe, its banks, and possible further strains on banks throughout the world. Are you ready for more Wall Street bailouts? I didn’t think so.

Funds for education —
continued from page 3
August budget authorized a $35,000 contract for Brand’s old friend Gary Zarecky, as well as a $30,000 contract for consultant Bill McLaughlin.

The new committee, called the Funds for Education Committee, included two parents, Stewart Payne and William Perno. Payne and Perno were to provide community oversight and transparency.

The committee began holding monthly meetings in September 2011.

On November 22, Stewart Payne resigned.

In his letter of resignation to Brand and the school board, Payne wrote: “I cannot support the manner in which the committee is proceeding.” None of the board members, including trustee Jim Cartmill, who attended some committee meetings, contacted Payne to ask why he resigned.

At the school board’s December 12 meeting, Payne went to the microphone numerous times to express concern about the committee. Perno also spoke to trustees at the December meeting.

Perno told the board that he was initially honored to be appointed to the committee by Brand. However, after he began to question the ethics and legality of the new contracts, the committee tried to silence him.

Perno said that he was counseled not to take notes during meetings and warned at the December meeting that he was not allowed to discuss publicly what had transpired in the meetings because they were covered by the Brown Act.

In December’s contentious Funds for Education meeting, Perno was asked if there was anything that the committee had done that he liked. He said there were a number of things, including soliciting individual donations. Finally, however, when he balked at approving a contract, one member told him, “I invite you to reconsider if you want to be on this committee.”

To negotiate new contracts, or renegotiate old ones, the committee invited vendors to a meeting at district headquarters. Vendors were asked what they could bring to the table; for example, newer vending machines, help in caring for athletic fields, or...
scholarships. Zarecky and the committee then negotiated elements of the vendor's contract.

An example is Rainbow Vending, which has a current contract with the district to provide and service vending machines. During renegotiations, the company offered the district an increased percentage of its profit plus $50,000 up front in return for removing a 30-day cancellation policy from Rainbow’s contract.

In a recent interview, Perno said that one of his concerns was the length of the contracts. The district was offering seven-year contracts, and he questioned whether that was legal since the California Education Code limits a service contract to five years. And he questioned whether the committee should be negotiating new contracts or renegotiating old ones without putting them out for bid. Committee members told him that Sweetwater attorneys had already examined these issues. Perno asked to see their conclusions in writing, but that was not provided.

In a December 24 Union-Tribune article, Payne used the term “shaken down” to describe how vendors might have felt about the fund-raising committee’s tactics.

At the December meeting of Funds for Education, among the suggestions of ways to raise money was Zarecky’s idea of placing ATM machines on campuses. When students used the ATMs, a portion of the fees would go to the district. According to Perno, Zarecky said he knew a former law officer “up north” (Zarecky comes from Cupertino) who would handle the machines. (Contacted by phone on January 3, Zarecky declined to comment.)

Superintendent Brand attended the December meeting. According to Perno’s notes, Brand had many suggestions on how to raise money. One of them was signage — on vending machines, buildings, and the outside of school buses. Asked whether signage on school buses was legal, Brand told the committee he could get legislation passed to allow it.

Brand mentioned that some of the district’s buildings have great free-way exposure, like the adult education school in National City. Then, Perno recalls, Zarecky asked Brand if the Metabolife sign was still there.

A Metabolife founder, Michael Ellis, was among the people invited to meetings. Ellis has a history with Brand and his program Compact for Success, which guarantees high-achieving Sweetwater students admission to SDSU. In 2000, Ellis gave Compact for Success $500,000.
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Ellis also has an interesting history of his own. In 1988, he and a friend were arrested for conspiring to make methamphetamine; the friend went to prison, and Ellis got probation. In the early '90s, he founded Metabolife, a company that made diet pills whose key ingredient was an amphetamine-like stimulant called ephedra. In 2008, Ellis was sentenced to six months in prison and fined $20,000 for lying to the FDA about customer reports of serious illnesses suffered after taking the diet pills. One hundred fifty-five deaths were associated with ephedra. In addition, Metabolife pleaded guilty to several counts of tax fraud.

Ellis came to the Funds for Education meeting to suggest a new plan to help Compact for Success. He said he wanted to place "cups," featuring the district logo, throughout the community to collect donations for schools. Perno's notes indicate that Ellis was willing to pay for the cups and put seed money into them so they wouldn't appear empty.

Why did Brand appoint two parents known to be sticklers about ethics to the Funds for Education Committee?

The answer may be found on Brand's wish list for how to spend the money the committee generated. Two carrots dangle for Payne and Perno: $100,000 for "New [California Interscholastic Federation] Section" and $10,000 for "Anti-Drug Program."

Although Payne has opposed California Interscholastic Federation leadership in the past, he has been keenly interested in seeing a new section come to the district. Perno has worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the community and to legislators about the dangers of the synthetic drugs known as "bath salts" and "spice." When asked if the $10,000 in unassigned antidrug money had tempted him to be more compliant with the committee, Perno replied, "I can't be bought."

Last week, following the district attorney's indictment of five people connected to the school district, Brand waved the white flag — temporarily. In addition to Funds for Education, he suspended the Sweetwater University project and contracts with GCR, which had served as district counsel until recently, and Seville Group Inc., the company that has been managing construction funded by Proposition O.
**NEWS TICKER**

continued from page 3

announced today, passed down from the Vatican, reports the Los Angeles Times.

Flores obtained a law degree from Stanford Law and then spent the following ten years as an attorney before entering Carmarillo’s St. John’s seminary in 1986.

The incoming bishop is taking over a diocese that in 2007 filed for bankruptcy after paying a $200 million settlement to 144 people who claimed they were sexually abused by clergy members.

By Dorian Hargrove  
Wednesday, January 4

**Take Note, Congress**

High-End Fletcher Blog Wins D.C. Praise

San Diego — We’ll have to wait until the end of the month for year-end disclosures to find out how much it’s costing to run and from where the money came to pay for it, but for now, at least, San Diego GOP mayoral candidate Nathan Fletcher is taking his bows.

His campaign blog has been named fourth best in the country for 2011 by a columnist for Washington D.C. Beltway-based Campaigns & Elections Magazine.

“Local races can be hard to generate blog content for, in part, because of the issues at play in the race,” says the post by Andrew Clark.

“But Fletcher’s campaign for mayor of San Diego has managed to make its blog a model by frequently posting short ‘Supporter of the Day’ videos several times a week.

“The content here proves that you don’t need an edgy design to be powerful. In short, despite the relatively basic appearance, this blog for a mayoral race is more sophisticated than many campaign blogs for federal office.

Take note, Congress!”

Fletcher is outranked by GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul at number two. Number one is President Obama.

By Matt Potter  
Tuesday, January 3

**Bribery Busts**

Charges Filed Against Sweetwater Union Officials

Chula Vista — Two press conferences were held today pertaining to charges against current and former members of the Sweetwater Union High School District.

At 10 a.m., district attorney Bonnie Dumanis announced that charges were filed against five people stemming from an investigation that culminated with raids on the homes of officials on December 20.

Former Sweetwater superintendent Jesus Gandara, former Sweetwater board member Greg Sandoval, and current boardmembers Pearl Quiñones and Arlie Ricasa are charged with perjury, filing false documents, and using their “official position to influence a governmental decision in which [they] had reason to know [they] had a financial interest.”

The former program manager for Sweetwater’s Proposition O and Southwestern College’s Proposition R bond construction, Henry Amigable, is charged with “giving a bribe” and “obtaining a thing of value to influence a member of a legislative body.”

Sweetwater interim superintendent Ed Brand called a noon press conference at which he announced that he has suspended all activities with Seville Group, Inc., the construction company that has been overseeing Sweetwater’s Proposition O construction.

By Susan Luzzaro  
Wednesday, January 4

**Shackled Until Proven Innocent**

Allegations of Police Brutality at Occupy Demonstrations

San Diego — Nationwide, allegations of police brutality have been competing with protest mantras, drum circles, and “mic checks” for the loudest voice at Occupy demonstrations.

Locally, Occupy protesters have swallowed their share of hippie hot sauce (pepper spray) while multiple allega-

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DE PROFUNDIS
Pianist Catherine Kautsky performs this piece by Frederic Rzewski, inspired by a letter Oscar Wilde wrote to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, in 1895 while Wilde was imprisoned for "gross indecency." During the recital, Kautsky will read excerpts from Wilde’s description of his spiritual transformation. Also, works by Bach and Beethoven.

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. (also Saturday 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m.)
**WHERE:** Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-437-0600; lambsplayers.org

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**Saturday | 14**

**2012 ENROLLMENT FAIR**
Enjoy the opening reception for artist Kevin Greeland’s exhibit of paintings, coinciding with the Ray at Night Art Walk. Also, take the opportunity to sign up for art classes and workshops with the San Diego Art Department so you can get more creative in the coming year.

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m.
**WHERE:** San Diego Art Department, 3830 Ray Street, North Park. 619-299-4278; sdad-sdai.org

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**Monday | 16**

**HISTORY FOR HALF PINTS: I LOVE RAIN!**
Learn about history’s celebrated “rainmaker,” Charles Hatfield (“500 successes!”), conduct a rain-making experiment, read the children’s book I Love the Rain, and make a rainy window craft to take home! Reservations required.

**WHEN:** 10 to 11 a.m.
**WHERE:** San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619-232-6203 x129; sandiegohistory.org

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**Sunday | 15**

**HOLISTIC LIVING EXPO**
At this traveling expo, you can shop for products and services that assist in “healing and rejuvenation,” gemstone jewelry, aromatherapy products, healing music, and more. Also available: sessions with holistic health practitioners and spiritual counselors.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
**WHERE:** Mission Valley Resort, 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley. 619-298-8282; holisticlivingexpo.com

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**Tuesday | 17**

**COUGARS, COYOTES, AND BOBCATS**
Puppets, songs, real pelts, a nature walk, and a craft activity will teach kids of all ages about San Diego’s wildlife during Linda Hawley’s Nature Adventure series. For the month of January, Hawley covers “2 Dogs & 2 Cats: Coyote, Cougar, Bobcat, & Fox.”

**WHEN:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (also Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday)
**WHERE:** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Carlos. 619-582-6261; mtrp.org

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**Wednesday | 18**

**A HAMMER, A BELL, AND A SONG TO SING**
The San Diego Rep presents this tribute to Pete Seeger, celebrating “the history of change in America through song, story, and spoken word.” The audience is encouraged to sing along with the performers to over 25 songs, from “We Shall Overcome” to “The Times They Are A-Changin’.”

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. (also Thursday through Sunday; check for times)
**WHERE:** San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 619-544-1000; sdrep.org
San Diego Reader
January 12, 2012

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The mortification of Thomas Moodie

Edinburgh, Scotland’s Royal Mile
By John Mann

The prime sites to visit in Scotland’s capital dot the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle at the west end to Holyrood Palace at the east end.

The castle is worth touring at any time, but arrange to be in the castle yard around 9 o’clock on an August evening to view the Military Tattoo — a 90-minute performance by a thousand marching bagpipers.

Amble eastward along the lush Princes Street Gardens, and you may come upon the statue of Greyfriars Bobby, the world’s most loyal dog.

According to legend, Bobby was a Skye terrier who waited at his master’s grave for 14 years, ’til he died in 1872 at the age of 16.

Farther along, you’ll come to the Canongate churchyard, where economist Adam Smith is buried. He died in 1790. The yard surrounds the Dutch-gabled Canongate Kirk. A plaque on its façade explains, “In 1688 King James VII ordained that the mortification of Thos. Moodie granted in 1649 to build a church should be applied to the erection of this structure.” This does not suggest that anyone was humiliated. A mortification in Scots law is a bequest to a charitable institution — which explains why local wags refer to this church as Tom Moodie’s erection.

Next, note the Scottish Parliament building, completed in 2004, three years late and many times more costly than expected. It won Enric Miralles the 2005 Stirling Prize for architecture, as well as deafening raspberries from some critics who condemned the Catalan architect for failing to consider the structure’s context.

Which brings us to Holyrood Palace, right across the street. This is the British monarch’s official residence in Scotland. I found this out when, just as I was about to enter the palace gate to take a tour, a platoon of marching pipers and a caravan of black Bentleys pushed through first. The queen waved to me, as if to say “Neener neener,” and took over the premises for the week.

I drowned my disappointment in a single-malt Macallan, near, at the White Hart Inn.

Manta Rays in Kona, Hawaii
By Frank Lazzaro

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii, I’m always looking for a new experience to expand my appreciation for the islands.

A friend recommended I try the manta ray night-snorkel in Kona, and at first I was hesitant about the idea of going underwater at night. But once I learned more about it, I was eager to get wet.

We set out just before sunset with a group run by local dive tour operator Neptune Charlie’s. The trip is open to both snorkelers and scuba divers, so there’s no experience necessary — other

continued on page 56.

Travel & Getaways
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Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Manta Rays in Kona, Hawaii
By Frank Lazzaro

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continued on page 56.

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**Distance from downtown San Diego:** Allow 75 minutes’ driving time. (Valley Center) From I-15, exit east on Valley Pkwy. ($6 for 6 miles to Lake Wohlford Rd, Valley Pkwy, changes to 2nd St. and back to Valley Pkwy.) Go east (right) on Lake Wohlford Rd., then right on Paradise Mountain Rd., then turn left on Kiavo Dr. Continue to the preserve entrance and park in the lot. Chemical toilets and water available.

**Hiking length:** Four miles total, returning on the same route. **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate with steep descent at start of trail; Elevation change up to 500 feet.

*Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors.

For a schedule of free public hikes: [http://www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers/index.html](http://www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers/index.html)

Despite its name, Hellhole Canyon is a welcome refuge for animals and dayhikers.

In several of the smaller canyons leading into Hell Creek as well as a riparian community along Hell Creek. The 1907-acre preserve is run by the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department.

Construction of the Escondido Canal, or Gamble Flume, began in 1895 to bring water from the San Luis Rey River to Escondido and originally passed through Hellhole Canyon. It consisted of long sections of a hand-dug ditch connected with a wooded flume. The canal still functions today, but it has been replaced by steel and concrete and now bypasses most of Hellhole Canyon via a steel siphon constructed in the early 20th Century. The Hell Creek trails follow the route of the old canal on the east of the canyon for over a mile.

From the staging area, the first quarter-mile of the trail is a gentle self-guided nature trail with signs identifying some of the major chaparral plants. The next half-mile leads down to Hell Creek and has some steep places where trekking poles would be useful. The trail along the creek is nearly flat as it follows the contours of the hills for the next 1.3 miles, angling progressively further from the creek. The trail ends two miles from the staging area. Older maps show the trail continuing for an additional 0.5 mile. It has since washed out. The trail going down to the creek and to the siphon is currently closed for habitat restoration. Those wanting a much longer and more strenuous hike can take the Canyon View Trail leading steeply up the hill.

Hellhole Canyon Preserve was completely devastated by the Paradise Fire in 2003 and parts of the preserve were burned again in 2007 in the Poomacha Fire. A visit to the preserve shows how the coastal sage, oak woodland, and chaparral plant communities can recover from fire. While charred, twisted branches of the burnt brush are still visible, the preserve is alive with vigorously growing sage, manzanita, toyon, scrub oak, ceanothus, and many other species that have sprouted from stumps not killed by the fire. The fire also opened up the thick brush, giving seeds that had been lying dormant a chance to sprout, thus providing fresh new forage for wildlife and a great annual wildflower display in spring.

The preserve is open only Friday through Monday from 8 a.m. to sunset for hikers and equestrians. No bicycles or motorized vehicles are allowed. The preserve is closed during the entire month of August.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam
Hawaii continued from page 54.

Win $25 for your travel tips or a movie pass for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.
Win a Reader Local Restaurant Variety Pack!
$30 to California Crepes, $20 Waterfront Grill at Pier 32, $30 La Jolla Brew House, and $20 The Omelette Factory.
Enter by Wednesday, January 25 @1PM.

Win a Free Tandem Skydive!
Skydive San Diego, Inc. is a full-service skydiving facility with multiple training buildings, a bunkhouse, deluxe packing lofts, a grass landing area, a BBQ deck and patio, and incredible scenery to match!
Enter by Friday, February 3rd at 1PM.

Win a Couples Massage!
Waring Massage offers Swedish, deep tissue, couples, shiatsu, reflexology, sports/athletic and other types of massages.
Enter by Wednesday, February 8th at 1PM.

Chinese New Year Event and Open House
Saturday, January 21, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. New Year Celebration Activities
Free Treatments and Demonstrations - First-come, first-served, last treatment at 1:30 p.m.
- Free Acupuncture for Smoking Cessation and Relaxation
- Free Tai Na Massage Treatments
Don’t Miss Lectures by Experienced Practitioners
- “Cold & Flu Season: Using Acupuncture and Herbs”
Tai Ji and Massage Interactive Workshops
Light Refreshments
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Admissions Information Session for Prospective Students
- Alumni Panel Q&A
- How To Finance Your Education
- Admissions: Learn About the Application Process

For More Information or to RSVP: 1-888-522-8501

San Diego Reader January 12, 2012
Rhyme & Verse
The Symptoms
A poem by Sarah Maclay

Concentration’s shot,
my mind is full of light,
my fingers smell deeper than honey.

My heart is in my thighs,
groin — you don’t even want to know — it’s in my knees,
my nose, it’s everywhere.

I’m so distracted
I leave the doors unlocked,
practically hide the vibrator in the refrigerator.

The smoke alarm goes off.

I cruise the floors of my bungalow ’til they’re blue.
Every week
I clean my house for you.
I’m starving and I can’t sleep, exhausted and I can’t eat.
What have you done to me?
Cure me. Please.
Make it worse.

Sarah Maclay currently teaches creative writing and literature at Loyola Marymount University and conducts periodic workshops at the Rubin Art Club and Beyond Baroque. She is book review editor for Poetry International. “The Symptoms” is from her recent collection, Music for the Black Room, which, like her previous two collections, was published by the University of Tampa Press.

She lives in Venice, California. Author’s photo by Mark Lipman. The poem is reprinted by permission of the University of Tampa Press.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

CLASSICAL MUSIC

“Brahms and Schumann: A Love in Common” San Diego Symphony plays the Brahms “Symphony No. 3,” which the composer sent as a gift to Clara Schumann.

619-235-0804. Thursday, January 12, 7:30pm; $20. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“De Profundis” Pianist Catherine Kautsky performs this piece by Frederic Rzewski, inspired by a letter Oscar Wilde wrote while imprisoned in 1895 for “gross indecency.” Kautsky reads excerpts from Wilde’s description of his spiritual transformation during recital. Program includes works by Bach, Beethoven. Thursday, January 12, 8pm; free-$15. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Schumann Piano Concerto” San Diego Symphony joined by American pianist Andrew von Oeyen to perform Schumann’s “Piano Concerto A Minor.” Program includes Wagner’s “Overture to The Flying Dutchman,” the Brahms’ “Symphony No. 3.” 619-235-0804. Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14, 8pm; Sunday, January 15, 2pm. $20-$86. Cop-
ley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

All-List Concert Pianist Garrick Ohlsson celebrates 200th anniversary of composer Franz Liszt’s birth with program including “Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude,” “Mephisto Waltz No. 1,” “Transcendental Etude No. 5 in B-flat Major” for La Jolla Music Society’s Freeman Family Piano Series. 858-459-3724. Friday, January 13, 8pm; $25-$75. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)


**COMEDY**


**DANCE**

Ruby Red Cabaret: Mixed Nuts! Evening of modern dance with live music, food, wine, song planned when San Diego Dance Theater launches “Ruby Red” performance series. Expect choreography by Jean Isaacs, Joe Goode, Gabe Masson, with pieces including By George/By Jean, I don’t want to be there, more. 619-225-1803. Sunday, January 15, 6:30pm; $15-$45. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Argentine Tango with Colette Will give you a first free class any Monday or Wednesday and will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango at Dance Place San Diego in Point Loma. No need for a partner. More information: [www.TangoWithColette.com](http://www.TangoWithColette.com) or call 514-726-5687. Monday, January 16, 7pm. Wednesday, January 18, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

Jam ‘n’ Blues Swing Dance Now hosts new year party with music by Nathan James Trio (9:30pm-12:30am). Evening begins with swing and blues dance lessons. Fee for one class and dance: $15; dance only: $8. 619-291-3775. Friday, January 13, 8pm; $30-$50. Balboa Theatre, 868 4th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Meet a “National Dance Treasure” Workshops with 91-year-old Anna Halprin, who “has helped redefine our notion of dance with her belief in its power to teach, heal, and transform.” Required advance registration: 760-944-0403 or niatiestudios@gmail.com Saturday, January 14, 9:30am; Sunday, January 15, 10am. Martini’s Bar and Grill, 3940 Fourth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Pilobolus Ensemble uses “innovative ideas of a collaborative choreo-
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The End

Lectures

“A View of U.S.-India Relations” Former diplomat Godfrey Harris shares “why it makes historical and practical sense to seek closer ties to India, worry less about Pakistan, and have an alternative to China” when Life at MiraCosta senior learning group meets in room 106B (1pm).

Larry Larson introduces “The Gemological Institute of America” 760-721-8124. Friday, January 13, 1pm; free. Miramar College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

“Can the California Condor Be Saved?” San Diego Audubon Society meets for talk by Mike Wallace of San Diego Zoo’s Institute for Conservation Research, who will describe challenges facing California condors and their fight for survival in modern world. 808-723-7800 x100. Thursday, January 12, 6:30pm. Free. Tectolote Nature Center, 5180 Tectolote Road. (LA JOLLA)

“Interweaving Traditions” Education Coordinator Alex Stewart presents “A Last Look at the Chinese Minority Costumes Exhibit,” exploring “full significance of these ornate outfits.” RSVP: 619-338-9888. Saturday, January 14, 1:30pm; free. San Diego Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

“Mysterious Incidents in Balboa Park Section” Presentation for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) promises “audience participation in discussion, analysis, and conclusions.” 760-753-2456. Sunday, January 15, 6pm; free and open to all. 3725 Murphy Canyon Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Painted Desert” Talk San Diego artist Michael Weidicken discusses his approach to art making. His “paintings of dwellings have never been solely about formal concerns, but also are intended as reflections of their inhabitants, the human condition, and man’s relationship to community and nature.” Exhibit closes Sunday, February 5. 760-581-9934. Saturday, January 14, 1pm; free. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

“Secrets of Steinway” Seminar at Greene Music “Piano specialist” David Farkas shares “history behind the Steinway family legacy as well as the craftsmanship that goes into creating a hand-made instrument.” Reservations: 858-586-7000. Saturday, January 14, 11am; free. Greene Music Recital Hall, 7480 Miramar Rd., Suite 101, www.fabios.com

“Submitting Poems and Short Stories for Publication” Learn “strategies for determining markets and successfully submitting prose and poems for publication…how to find appropriate venues, narrow your goals, build your biography, and build a community of writers and readers for your work.” No experience necessary. Sunday, January 14, 9pm; $45-$54. Ink Spot, 710 13th Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“Taking Control of Your Creative Mind” Workshop led by Terry McBride, author of The Hell I Can’t, chronicling his journey to “perfect health and wholeness” through study of principles of positive thought outlined by Ernest Holmes in Science of Mind. Sunday, January 15, 6:30pm; $25. Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 4610 Women’s Place, Suite B. Fallbrook 619-229-0022 • www.fabios.com

“Can the California Condor Be Saved?” San Diego Audubon Soci- ety meets for talk by Mike Wallace of San Diego Zoo’s Institute for Conser- vation Research, who will describe challenges facing California condors and their fight for survival in modern world. 808-273-7800 x100. Thursday, January 12, 6:30pm. Free. Tectolote Nature Center, 5180 Tectolote Road. (LA JOLLA)

“The French Ambassadors and the Secret Horoscope” Discovering horoscopes hidden in famous works of art is a specialty of astrolo- gist Douglas Barker, who introduces a painting with “great import — and great undertones of secrecy” during San Diego Astronomy Society meeting. Friday, January 13, 7:30pm; $7-$12. Joyce Beers Uptown Community Cen- ter, 3900 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

“The Schools Our Children Deserve” Enjoy “An Evening with Alice Koh,” when the Suton-based author and education expert shares “models of education designed to develop children’s critical thinking and problem-solving skills.” Talk (7pm) follows reception, book signing (5:30pm). Reservations: 760-944-6777. Thursday, January 12, 5:30pm; $10. Abbey Theatre at University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (CLAIREMONT)

“Unwrapping the Mummy: Hollywood Fantasies, Egyptian Realities” Stuart Tyson Smith — UCSB anthropologist and...
SHEEP AND GOATS
I ANSWERED THE CALL

San Diego Christian Reformed Church
Contact: 6745 Amherst St., San Diego; 619-469-5218, sdcrc.org
Membership: 65
Affiliation: Christian Reformed Church
Interim Pastor: Adam Stout
Age: 32
Born: Davenport, Iowa
Formation: One year of Yucatan, Mexico, mission work; Calvin College and Calvin Theology Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich. (2010)

San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?
PA: I like to preach Psalms but that’s because they cover the entire human experience — I like Psalms because they touch on the highs and lows of human experience and they are from the gut — you can tell.

I think there’s a lot of variety: thanksgiving, lament, praise, in all different kinds of situations. I think they also cover a lot of ground theologically; there’s a lot of prophecy in the Psalms. There’s also reflection on the Torah, and also mention of justice and the prophets. So you get a really broad scope in the Psalms, but it’s all in the earthy language.

SDR: What is your main concern as a member of the clergy?
PA: It sounds very simple, but my main concern is learning to love people the way God loves us, and growing more to understand just how much we are loved by God.

I think a lot of people, especially on the outside of the church, understand Christians to have an agenda. I think partly they’re right because a lot of Christians are concerned about growing the size of the church, and maintaining their church structure and facilities. I think sometimes Christians do get caught up in that, when really the whole gospel message is that we’re more screwed up than we know, but we’re also more loved in Christ than we could ever imagine. My main concern is that it is obvious not only to the people who walk into church but also the people who come into contact with the people at my church; I would hope that both would sense there’s not an agenda but just a desire to get to know and share life. For Christians, obviously, that life is in Christ. If that’s an agenda, it’s the right one to have.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?
PA: Our core values are to be biblical, missionary, prayerful, grace-filled and grace-giving, empowered by the Spirit to serve and committed to maturing as disciples. Our motto is “Loving God in our neighbors and joining God in his mission.”

SDR: Where do you go when you die?
PA: The soul has to look forward to being in the presence of God. That’s what I’m basing my life on, and there’s only one way to find out and I won’t be able to tell you afterwards. There have to be other possibilities besides heaven, of course; God’s not going to make people come into heaven. Jesus didn’t work that way. He didn’t twist people’s arms behind their backs and say, “Say my name and accept me as Lord.” So I certainly believe people have the choice, and that certain people will choose to go their own way. They have chosen it in this lifetime and I think there are other destinies besides heaven and the presence of God. The other destiny would be the absence of God. Now, there’s no red man with a pitchfork and horns, and there’s quite possibility not even fire or an inferno as Dante had pictured it. But the point is that absence from God is hell.

— Joseph O’Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at SDRReader.com/worship/
No Man’s Land

One English soldier yelled, “We’d rather die than sing in German.”

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

**BEST CHOIR IN SAN DIEGO**

Musica Vitale could make an argument for being the best choir in San Diego County. They’ve been singing quality Christmas carols in Point Loma. It was another true performance.

The program was Christmas music, but the only song I was familiar with was “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming.”

Christmas spirit was present. A soccer match was played in “no man’s land” during the truce and the Germans won 3-2.

In a rare moment, a group of people at war decided that singing and playing together was more important than other considerations. Some soldiers defied direct orders to reengage the enemy.

I can’t find any accounts of the actual carols, but the Germans must have sung “Stille Nacht” (“Silent Night”).

A German soldier replied, “It would kill us if you did.”

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**UNIVERSAL BABY**

Onetime Escondido resident Benjamin Britten utilized liturgical and poetic texts for his **Ceremony of Carols**.

*The Galaxy* was published in 1934, so Britten was being somewhat timely by accessing this resource. The third movement of the **Ceremony** is a traditional poem that dates to 1420:

*There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia. For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space; Res miranda. By that rose we may well see That he is God in persons three, Pari forma. The angels sung the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis deo: Gaudeamus. Leave we all this worldly mirth, And follow we this joyful birth; Tranceamus."

I find the second stanza to contain enough beauty and mystery to keep me interested in religious Christmas traditions. The philosophical ramifications of such a statement are immense to those who would or would not believe.

Within the baby Jesus, the universe was contained. Of course, most parents feel that way about their kids.

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**SILENT NIGHT WITH SOCCER**

If there be any doubt of the power of music, consider the Christmas Truce of 1914.

After rushing to war in a spirit of carnival, the armies of World War I found themselves in a world of misery. The war officially started on August 1. By September, trenches had been dug and “no man’s land” was established.

The horrors of trench warfare were legion. “No man’s land” was the space, sometimes as little as 30 yards, between the opposing trenches. This space was filled with irretrievable corpses. Any soldier who attempted to enter “no man’s land” was cut down by machine gun fire.

On the night of December 24, 1914, a strange thing happened in Flanders. Friendly voices called out from both sides and then the sound of men singing Christmas carols began to fill the air.

According to firstworldwar.com, at one point the Germans managed to slip a chocolate cake into the British line with a message proposing a concert at 7:30 p.m. The British accepted, and at the appointed hour the Germans began to sing. The Germans invited the British to sing with them.

One English soldier yelled, “We’d rather die than sing in German.”

A German soldier replied, “It would kill us if you did.”

Christmas spirit was present. A soccer match was played in “no man’s land” during the truce and the Germans won 3-2.

In a rare moment, a group of people at war decided that singing and playing together was more important than other considerations. Some soldiers defied direct orders to reengage the enemy.

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**IMMORTAL BEAUTY**

Garrett Harris

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The Last Supper

December 14, 2011

We all gathered around the bed.

“What fresh hell is this? This food is gonna kill me!” groused Naomi — Joan to us, her regular dining companions — as she choked down another morsel of hospital food.

“Mashed potatoes?” someone guessed.

“No! Eggs!” Naomi said. “And which one of you brought my ‘fizzy water’ [code for nigori sake] and smokes?”

We joked about sending half the posse back to the kitchen while the other half smuggled in Naomi’s vices. It was the last time our entire group would laugh together. The next day Naomi went into emergency surgery. She never came out.

In March of 2011, Naomi and Samurai Jim spoke about Naomi’s eventual retirement from the Reader and the possibilities for a final review. Samurai Jim suggested she title the piece “The Last Supper.” Maybe they’d even make a reservation at a favorite restaurant under their recognizable Reader names.

“If we can have Chef Jackson at A.R. Valentien, you got it!” Naomi said.

This column is a collaboration, a tribute dedicated to the life and career of a true friend and culinary mentor.

December 21, 2011

Jim was first on the scene. Grinning, he said, “Reservations for Samurai Jim and Naomi Wise.”

“Ah, we’ve been expecting you, Mr. Jim. The chef would like to have a word.”

Chef Jackson, a tall man full of energy and enthusiasm, emerged from the kitchen. He escorted Jim to the private dining room. The young samurai remembered how much Naomi had enjoyed it when a chef was given free rein to create: these meals were always phenomenal.

“Chef Jackson,” Jim said, “please, go out and play in the kitchen. In my culture we say, ‘Onegaishimasu, omakase kudasai,’ which means, ‘We trust you to give us the best.’”

Chef Jackson and Chef Kolanko had already been planning the meal. Usually, Chef Jackson opened and Chef Kolanko closed. Not this time. All day long, they’d bonded over a hot oven, creating the ultimate omakase masterpiece.

Chef Jeff Jackson of A.R. Valentien coauthors the ultimate omakase masterpiece in Naomi’s honor.

Jim prepared the room. At the head of the table, he draped Naomi’s black sweater over the chair back and placed her red-and-black hats at the top of the rails. On a credenza sat pictures of a 16-year-old Naomi, with her 19” waistline, and two volumes of ornately bound Reader reviews. A bottle of nigori sake and a pack of Capri Lights were placed at every setting. A memorial tag pictured a frustrated Naomi visiting Machu Picchu. On the outside of the tag, the caption joked: “My kingdom for a truffle.” Inside: “Om mani padme hum,” Naomi’s chant for a friend when they passed.

One by one, the posse arrived: Petite Michelle, The Lynnester, Witty Fred, Dave, Sam (Sang), Ben, and Mark. We were happy to see each other, despite our sadness, and immediately ordered cocktails and wine.

Chef Kolanko arrived with the amuse bouche, succulent shrimp laid atop thinly diced white beans and kale, paired with Esprit de Beaucastel 2008, from Tablas Creek Vineyards.

Chef Kolanko said: “You don’t choose the profession, the profession chooses you. I always loved the kitchen, even back when I was washing dishes. I was cooking by 16. Chef Jeff and I opened A.R. Valentien in 2002, and every Thursday we got a bottle of wine and the Reader, in hopes that we would be reviewed by Naomi Wise. In October 2005, I was promoted to chef de cuisine. Two months later, we got our review — 4 ½ stars. I was elated. Naomi’s words were the shot in the arm that gave me the confidence to excel.”
Witty Fred held up his glass. “Being a foodie novice,” he said, “I felt like a student at the end of the master’s fork. Naomi’s vocation was to expose average joes to the fine-dining experience, describing ambiance, ingredients, and preparation.”

Chef Jackson appeared with the second course, Dungeness crab wrapped in lettuce, light citrus hints lurking within. Our wine was a Rhône blend from Sunset Cove in Washington state.

The next part of the meal we dubbed “The Oyster Cult”: oysters with Meyer lemon and mignonette. They were all velvety tenderness, as sensual as a first kiss. Every other oyster was adorned with a Meyer lemon foam. Samurai Jim and Fred, though not oyster fans, fought over the last one via “Rock, Paper, Scissors,” Naomi’s favored decision-making process.

Michelle recalled a quote from one of Naomi’s reviews: “These are about the sexiest oysters I’ve ever eaten, really an aphrodisiac. A dozen and I’d go nympho.”

“As enjoyable as the meals were,” Michelle continued, “Naomi was usually in a hurry to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the most delightful evenings we ever had occurred after a meal at J’six with Fred and Jim. I suggested we enjoy a cordial on the rooftop. To our surprise, Naomi agreed. She regaled us with stories of her sensual adventures. How she’d traveled across the U.S. to get home and write. One of the...”
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“We were riding the bayside bike track and came across it.”

If I’d known then what I know now, I might have stuck to life east of the I-5. I swear, what a hike. I get off the Blue Line trolley at 24th Street, National City. Pretty much dark already, around 6:00 p.m. I head south to Mile of Cars Way, turn right, head west, dive under the trolley, and then under the I-5, and come out into a different country, feels like.

There are a couple of buildings on the left, like a new Best Western motel and an ancient railroad depot. Oh, yeah, I remember now. This is the National City Depot. Where the transcontinental railroad was supposed to end. It’s been here since...what, 1882? Whatever, today, we’ve got Best Western, the Depot, and then...nothing.

Now I’m hiking south down this lonely road called Marina Way. Gloomy. Complete silence except for crickets. Bushes seem to be climbing over the fence, reaching out to grab you.

Must’ve walked a mile, almost, and then, ‘round a bend, the next thing I see is...Tijuana! You come to the end of the road, and the beginning of the water, and there’s this blaze of lights, shimmering like spilled diamonds: TJ, on the near horizon.

Up close, a big sign reads “Pier 32 Marina.”

Another reads “Waterfront Grill.”

I pass a sculptured skeleton of a boat, and then decks with tables and chairs and a little artificial white-sand beach with half a dozen Adirondack chairs facing the bay. This would be so cool on a sunny day.

By now I can make out the marina. Hundreds of boats, some pretty flashy, some looking like they’ve traveled hard.

I walk along a frontage with taut canvas awnings and white umbrellas folded for the night. Upstairs on the deck of the marina building, I spot this lady grilling chicken and potatoes on a BBQ. Name’s Kimberly. Turns out she lives on a boat that’s moored in this marina. Has just sailed around...the world! With her husband. Is cooking their meal on a grill provided by the marina. She says a lot of folks live aboard here.

She points me to a door. “Open,” it reads. A moment later, I’m in the warmth of the—whew!—Waterfront Grill.

I flop back in a chair and check the menu. Hey hey! Derreck, the guy in charge, says it’s still happy hour. Main deals I see are $2 domestic beers and $2 fish tacos. I order a beer and a taco, just to get going, and cast my eye over the menu he passes me.

Hmm... Non-happy-hour chow is a little more up there. Fish is a big deal. Like, even in the appetizer section, the lobster taquitos cost $8.50, sesame-smeared ahi is $9.95, and three Angus beef sliders go for $9.95. In the serious-entrée section, grilled swordfish is $19.95. The flat-iron steak with baked potato and veggies costs $18.95.

A five-strong, three-generation family at the next table says this is their first time here. “We were riding the bayside bike track and came across it,” says David Owens, the dad.

His own dad, David (“Bud”), has had “British fish and chips” ($9.95). “Good,” he says. “Really good.”

David Junior had the “New, bigger ½-lb. beef burger” ($10.50). “I’d’ve liked it rarer,” he says, “but it was good.”

I down my fish taco (delish, crispy), glug of garlic fries or salad — bean salad, potato salad, or coleslaw. For no particular reason, I have to order “Half-pounder burger and bean salad” ($10.50). “I’d been looking to get something to eat,” he says. “We’d been talking about it...you know.”

My burger is a major hit with Carla. Also, I’m curious, because it sounds delish: half-pound patty, with roasted garlic aioli, red-leaf lettuce, tomato, onion fritters, and blue cheese (I could have gotten smoked gouda, mozzarella, or pepper jack). It comes with a side of garlic fries or salad — bean salad, potato salad, or coleslaw. For no particular reason, I go for the bean salad.

I go for the bean salad.

Happy hour (Friday, 3:00 p.m.–sunset) includes $2 domestic bottled beers, $2 fish tacos; everyday dishes include lobster taquitos (appetizer size, $8.50), sesame-smeared ahi ($9.95), three Angus beef sliders ($8.95), flat-iron steak with baked potato, veggies ($18.95), grilled swordfish ($19.95), fish and chips ($9.95), ½-lb. beef burger ($10.50)

Lunch only Monday–Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; Friday, 11:00 a.m.–sunset; Saturday–Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–sunset

The Place: Pier 32 Waterfront Grill, 3201 Marina Way, at Pier 32 Marina, National City, 619-718-6240

The Owens family was riding the bayside bike path and stopped in.

Then, just when I could walk away only seven bucks poorer, I decide I have to order their beef burger to go, for ten, eleven more. For Carla. Also, I’m curious, because it sounds delish: half-pound patty, with roasted garlic aioli, red-leaf lettuce, tomato, onion fritters, and blue cheese (I could have gotten smoked gouda, mozzarella, or pepper jack). It comes with a side of garlic fries or salad — bean salad, potato salad, or coleslaw. For no particular reason, I go for the bean salad.

I hate to leave, actually. I’d love to come back at sunset, drink some Green Flash (which they have), and watch for the green flashes.

Meanwhile, all I’ve got to do is make that long walk back.

Sigh. Come on, boots.

P.S. The burger is a major hit with Carla. And for the chunk she gives me, it’s not just good because of the huge patty and laddings of blue cheese, but because of that bean salad. Man, was that ever an unconscious master stroke. Black beans, garbanzos, red and green chili-pepper chunks, tomato, and pineapple. On impulse, I stuff it all into the burger and, presto: the luscious, tart and tasty National City Boiger is born! ■
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Former Ritual Tavern Chef Is Off to Liberty Station
If you are a fan of the cuisine at Ritual Tavern, first off, I think you have good taste. Second, be sure to get over there soon. Chef Brandon Brooks has officially tendered his resignation, but his responsibly sourced cuisine will be available through January 28 as he plays out his stretch at the North Park eatery. Brooks has taken a position as “chef and local food connoisseur” with Sol Markets, a new business to debut in Liberty Station. Under construction in a renovated NTC fire station, Sol will be a new type of grocery store offering items procured almost exclusively from local producers. (Look for more on this new business in a Reader post next week.)

Brooks will serve eight-to-ten small plates daily that change frequently, in concert with the market’s bounty. Sol Markets will be located at 2855 Perry Road.

Oceanside to Consider Opening Roads to Gourmet Food Trucks
The Oceanside City Council will discuss amending city code to allow food trucks to operate in the city to address those concerns. Tonight, city staff will return with those recommendations, which include allowing food trucks to operate on residential streets for no more than one hour on any one block and prohibiting the trucks from serving food within 500 feet of existing restaurants, schools, park concession stands, and special events.

The council meets at 4 p.m. Posted Jan. 4, by Dorian Hargrove

First of Three New Brian Malarkey Restos Opening January 8
If it seems chef Brian Malarkey is everywhere these days, that’s because he is. After the runaway success of he and partner James Brennan’s first restaurant, downtown’s Searsucker, the duo moved north to La Mesa on Sunday, January 8. Described as an “urban-cowboy diner,” the venue is envisioned to increase the liveliness of La Mesa Boulevard.

The food should be an upgrade as well. Chef de cuisine Ryan Studebaker, who’s coming over from Del Mar’s Prepkitchen, will be presenting a meaty menu based on various styles of barbecue — straight-up, sandwich-style, smoked, and more.

Offerings will include such dishes as Julian hard-cider-infused pork shoulder with fried kale; venison osso bucco made with stout beer, chipotles, and chocolate; and a brisket made with “Mama’s Dry Rub.” Lunch will be offered, featuring salads, sandwiches, dogs, and sausages.

So what’s with all the cowboy stuff? Many don’t know Malarkey beyond his 2007 appearance on Top Chef, but he actually grew up on a horse ranch.

One thing that’s out of character about Gingham is the fact that everything’s under $20, making this the most affordable of the chef’s venues. Gingham is located at 8384 La Mesa Boulevard.

Posted Jan. 4, by Brandon Hernández

Oceanside welcomes food trucks to the neighborhood, as long as they stay 500 feet from existing restaurants and concessions.

I figured just everybody’s getting in on the action out there, so that makes sense. Then he said “La Mesa,” and my eyebrow raised.

As it turns out, the latter location will be the first to debut when Gingham (who knew cowpokes were so into fashion and fabrics?) opens in the spot formerly occupied by Gio Wine Bar in downtown La Mesa on Sunday, January 8.

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Get your walkin’ boots on...

At the mouth of the Sweetwater River, in the badlands west of the I-5, National City kinda surprises you with a brand-new facility beside a yacht basin. It’s a place where all the yacht owners and live-aboard can do their washing, cook meals on shore, and socialize at the restaurant, the Waterfront Grill at Pier 32 (3201 Marina Way).

Till recently they had a pretty sweet happy hour Monday through Friday that went great with the sunsets you’d get, looking south towards Tijuana and west towards, well, Hawaii. Heck, they even had Green Flash beer that goes kinda well when you’re sitting there waiting to catch the real green flashes on the horizon.

The main happy hour deals have always been $2 beers such as Miller Genuine Draft and $2 fish tacos. And good, crispy fish tacos at that. Especially when the main dishes go from about $9 to $19.

Only two problems: one, it’s a heckuva walk from the nearest bus/trolley stop (at 8th Street), and two, they’ve cut way back on their hours. Nowadays they’re only open for lunch through the week, so happy hour’s only on Fridays (3 p.m. to sunset) through the winter months. Come spring and summer, they promise to make it an everyday thing again.

But on a Friday, it’s definitely worth it, just to sit out on deck, sip suds, crunched the battered cod in the taco, and watch ol’ Huey sink into Big Blue. If you can spring 11 bucks, this 1/2-lb. burger and its dee-lish bean salad are way worth it. See more in this week’s Tin Fork.

Posted Jan. 4, by Ed Bedford

Dinner at the Movies: Cinepolis Del Mar Luxury Cinema
One of the pleasures of the holiday season is going...
headed up to Del Mar to see action movies. So John and I to see big, loud, explosion-filled Renner’s in it, so off we went.

at Cinepolis Luxury Cinema in downtown’s Marina District. Our ticket was $22 for adults.

and the usual popcorn, candy, except: reserved stadium seating, no service either. No problem. We look over the menu, the movie starts, and we get some popcorn, but no, they house. “I asked if we could at least bring you a soft drink on the truck didn’t come yet. But we’ll well, we figure, we don’t know in that case. I almost never throw food away, but I made an exception in this.

First Impressions: The Lion’s Share

Last month I was psyched to announce that the Lion’s Share, a craft-cocktail bar with a game-meat menu, had opened in downtown’s Marina District.

The fuel for my excitement was that the kitchen is being headed by executive chef Lhasa Landry, whose résumé includes stops at Red Velvet, Cafe Chloe, Blanca, and Starlite. Those are some good testing grounds for the type of food — thoughtful, heightened, classic-meets-comfort — that she’s putting out amidst the low-lit environs of her new territory. I had to check it out.

I can’t comment on the cocktails — I was there to get drunk on food. With a menu including everything from bar snacks to pasta to composed meat dishes and desserts fit for a splurgy luxury eater, there were plenty of options.

I started out with the potato puffs, spheres of creamy mashed potatoes fried to a crisp golden brown. Sprinkled with fleur de sel and served alongside a tangy malt vinegar aioli, they are the perfect appetizer. Sure, it doesn’t seem complicated — we’re talking fried spuds here — but these puffs are executed to perfection. Everything about them is spot-on, from the dual textures to the seasoning.

A pair of entrées followed. The first was a nicely presented plate of bourbon-glazed wild boar ribs that were cooked to just the right amount of doneness — a rarity with this protein, which often gets served well over optimal medium-rareness, which converts it to a dry, chewy, and largely tasteless mess. The cider-glaze was sweet, but not so much that it overpowered the boar. The other components on the plate, slaw and sweet potato mash, made for a solid and logical supporting cast.

On the other end of the main-dish spectrum was the Animal Style burger, which I felt compelled to order. With burgers as ubiquitous as they are in America’s Finest, all offerings must be taken on and treated as a bit of a measuring stick...especially when it’s $20.

What do you get in return for a Jackson? Quite a bit, and not plain-Jane tomatoes, iceberg, and American cheese. Landry’s decadent carnivore’s dream piles crisp-shallots atop a hefty grass-fed duck egg, smoked cheddar, and crispy shallots atop a hefty grass-fed patty sourced from a ranch in Paso Robles. Each protein-rich bite brings every element into play, making for a solid flavor
Let’s Do Lonche

I was talking to Nathalie the other night. She’s one of the waitresses at this place, the oldest eatery in Old Town, they claim, and I can believe it: La Piñata eatery in Old Town, they claim, and I was talking to Nathalie the other night. Let’s Do Lonche.

I’ve met fliers, Pacific adventurers, guys who knew Baja when you needed a four-wheel drive, and a bunch of folks who got turned off when Old Town Plaza itself veered into the run-by-a-company-from-New-York thing a few years back.


Today I’m gonna try their lonche special: two enchiladas with rice, beans, and sour cream ($8.95). Standard, as is the patio. Standard Mexican: totally color-ful, leaving most others in the dust.

The Lion’s Share is located at 629 Kettner Boulevard.

Posted Jan. 3, by Brandon Hernández

The Last Piece of the Del Mar’s Puzzle Is in Place

Over the past several months, I have been trying to keep up with all of the human-resources activity going on along one block of Camino del Mar, from 15th Street to Lauberge Del Mar. That stretch includes a number of restaurants, three of which — Flavor Del Mar, Pacifica Del Mar, and Lauberge Del Mar’s Kitchen 1540 — have experienced recent changes in kitchen leadership.

Jason Maitland, the chef who opened Flavor to much anticipation, parted ways with ownership, leaving the post open for new executive chef Brian Redzkiowski. Maitland is poised to resurface when his new eatery, Red Light District, debuts downtown.

Pacifica Del Mar lost its lead toque when Evan Cruz was lured across the street to Kitchen 1540 by Lauberge. He is now a sous chef there, and Mark Bolton has since taken over at PDM with solid results.

Kitchen 1540 had perhaps the most surprising act in this play when executive chef Paul McCabe bid Lauberge farewell, moving to a restaurant where he could have control as well as a stake in the business as a partner. He’s now cooking up new food to go with a renovated dining room at Rancho Santa Fe’s Delicias.

Back at 1540, they just selected the chef who’ll take McCabe’s place. His name is Scott Thomas Dolbee, and he comes to Del Mar from Canada. His last post was as executive chef at the Four Seasons Resort Whistler in British Columbia.

For now, it looks like every-thing’s sewn up and everybody’s happy on this luxurious block. Eh, the year’s still young.

Posted Jan. 6, by Brandon Hernández

Soul Food

“As my dad was dying, six years ago,” says Star, “he made me promise that I wouldn’t sell, that I’d keep the place going as is.”

Star Thompson, Ben Chaudoin, and I are standing outside the Star Bar (423 E Street, 619-234-5575), as night comes down on downtown.

Star is dressed like a well, stellar. She’s all glamour, the last person you’d expect to be running a genuine dive bar. Ben’s here to help run things and provide a bit of muscle. But you don’t feel this is one of those tough places, just an old-fashioned haunt.

“Oh, yes, I’ve had a bunch of offers to sell this place,” says Star. “But I promised my dad. And kinda promised the customers, too. Because this is important to a lot of people. Dad opened this three months after I was born. He named it after me. Before that it was called the High Seas Bar.”

I couldn’t have designed this place better. It’s one long, dark, noisy-but-friendly-once-you-get-acclimatized sorta place. From all the tensions of downtown, here you can just go wahoo and let yourself settle for a while and rest up for your next assault on the world.

No, they don’t have food beyond chips, or my great discovery, the popcorn. But they must be doing something right. The more you talk, the more you discover that people have been coming in here for forever.

Posted Jan. 6, by Ed Bedford

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Forbidden Love: Sprinkles Cupcakes
I have a confession to make: I love cupcakes. There, I’ve said it. I’ve loved them ever since my mother sent me to kindergart-ten with a box, homemade and decorated like miniature Easter baskets, with tinted coconut “grass” and jelly bean “eggs.” They even had a chenille wire “handle.” Clearly, this was in the olden days, before school treats required vetting by the USDA, the FDA, OSHA, and the FBI.

They were a huge hit, and what five-year-old wouldn’t revel in the unbridled joy her birthday delicacy unleashed among her classmates? My affection for cupcakes has remained undimmed, even though they have appeared on every “Top Ten Food Trends That Must Die” list for the past decade.

Which brings me to Sprinkles Cupcakes, located at 8855 Villa La Jolla Drive in the Shops at La Jolla Village Shopping Center. I may love cupcakes, but I’m picky. One hint of dry cake, greasy icing, gloppy filling, and I’m out. I was going to be. No picky. One hint of dry cake, greasy icing, gloppy filling, and I’m out.

Sprinkles cupcakes are as cute as a speckled pup, but not so cute that you’d feel silly serving them to a group of dudes. The young ladies were enthusiastic and helpful and waited patiently while I decided what I wanted. Red Velvet, another top contender for Most Hated Food status, is their most popular. Black and White takes second honor. I ended up taking a good bit of it home. John and I were strolling around the shops, and after several months of watching the line that forms outside their door, I decided it was time to take the plunge.

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Eating at the Fig Tree is like a facelift, with a newly renovated interior and a liberal shower of untoasted cocoa flavors melding perfectly with the white cream cheese icing and a liberal shower of untoasted sweetened cocoa. It’s refreshing to have a cupcake when the cake part tastes as good as the icing. Sprinkles Cupcakes won’t change your life. But, at $3.50 a pop, they are an inexpensive and delicious way of spreading joy.

Breakfast on the Patio: The Fig Tree Cafe
John and I were strolling around Pacific Beach a while back when we noticed a crowd of people waiting to get into the Fig Tree Cafe, 5119 Cass Street. It was pretty inside, and the menu looked good, but we just eaten. It was going to be. No picky. One hint of dry cake, greasy icing, gloppy filling, and I’m out.

According to their website, the owners of Urban Plates spent two years traveling and researching their concept, which they say is “farm to plate and won’t break you’ d feel silly serving them to a group of dudes. The young ladies were enthusiastic and helpful and waited patiently while I decided what I wanted. Red Velvet, another top contender for Most Hated Food status, is their most popular. Black and White takes second honor. I ended up taking a good bit of it home. John and I were strolling around the shops, and after several months of watching the line that forms outside their door, I decided it was time to take the plunge.

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San Diego was just paranoid (and a little but it felt as if we were being robbed in their office stealing receipts a few more pictures. It’s not like I shouldn’t be too worried about a promise.

I gave it a bitter, acrid taste. The inside and outside of the roll was dry and lacked any distinct flavor. The beef and mushrooms and leeks were okay but nothing special. Those chips, though, were really good. Fried golden brown in rice oil, though, they were really good.

What the next revolution in food will be, I have no idea. I do know that Urban Plates isn’t likely to be a part of it.

Jesse James Drank Here
I’m back in the barrio, heading down César Chávez toward the trolley. I walk past ye olde brick building that was Chuey’s bar-trolley. I walk past ye olde brick building that was Chuey’s bar-trolley. I walk past ye olde brick building that was Chuey’s bar-trolley. I walk past ye olde brick building that was Chuey’s bar-trolley.

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Two Convenient Locations!
**Amazing Bass**. “I had sent him a text around 1:30 in the afternoon.” Lemon Grove prog-rocker Andy Gorman needed a bass player, and Gorman wanted Tim Garcia for the date. That was Thursday, December 22. “I told him that Id pick him up.”

**blurt**

Garcia, he says, was without transportation. “At about 6:30 p.m., I finally got a text back from him: ‘Yeehaw! When and where?’ The gig was finalized but would never be performed. In fact, that would be the last time Gorman would hear from his old friend. Garcia, 53, was pronounced dead at an area hospital later that night after suffering a massive heart attack.

Gorman got the news by telephone from a mutual friend the next day while on his way to a Christmas party. “Dude, I said, you got it wrong. No. Bullshit.”

**Tim Garcia’s (left) latest project was a Kiss tribute.**

There’s a garage behind Gorman’s house that was converted into a music room. For much of this past year, the studio served as Tim Garcia’s home. “I had him here for eight months.” A drum kit takes up much of the space; guitars hang on the walls. Gor- man stops at a cheap electric bass. “He called this one Fifty Buck Chuck.” Gorman won’t elaborate, but he says that Garcia had fallen on hard times. He slept on patio cushions but for the most part was in good humor. “He was on his way back up.”

In recent years, Paul Timothy Garcia played numerous pick-up gigs around town with bands such as the Crabs, City Limits, and a Kiss tribute. But he made his name back in 1977 when Stephen Pearcy formed Mickey Ratt in San Diego, a band with a revolving door in which Garcia was the founding bassist. In the days following Garcia’s death, Pearcy posted the following on his Facebook page: “Tim was an amazing bass player. Even the first day auditioning him for the band in 1977 playing [Led] Zeppelin’s ‘Immigrant Song,’[lead guitarist] Chris Hager and I were blown away. We found our man. He was so dedicated,[he] read music, played anything we showed him. He remembered every song and parts that Chris and I would forget even to this day. We always kicked ass with Tim, and he was always willing to be a partner in crime.”

Peary also wrote this: “Life is short. Let’s appreciate even those we have trouble understanding due to substance abuse who are our loved ones or friends.”

In 1980 Mickey Ratt moved to L.A. and became Ratt but Garcia stayed behind. “He had a baby...and a day job,” says Gorman. “He missed the fucking boat. It was a shame.” But Garcia was not without friends. In 2009, when Hager started Uncle Junkie, he would enlist, if temporarily, the help of his old band mate.

Garcia moved out of Gorman’s studio and headed north at the end of October. By November he had taken up residence somewhere in Rancho Bernardo and found work as a live-in caregiver. Less than two months later, Garcia was discovered in his room, unresponsive. He is survived by his children Adriana Garcia Magadan, Chris Garcia, and Janelle Garcia, and grandchildren Alex Garcia and Avelina Magadan. — Dave Good

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**Galactic Love.** “I had to wait for my contract to expire with [TV talent show] Platinum Hit, but my sophomore album Space.Bar.Love is finally being released,” says singer/ songwriter Amber Ojeda. Though she didn’t win the Bravo network competition, she says, “The show was a crazy whirlwind. I learned a lot, I grew a lot, and I also realized how important it is to speak my mind if I don’t believe in the integrity of a song. I could have used a lot more sleep, a little more wine, and a stronger stomach for people being rude to each other.”

No stranger to TV — she played a recurring role in the locally-shot series Veronica Mars — Ojeda has an opinion as to why some televised competitions succeed while so many others fail. “I think the bottom line for TV reality shows is that people want to be involved. The shows that achieve great success are due to the fact that people love to feel responsible for the artists’ success.”

The former San Diego Gulls Girl released the first single from Space.Bar.Love, “Galactic Love,” last summer, but her deal with Platinum Hit precluded releasing the full-length until the end of the year. “As far as the album title goes, I really pondered what would represent this eclectic body of work. Space references my fascination with the sky. Bar has a double meaning, the obvious one and the space bar on a computer keyboard. There’s a song on the album called “F13” that depicts a broken relationship and the desperation toward trying to connect with someone, even if it may only be through social media. Love, of course, represents the driving force behind everything.”

The full-length is a digital-only release. “I’ve always leaned toward releasing music via the internet. As a consumer, I rarely purchase (continued on page 74)
now you know: 

Clockart: “The San Diego scene for our sound is all right,” says Beejay Buduan, guitarist and songwriter in Clockart, over coffee at Twiggs on Park Boulevard. “It’s more of a rock city. It was getting pretty big here, the whole beach, chillwave thing. Bands like Dirty Gold and TV Girl happened, and the scene got a lot bigger, but it’s kind of dying now.”

Y’all ‘member chillwave? The more-or-less made-up genre was termed by a Hipster Runoff blogger to describe a handful of unrelated bands sharing a synth-heavy, ambient, new-wave sound driven by danceable beats.

Blogger Carles likened it to “something playing in the background of an old VHS cassette that you found in your attic from the late ‘80s/’90s,” and, for a few months around the summer of 2009, it was the raddest thing on the planet. Employing dual Telecasters, a Micro Korg, a Roland sampler, live and programmed drums, and ample pedal effects, Clockart finds an ethereal, lo-fi, chillwave-y, nu-gaze-y, dream-poppy sound defined by processed signals and synths/singer Allie Underwood’s reverber-soaked vocals.

“We use lots of chorus,” says Beejay. “Kind of that ‘80s Bee Gees thing.”

The five-piece band (local SDSU and City College kids ranging from 20 to 23 years old) cites influences including Clockart’s started decorating their second EP, says Beejay. “She had me after listing ‘something playing in the background of an old VHS cassette that you found in your attic from the late ‘80s/’90s,” and, for a few months around the summer of 2009, it was the raddest thing on the planet. Employing dual Telecasters, a Micro Korg, a Roland sampler, live and programmed drums, and ample pedal effects, Clockart finds an ethereal, lo-fi, chillwave-y, nu-gaze-y, dream-poppy sound defined by processed signals and synths/singer Allie Underwood’s reverber-soaked vocals.

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Time decorators Beejay and Allie will “end up a Bee Gees cover band.”

Cocteau Twins, the Sundays, Dominant Legs, Twin Sister, Washed Out, Toro y Moi, and Small Black, but, says Allie, “Somehow we always end practice with a Bee Gees cover. “Beejay — he writes all the instrumentation — describes our sound as ‘bliss.’ For me, it’s

about nostalgia for things that don’t exist anymore. Or never existed.”

“Like relationships?” offers Beejay.

“Take a more guy approach,” Beejay concludes. “She’s more about feelings.”

“We were going to be called Clock Heart, but they thought it was too girly,” says Allie. “It’s from the Wizard of Oz — ‘Hearts will never be practical until they can be made unbreakable.’ But Clockart is cool, too, because music is decorated time.”

Now in the process of recording their second EP, Clockart started decorating time together a year ago when Allie posted a bandmates-wanted ad on Craigslist. “She had me after listing Beach House as an influence,” says Beejay. “We started chillwave,” says Allie, “but now we’re more of a ‘70s thing.”

“Let’s just face it,” says bassist Grant Gilbert, “we’re going to end up a Bee Gees cover band.”

— Chad Deal

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Thursday 12
Natty Chula Venstans the Beautiful View will drop their Requiemme Records debut. Life is Beautiful, at Casbah tonight. TBV’s well-appointed pop sounds like alt-radio (think Killers, Interpol) but smells like rock in Gucci shoes. Soul sister Lady Dottie and her Diamonds headline, and with up-and-coming psych-pop bands Sundrop Electric and Fresno’s Strange Vine opening the show, these’ll be the sets to see.... Best of the rest: garage punks the Native get restless at Eleven with the Last Years and Kodiar, making for one tick-trick bill. Shakedown sets up San Diego hardcore hit’s Rat City Riot and Dirty Filthy Mugs... While Tin Can Ale House stages eclectic sets by ambient experimentalists Kill the Moon, the proggy Brian Ellis Group, and SanFran psych-rock band Glitter Wizard.

Friday 13
Who better to spend Friday the 13th with than them organ-grinding danse macabre re’do- do’s the Creepy Creeps, when “all hell breaks loose at the Ti-Two Club.” The surf-rock zombies will be joined by garage-rock dance bands the Widows, Woolly Mammoth, and DJ Mikey Ratt spinning ‘round sets.... Else: top-shelf indie-rockers Everett join our own bar-brand Midnight Rivals at Casbah. Everett has a newborn roots-pop release in On Approach that got lost in the Dawes last year. Check out 2008’s Ghost Notes for Everett’s groovy peaks. You can flip or click to Dave’s “Of Note” on the Dirt Daubers show at Soda Bar. They’re playing with the Two Man Gentleman Band and Restaurant... Latin-jazz percussionist Pete Escovedo y Familia will entertain Anthology for two nights this weekend.... The guitarists guitarist Allan Holdsworth and his band will stack ‘em up at Brick by Brick as they kick off a string of SoCal dates. Zappa said Holdsworth was/is “one of the most interesting guys on guitar on the planet”.... Soma stages O.B. ragga punks Slightly Stoopid with L.A. ska band the Aggrolites. Pocket will turn out the funk ‘n’ jazz jams at Bar Pink.... Synth-punks Stalins of Sound and Uzi Rash infect Tower Bar.... And up in the Loft at UCSD, it’ll be local folkies Trouble in the Wind and the Wheeler Brothers.

Saturday 14
Them primal-urge pokin’ Bloody Hollies will celebrate the release of their new CD, Yours Until the Bitter End, at Soda Bar with fellow garage punks Los Hollywood and the Lyon Crowns. If you missed Mary’s recent piece on the Hollies Down Under, dig through this for “If You Want Blood.”: sundiegoreader.com/news/blurt/ for 30(!) years, Roosevelt, Ne’er-Do-Well’s Everett number one, Chuck D, has been rocking the mic with his crew Flava Flav, Professor Griff, DJ Lord, and the S1W. Public Enemy’s permanent fixture on the critics’ lists of “greatest,” “most recommended,” and “most influential” artists of all time and is always the highest-ranked hip-hop group, topping the D.M.C. and Beasties, both of whom claim Public Enemy as a top-hop influence on their style of scratch, hype, and sociopolitical platforming. Flava may have diluted his cachet running his mouth all over TV and mugging over his big bling clock, but he’s still the wack-est hipman rolling. Public Enemy appears at 4th&B fronting this year’s Most of Our Heroes Don’t Appear on a Stamp, so, Yo! Bum Rush the Show.... And American funk and soul jazz saxophonist Maceo Parker, best known for his work with James Brown in the 1960s and Parliament-Funkadelic in the 1970s, will be at Anthology behind his Ray Charles tribute, Roots and Grooves.... Utter mentionables: Belly Up puts on electro-rock duo the Handsome Funs and Snake-suit, like-minded locals D/Wolves open that show... DC dig punx, the mysterious Max Levine Ensemble gather at Che Cafe with Summer Vacation, Tiny Lungs, and Sledding with Tigers...while soul sister Tori Roze sells her Hot Mess all over Bar Pink after Heavy Guilt and SanFran band Con Brio.

Sunday 15
For 300 years, Roosevelt, NY’s Public Enemy number one, Chuck D, has been rocking the mic with his crew Flava Flav, Professor Griff, DJ Lord, and the S1W. Public Enemy’s permanent fixture on the critics’ lists of “greatest,” “most recommended,” and “most influential” artists of all time and is always the highest-ranked hip-hop group, topping the D.M.C. and Beasties, both of whom claim Public Enemy as a top-hop influence on their style of scratch, hype, and sociopolitical platforming. Flava may have diluted his cachet running his mouth all over TV and mugging over his big bling clock, but he’s still the wack-est hipman rolling. Public Enemy appears at 4th&B fronting this year’s Most of Our Heroes Don’t Appear on a Stamp, so, Yo! Bum Rush the Show.... And American funk and soul jazz saxophonist Maceo Parker, best known for his work with James Brown in the 1960s and Parliament-Funkadelic in the 1970s, will be at Anthology behind his Ray Charles tribute, Roots and Grooves.... Utter mentionables: Belly Up puts on electro-rock duo the Handsome Funs and Snake-suit, like-minded locals D/Wolves open that show... DC dig punx, the mysterious Max Levine Ensemble gather at Che Cafe with Summer Vacation, Tiny Lungs, and Sledding with Tigers...while soul sister Tori Roze sells her Hot Mess all over Bar Pink after Heavy Guilt and SanFran band Con Brio.

Monday 16
There will be an Anti-Monday extraordinary as local faves Silent Comedy and Transfer wrap up a long weekend at the Middletown mainstay. For you laggards who couldn’t make it out, this’d be a fine night to catch these San Diego standouts. The rising Dead Feather Moon up first.

Tuesday 17
Soda Bar puts on Sundress, a five-piece psych-pop act from Denton, Texas. According to advance press, “Sundress’ brand of ethereal dream-pop marries many influences, ranging from Pink Floyd and the Beatles to Slowdive and Sparklehorse.” Reading along the popular tags: shoegaze, deep bass, squalling guitars, Grizzly Bear, Bloody Valentine, and especially pretty sundress. The band’s out to tout its new self-titled, self-released EP Dancing Strangers and Pilots land first.

Wednesday 18
American minimalist composer Steve Reich celebrates his 75th birthday at the Conrad Prebys Concert Hall at UCSD with New York’s eclectic Bang on a Can All-Stars, red fish blue fish, Steven Schick, with a rare appearance by Reich. The ensemble will perform an evening of Reich’s work, including Music for 18 Musicians, one of “a handful of late-20th-century works that can rightly claim to have altered the course of Western music,” says the press release. According to my office, C-dub, “[Reich] is one of the kingpins of minimalism and 20th-century avant-garde. It’s one of a few things that really excites me these days. I know that sounds pathetic.” No, Chris. Not too late to jump in on the Melismatics show at Soda Bar. They’re a nu-wave band from Minneapolis that garnered their chops from the same college-radio gaze (New Order, IAMIC, Big Star, Bowie, Cars) as yours truly. Fun stuff, and with Sundrop Electric and Misspent Warhead Promise setting it up, that’s a pretty tasty triple bill of fare.... Else: indie folkies Olin & the Moon continue their month of humpnights at Casbah...while garage-rock trio the Schizophonics play Bar Pink, and they will, too.

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“You can’t get much better than mixing a theremin and a cello.”

San Diego native Gary Ra’chac spent several years working at Tasha’s Music downtown before becoming a singer-songwriter and radio personality. His songs have been recorded by Ray Brandes and Nick Castro & the Young Elders.

“Lyrically, I’d say my songs are half Gershwin and half gospel. Musically, call it proto-country folk punk or R&B psych. I think that covers it.”

Ra’chac produces the Vince Martell Rocks America radio show from his home in Bankers Hill, though the program hosted by the Vanilla Fudge guitarist airs on WNJC in New York City. He’s also dabbled in record production, music marketing, and journalism — having been an associate of local-bred rock-critic Lester Bangs. The list of local performers he’s worked with includes Chris Hillman (the Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers), to whom Ra’chac presented a Lifetime Achievement award at the 2004 San Diego Music Awards.

He’s accumulated a lot of celebrity tales, and one of his favorites is that of June 13, 1970, the night Who drummer Keith Moon trashed a room at the Mission Bay Hilton Hotel.

“I had hooked up with the band on their first trip through San Diego about a year prior — and especially hit it off with Keith, with whom I shared a love of early surf music — so it was no problem for me to gain access. The band had rented out the entire fifth floor of the Hilton for an after-show party. And party we did, with Keith leading the grand march through the evening festivities.

Yes, I did help Keith Moon drop a sofa, albeit a small sofa, from his hotel room balcony five floors up, to land on top of one of the Who’s equipment trucks.”

And that wasn’t the night’s caper. “At about 3 a.m., me, Keith Moon, bassist John Entwistle, their road manager John Wolff, and a few girls poured into a rented station wagon and went to the all-night drive-through of the Jack in the Box on Morena Boulevard. Entwistle and his girl were in the backseat with Moosie, who was shouting out our order to the clown head at the menu stop. I’ll never forget Keith’s jabbering at the poor nighttime employee trying to take the order, who to this day probably doesn’t realize his brief brush with rock-and-roll greatness.”

Ra’chac is currently in Big Bear with Strawberry Alarm Clock drummer/singer Randy Seel and bassist George Bunnell, editing and mixing an upcoming band album produced by longtime Alarm Clock collaborator Steve Bartek (Oingo Boingo, Danny Elfman).

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?


3. Nicey Nice World, self-titled. “San Diego’s new sensation. You can’t get much better than mixing a theremin and a cello.”


SOMETHING YOU MISS?

“Well, the pre-renovated Gaslamp District in the late ’70s was my cultural Eden at the time, especially along Fifth Avenue from Broadway to Island. I used to hunker down at the Zebra Club, with its great jukebox and two pool tables, long before we made it into the punk hangout and venue it later was remembered for.”

GUILTY MUSICAL PLEASURE?

“Shalamar’s ‘Second Time Around.’ I don’t know why, but I like that tune.”

TELL US ABOUT PARTying WITH LESTER BANGS?

“I was all of 15 or 16, and Lester was in college. We stumbled home in the dark.”

WHAT REMAINS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

1. “Surfing the big-wave breaks at Mavericks.”

2. “Slow dance with Christina Hendricks from Mad Men.”

3. “Party with Amanda Knox.”

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2/25 Johnny Cash B-Day Party
2/26 Amoeba
2/27 Los Lonely Boys
2/28 John Mayall
2/29 Boz Scaggs
3/3 Jackie Greens
3/9 The Green – Polynesian Underground press
3/10 What’s Up? (Michael Jackson Trib)
3/17 MONIQUE: Not Skinny, Not Blonde – Matteo
3/21 Cats
3/28 Galactic feat Corey Glover of Living Colour and Corey Henry w/ The Soul Rebels

2/1 Alabama Shakes
2/2 The Wood Brothers – seated show
1/26 An Intimate Evening with Lucinda Williams – Sold Out!
1/27/28 Ozomatli
1/29 MarchFourth
1/30 The Jayhawks w/ Abigail Washburn
1/31 The Jayhawks w/ Abigail Washburn
2/1 Angels and Airwaves – SOLD OUT!
2/2 Joe Walsh – SOLD OUT!
2/3 Keller Williams
2/4 Martin Sexton
2/5 Dr. Doo
2/9 & 10 Groundation – Bob Marley Tribute Show

**Just Added:**

2/16 Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks - Seated show
3/6 & 3/7 English Beat • 3/20 Lucero - on sale Friday!

**Tickets & Info**

BellyUp.com • 858-481-8140
For presales, contests and other special offers, follow us on:
Facebook twitter and sign up for our VIP email list!

**Tickets go on sale Friday @ noon • presented by: Sunset Sessions**

**Sister Hazel**
Wanderer 1/12 • 8:30PM
with special guests

**40 Oz to Freedom**
(Bad Religion Trib)
FRIDAY 1/13 • 9PM

**Wayward Sons**
(Wag Halen Trib)
SATURDAY 1/14 • 9PM

**Handsome Furs**

**91X Presents**
AGENT 51 AND PIVIT
FRIDAY ON WEDNESDAY FRIDAY 1/20 • 9PM

**Dead Man’s Party**
(Reseanse BOINGO TRIB)
SATURDAY 1/21 • 9PM

**The Steve Morse Band**
WIREVOLTAIRE
SUNDAY 1/22 • 8PM

**Man, Jan 23rd**
Mark Hummel’s Blues Harmonica Blowout

**John Mayall**
Billy Boy Arnold
curtis Salgado
Sugar Ray Norcas
Little Charlie Baty
& Billy Flynn

**Matinee**
1/29 Bayou Brothers • 2/12 Candye Kane

**Happy Hours!**
5:00 PM
1/13 & 1/20 Atomic Groove • 1/27 The Credential

Eat next door at the Wild Note Cafe • 858 720 9000
San Diego January 12, 2012

Little Italy, 619-255-7885.

Duncan Moore drums. $15.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.

Friday, 9pm — The Legacy Pack. Saturday, 9pm — Split Finger.


Sunday, 8pm — Paul Keeling jazz piano, Rob Thorsen bass, Duncan Moore drums. $15.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891.

Thursday, 7:30pm — Sista Monica Parker. CD release. Blues.

Friday, Saturday — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra. Latin jazz.

Sunday, 7pm — Maceo Parker. Funk/soul jazz.

Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Family Stone. Funk rock.

Atheneum Music and Arts Library: 1088 Wall St., La Jolla, 858-454-5872.


Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.

Sunday, 7pm — David Garrett. Classical/crossover violin.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094.

Saturday, 9:30pm — Red Handed. Hardcore/punk.

Bar Pink: 3820 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.

Friday, 9pm — Pocket.

Saturday, 9pm — The Milkcrates.

Sunday, 9pm — Tori Roze & the Hot Mess.

Wednesday, 9pm — Schizophonics and New Kinetics.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.


Carvers Steak & Chops: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.

Friday, 8pm — Point Blank. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — Cover 2 Cover. Free.


Thursday, 8:30pm — The Beautiful View. CD release. With Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, Sundrop Electric, Strange Vine. $8-$10.

Friday, 8:30pm — Evereest and Midnight Rivals. $13-$15.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Sweet & Tender Hooligans. $18-$20.

Sunday, Monday, 8:30pm — The Silent Comedy and Transfer. $15.

Tuesday, 8:30pm — Grammatical B. $5.

Wednesday, 8:30pm — Olin & the Moon. $8.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.


Saturday, 6pm — Plato Soul. ’80s rock. Free.

Sunday, 5pm — Jerome Dawson.

Jazz. Free.


Friday, Saturday, 9pm — Nemesis. Rock covers. Free.

BLOODY HOLLIES: Soda Bar, Saturday, January 14, 8:30 p.m. 619-265-7224. $7.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDRreader.com/notes
The Pedagogy. $7-$10.

Archeology and Friday Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.

Ki's Restaurant:
Club:
Humphreys Backstage Music House of Blues:
Flying Elephant:
Escondido Library:
House:
Escondido Joe’s Coffee Epicentre:
Friday, 8pm — Stone Senses.

Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.

Thursday, 7pm — Rack of Bones

and Candy Kane.

Burnsville blues band,

Ben Powell, Bayou Brothers,

Featuring

Monday, January 23

4084 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.

Patrick’s II:
Pala Casino:
Shakedown Bar:
Soda Bar:
Soma:
Soma:
Soma:
Soma:
Soma:
Soma:
Soma:

Wind and the Wheeler Brothers.

Friday, 8pm — Trouble in the Wind and the Wheeler Brothers.

Americana/country. $5.

Funk. $15.

Blues. $15.

Traditional/big band. $5-$10.

and Dirty Filthy Mugs.

Village Drive #202, Carlsbad, 760-436-5996.

5790 Armada Dr., Carlsbad, 760-434-4112.

July 9, 2012

239 S. Kalmia St., Escondido.

5544.

Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-0373.

Thursday, 7pm — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players. Blues.

Free.

212.

7pm • Scorchin’ Blues

5790 Armada Dr., Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.

Monday, January 16

7pm • Blues

Missy Anderson

Tuesday, January 17

7pm • Scorchin’ Blues

Michele Lundeen

Wednesday, January 18

7pm • Singer Songwriter

Barfly Promotion Presents Amanda Portella, Chris Carpenter, Danny & the Tramp & Brandon Joshua

Upcoming

Monday, January 23

Red White & Blues food drive and fundraiser:

Featuring

Ben Powell, Bayou Brothers, Burnsville blues band, Chet & the committee and Candy Kane.

At The Horton Grand Theatre

$25 WEDS

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Todo Mundo

7pm • Latin Rock

Friday, January 13

7pm • Brass Band

Euphoria Brass Band

9pm • New Orleans Funk

Rosie Ledet

Saturday, January 14

9:30pm • Blues

Rod Piazza

Red River F. St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.

Traditional/big band. $5-$10.

and a rhythm section.

Trombone Choir. 12 trombones and a rhythm section. Traditional/big band. $5-$10.


Thursday, 7pm — Rockola.

Classic-rock covers. $12.

Bill Magee Blues & the Midnight Players. Blues.

Deluxe Blues Band. Blues/funk.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temescal Rd., Pala, 877-946-3508.

Saturday, 9pm — West of 5. Classic and current rock covers.

Free.


Saturday, 1pm — Rack of Bones Trombone Choir. 12 trombones and a rhythm section. Traditional/big band. $5-$10.

Free.

Boston/Styx tribute.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.

Bill Magee Blues Band.

Free.
BY DAVE GOOD

The Dirt Daubers came to be because the organizers of the Raindance film festival in London couldn’t afford airfare for the Legendary Shack Shakers. Colonel J.D. Wilkes is a member of both bands. “It started off as a side project with me and my wife [Jessica] singing around the house,” Wilkes says of the new band, which Wilkes made the Daubers (now a trio as backwoods rags and hillbilly hollers, Harlem jazz, cowboy music, and honky-tonk. “My wife and I, we write the rest. And Jessica’s songs, the ones she sings, are getting popular.” He laughs. “I guess I created a monster.” The Daubers sometimes open for the Shakers. It’s a nice pay day, but even the Colonel admits that having both bands on the same bill is heavy lifting. “It’s one of those things. I gotta pace myself.”

THE DIRT DAUBERS: Soda Bar, Friday, January 13, 8:30 p.m. 619-285-7224. $8 advance; $10 day of sale.

Music to hear:

1. The Dirt Daubers
2. The Daytonas
3. The Monkees
4. The Shapiros
5. The Knits
6. The Target
7. The Invisibles
8. The Meters Experience
9. The Shakers
10. The Beatles

Condensed:

The Dirt Daubers
1. The Daytonas
2. The Monkees
3. The Knits
4. The Shapiros
5. The Meters Experience
6. The Shakers
7. The Beatles

The Daytonas
1. The Monkees
2. The Knits
3. The Shapiros
4. The Meters Experience
5. The Shakers
6. The Beatles

The Knits
1. The Shapiros
2. The Meters Experience
3. The Shakers
4. The Beatles

The Shapiros
1. The Meters Experience
2. The Shakers
3. The Beatles

The Meters Experience
1. The Shakers
2. The Beatles

The Shakers
1. The Beatles
San Diego Reader | January 12, 2012

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**JAN 13-14**

**Tonight’s Show**

**CHELSEA LATELY**

**Dennis Regan**

**JAN 27-28**

**Michael “Wheels” Parise**

**FEB 3-4**

**Craig Shoemaker**

**The Love Master**

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**San Diego Reader**

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**83**

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**Anthology**

**FINE-TUNED MUSIC & CUISINE**

**Blues**

**1/12**

**Sista Monica**

**Former Miramar Based Marine**

**Latin Jazz**

**1/13, 14**

**Pete Escovedo y Familia**

**Funk Jazz**

**1/15**

**Maceo Parker**

**Tickets Going Fast!**

**Get Your Tickets Now!**

**1/18**

**The Family Stone w/ Original Members Jerry Martini Cynthia Robinson & Greg Errico**

**1/19**

**Johnny A**

**1/20**

**John Cruz**
EVE Ryone'S A CRITIC

Knife Man
Andrew Jackson Jihad
By Brett Uddeberg

While peddling fare such as the burdens of loneliness and self-loathing, Andrew Jackson Jihad also explores the plight of the homeless en route to one of last year's most human releases. Through 16 folk-punk constructions, frontman Sean Bonnette dissects all the pain in the world from a variety of nuanced avenues. He speaks of creating music in lieu of therapy, and with all the cynical misery tucked into the notes, one would hope it's working. The duo's gritty Americana-infused ramblings are equal parts inspiring and humorous, as evidenced by lead-off track "The Michael Jordan of Drunk Driving." Any preachiness is leveled out by self-deprecation, such as Bonnette's tale of drinking himself to sleep in the wake of a devastating breakup. Choral-fied progressions let the message rise above a well-produced stew of distorted guitars, kazoo, and organs. "I'm a straight white male in America, I've got all the luck I need," Bonnette wails on the anti-pity party of "American Tune." The singer is clearly aware of his quasi-selfish existential predicament in the context of global suffering. With a heavy heart, he employs witty narratives to rail against the apathy he sees surrounding him in a refreshing, unpretentious manner.

Los Lobos — 40 Years' Strong
By Gail Powell

Los Lobos will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2013, and though the L.A. band has a couple of elder statesmen among them, the music is anything but geriatric. The band opened with "Burn It Down" and dedicated the show to the memory of recently deceased blues great and Howlin' Wolf guitarist Hubert Sumlin. There was plenty of accordion and squeezebox action for the Spanish-language songs, which made for liveliness on the dance floor. Many of their songs dissolved into jam sessions, such as the cover of Fats Domino's "The Fat Man," while Ritchie Valens' "C'mon, Let's Go" had a meaty middle full of intricacies. The crowd (myself included) seemed perplexed by the absence of the biggies from the set list, such as "La Bamba" and "Will the Wolf Survive," but a Los Lobos show is always musically rich, no one complained.

Concert: Los Lobos
Date: December 4
Venue: Belly Up
Seating: General

Music Reviews From Our Readers

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

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Reader

BC's BBQ: Sat. & Sun. Noon til Midnight

Thursday, January 12

CHUNK

Friday, January 13

CUSTARD PIE

Saturday, January 14

HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS (DAY 2 - 6PM)

JEREMY BUCK AND THE BANG

Sundays NO COVER

THE BROKERS

Monday and Tuesdays

JAM WITH DOUG ALLEN
OF THE MARDELS

Wednesday, January 18

FRANKIE DEE AND
THE FUNK NATRA BAND

84 San Diego Reader January 12, 2012

and Schmaltz.

January 28 — Hell Bent

February 3 — Accident

February 4 — Stolen Babies, the Dread Crew of Oddwood, London Below.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

11940 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.

January 20, 21 — Laguna

January 27, 28 — The Amanda Waggener Band.


January 19 — Jamiel Saxon

January 20 — Fe Manchu

January 21 — Earthless

January 25 — Olin & the Moon

January 26 — Nico Vega

January 27 — The Howls, Jess LaMonaca, Family Wagon, Old Tiger

January 28 — The Muffs

January 29 — Dengeu Fever

February 3 — Doomtree

Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD: Russell Lane at Gilman Dr., La Jolla.

January 29 — Ceci Lytle and Gilbert Castellanos.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0840.

January 22 — Wilco and White Denim.

April 13, 14 — Tribute to Ray Charles.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.

January 20 — Friends & Enemies

January 21 — Sound Vault

January 27 — Smokestaxx

January 28 — Shelle Blue

January 29 — Missy Andersen.


January 20, 21 — Serious Guise

January 27 — Ramshackle

January 28 — Studio 8.

Dizzy’s: Second Avenue & 8 St., Downtown, 858-270-7467.

January 21 — Darwin.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.

January 19 — Klogr

January 20 — Jet Kill Radio and the Killing Bees.

January 21 — Mexico City Rollers.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa BL, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.

January 20 — Oversoul

Flying Elephants: 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.

January 20 — Fleetwood MAX

January 21 — Stoney B. Blues Band.

The Griffin: 1310 Moreno BL, Linda Vista.

January 20 — Skyline Union, East of Sweden, the Tavren.


January 20 — Dashboard Confessional

January 22 — Eric Johnson

January 27 — Allstar Weekend

January 29 — The Adicts

February 3 — August Burns Red

February 4 — Where’s the Band Tour

February 11 — Dweezil Zappa Plays Zappa.

February 17 — The Expendables

February 22 — Iced Earth and Symphony X

February 23 — Hot Chelle Rae

February 25 — Mat Kearney

March 6 — Flogging Molly

March 10 — Gungor

March 11 — SOJA

March 20 — Ani DiFranco

March 23 — The Ting Tings

April 11 — Katchafire

May 26 — Tyrone Wells.

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

January 20 — The uptight U.

La Paloma: 471 S. Coast Hwy.

February 8 — Shannon & the Clams.

February 9 — The Jon Spencer Blues Band

February 14 — London Below.

February 22 — Stolen Babies, the Dread Crew of Oddwood, — Doomtree.

February 28 — The Muffs.

March 11 — Cheese.

March 22 — Augustana.

March 23 — The Adicts.

March 30 — August Burns Red.

April 4 — Where’s the Band Tour.

April 11 — Dweezil Zappa Plays Zappa.

April 17 — The Expendables.

April 22 — August Burns Red.

April 29 — Stolen Babies.

May 6 — The Muffs.

May 13 — The Expendables.

May 20 — The Muffs.

May 27 — The Muffs.

June 3 — The Expendables.

June 10 — The Muffs.

June 17 — The Muffs.

June 24 — The Muffs.

July 1 — The Muffs.

July 8 — The Muffs.

July 15 — The Muffs.

July 22 — The Muffs.

July 29 — The Muffs.

August 5 — The Muffs.

August 12 — The Muffs.

August 19 — The Muffs.

August 26 — The Muffs.

September 2 — The Muffs.

September 9 — The Muffs.

September 16 — The Muffs.

September 23 — The Muffs.

September 30 — The Muffs.

October 7 — The Muffs.

October 14 — The Muffs.

October 21 — The Muffs.

October 28 — The Muffs.

November 4 — The Muffs.

November 11 — The Muffs.

November 18 — The Muffs.

November 25 — The Muffs.

December 2 — The Muffs.

December 9 — The Muffs.

December 16 — The Muffs.

December 23 — The Muffs.

December 30 — The Muffs.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 1863 Fifth Ave., Banksers Hill, 619-955-8525.
February 19 — Bill Cardinal & the Canyon Band.
January 21 — Gloomday.
Tio Leo’s: 5002 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.
January 20 — The Red Elves.
January 21 — Rising Star.

January 20 — Joe Rathburn.
February 2 — Erin Bower.

February 18 — Art Laboe’s Valentines Super Love Jam.
February 29 — Red Hot Chili Peppers.
March 24 — Romeo Santos.
April 10 — Kelly Clarkson.
April 28 — So Cal Reggae Festival 2012.
May 13 — Roger Waters.

Viejas Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6697.
April 15 — Rise Against, A Day to Remember, Title Fight.

Winstons: 8212 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
January 20 — Mike Pinto.
January 21 — Cubensis.

January 26 — I Wayne, Midnite, Chuck Fenda.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
January 20 — Stopping Power.
January 21 — Revenge Death Ball, D.P.I., Downspell.
January 27 — Surrounded by Thieves, Battle Born, Coastal Gra.
January 28 — Raines Ov Ahabdon, Metatonic, Damcyran.

Soda Bar: 3851 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
January 20 — Teardrop.
January 21 — SD Experimental Guitar Show.

Andy Grammer, Friday, January 13, House of Blues.
The term “dive bar” is thrown around pretty loosely these days and, not unlike “dude,” “epic,” and “excessive force,” the essential meaning has been all but lost. Enter Tobacco Rhoda’s.

Famous for its Filipina bartenders whose hospitality has been likened to that of a long-lost auntie’s, the North Park hole-in-the-wall (at one point literally, when a cabbie plowed his Crown Victoria through the front door five years ago) sits on the decadent nexus of Villa and University, a Bud bottle’s toss away from a smoke/porn shop, a marijuana collective, a liquor store, and the über-indulgent Carnitas’ Snack Shack.

“People used to come here to smoke cigars,” says bartender Roel. “And the original owner’s name was Rhoda, so they just put the two together.”

This is lowlife territory. Bukowski’s turf. The ambiance lies somewhere between the cantina and purgatory, and it will make you question your dedication to intoxicating beverages.

An abject stranger to the natural light of day, Rhoda’s cultivates a tell-tale stink of stale sed, old smoke, and urine. The doorman looks unkeen as the clientele, and your dentally impaired, Ed Hardy-clad bar mate will likely be muttering nonsense to himself as you order a beer (never more than $2.50) from the cash-only bar, which seats about 15.

There’s no liquor, but four taps, 18 bottled beers (mostly domestics), and a selection of sake magnums and bottom-shelf wines are on hand to fuel the budget drinker’s swagger. Twelve-ounce frosted mugs of Bud/Light and Shocktop go for $1.50 every day (effectively voiding Thursday’s $2 Bud bottle special), and Redhook Long Hammer IPA goes for $2.50.

Too glazed to grab a bite at the Snack Shack? Shrimp cup-o-noodles and dried squid snacks beckon from behind the bar along with peanuts, Hot Tamales, and Mike & Ike in a quarter machine. The bathroom has a 25-cent lock on it, but you’re better off avoiding the abysmal restroom and donating your quarter to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society coin board behind the bar.

A jukebox prone toward outdated gangster rap, a television seemingly stuck on the Wiiout obstacle-course game show, and a claw machine brimming with adult DVDs and sex toys attached to stuffed animals solidify Tobacco Rhoda’s place among the last remaining true dives in San Diego. That fact alone merits the place a visit. Just be sure to bring a buddy.

Find more stories by Chad Deal at SDReader.com/deal

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

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Please fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hour, P.O. Box 58803, San Diego, CA 92116, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

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

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

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

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

CARMEL VALLEY
Tio Leo’s: Tuesday-Saturday, all night: Cheep drinks. Cheap eats. 1/2-off hookahs Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm.

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

CHULA VISTA
Achilles Restaurant: Daily, 4-7pm: Two-for-one drinks.
El Dorado Seafood & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 beer, margaritas. $1.50 tacos.
Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $1 off all drinks.

CITY HEIGHTS
Black Cat Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3.50 import drafts, $2 PBR cans, $6 martinis.
The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

CLAREMONT
Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint: Daily, 4-7pm: Discounted draft beer: $3.50 house wine.

CORONADO
Candelas on the Bay: Daily, 4-6pm: 1/2-off drinks & bar menu.

DEL MAR
Del Mar Rendezvous: Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm: $3 sapporo pints, $4 glass of wine, $14 bottle of wine. Sunday, 1/2-off bottles of wine.

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

Happy Hour 4-7pm daily
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Thursday, January 12
DJ Frankie Lektor DJ Digital Opinion DJ Fish Fonic
Friday, January 13
REEFORM
Saturday, January 14
Red Handed
Sundays
Karaoke Sunday’s w/ Mike from Nude BBQ Band

Never a Cover Charge
Every Monday After Monday NFL game Rasta w/ Ryan from Shoreline Rootz
Every Tuesday Open Mic Night with Jay Cain
Every Wednesday Local Eclectic Music
appetizers. Thursday, all day: Thirsty Thursdays: Buy one pitcher, get second 1/2 off.

**EAST VILLAGE**

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

**Lotus Thai**: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 all drafts, $5 select wines, large Singha beer, $4.50 sake. $3.50 well, $4 house wine. Miso, edamame, $9.99.

**Monkey Paw**: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, house margaritas; $4.99 premium margaritas. $.50 wings.

**EAST LAKE**

**Chili’s**: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 all drafts; $5 select wines, large Singha beer, all Han Soju cocktails. $5 traditional Thai appetizers.

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

**ESCONDIDO**

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

**Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room**: Daily, 5-7pm: $6 wine, tapas; $4.50 wells, $3 doggie bites.

**GRANTVILLE**

**JT’s Clubhouse Pub & Grill**: Monday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: 25¢ wings. Tuesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $1 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm:

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**2nd Saturday w/ Firestone Walker! Jan 14**

Dueling Cask: Double Jack and Walker’s Reserve Porter

Food: Greek gyros and grilled vegetables, roasted red pepper hummus and tabbouli w/ pita, lamb stew w/ greek mashed potatoes and Louisiana (greek) cornbread!


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**San Diego Reader**

January 12, 2012

87
The San Diego Rep presents this tribute to Pete Seeger, which "celebrates the history of change in America through song, story, and spoken word."

Cats
Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical, based on poems from T.S. Eliot’s "Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats," comes to the Civic Theatre for eight performances.

San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 619-544-1000. 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 29.

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."

UCSD Plaza Theatre, 1615 Pacific Highway, La Jolla. 858-459-0824. DF 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 22.

The Lion in Winter
North Coast Repertory Theatre presents James Goldman’s historical comedy-drama about one of the most dysfunctional families of the Middle Ages.

North Coast Repertory Theatre, 9870 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach. 858-481-0155. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 29.

The Servant of Two Masters
Lamb’s Players has turned Carlo Goldoni’s comedia dell’arte farce into a musical comedy. The intermissionless piece makes for an always lively, often funny entertainment.

Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 4th Ave., Downtown. 619-434-9487. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 22.

The Elephant Man
OnStage Playhouse presents Bernhard Pomerance’s drama about John Merrick. Though deformed and often beaten, Merrick has “a head full of dreams.” Steve Murdock directed.

OnStage Playhouse, 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista. 619-422-7787. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 4.

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode
Diversionary Theatre offers Jamie Morris’s twisted take on one of the most beloved sitcoms of the 1980s. The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode. Christopher Kenney directed.

Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd., University Heights. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 22.

The Toughest Girl Alive
For a special two-week engagement, Moxie Theatre presents the “99.9 percent true story of ex-gang member, ahved teen mother, rockably, punk-rock, ex-adult film star, cancer surviving, bisexual blues phenomenon” Candy Kane.

Moxie at Rolando Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N, College Area. 858-508-7560. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH JANUARY 15.

Write Out Loud: Orpheus Speaks
Write Out Loud, a unique theater troupe that reads literature aloud, made its Athenaeum debut last May to a large and enthusiastic audience. Write Out Loud returns this year with three new programs. Orpheus Speaks is designed especially for the Athenaeum to explore the indispensable role of the arts in our lives. Readings include "Chopin in Winter," by Stuart Dybek, “The Singing Lesson,” by Katherine Mansfield, and “The Listening Woman,” by Sylvia Townsend Warner.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. 858-454-5872. 7:30PM MONDAY.

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode
Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd., University Heights. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 22.
Circus Sideshow

“I’m a Ferrari!” he exclaims. “You open the hood with white gloves.”

The Conquest

Director Xavier Durringer imagines the political ascent of French president Nicolas Sarkozy. There is a touch of vulgar whimsy in the way the politicians phrase their frustration: “First the press licks you, then tricks you, then dicks you.” The response: “You’re a poet.”

The film cuts between a panicked election day where Sarkozy is in the grips of an unexplained marital collapse and that of his speedy rise to power, leading up to that day. While the crosscuts are somewhat disorienting, they create a thematic paradox that is impressive to witness — the pith and spirit of the campaign tempered by the worry and conceit of the election itself.

Denis Podalydès (resembling a French Joe Pesci) looks the part of the underdog, a slouchy duck of a man who likes to protrude his bottom lip. He exudes a twitchy kind of confidence, unable to sit still, constantly adjusting his attire. He sustains interest as Sarkozy, whipping through his lines with the flair and charm of a natural politician. But it is Florence Pernel as his wife and top advisor who earns the thespian vote. She has a commanding beauty, aged and wise. It’s refreshing to see an actress with convincing maturity.

The film privies us to a control-room view of the campaign trail. The behind-closed-doors proceedings are diverting enough to generate interest but not engaging enough to sustain it. The scenes are talky, and the talk is monotonous. How to please the people? How to win the people? How to use the people? The irony of course is that for all this talk of the “people,” they are rarely seen in the film. The voters are as absent from the camera’s eye as they are from the politicos’ minds. The message of the film (nothing too revolutionary) is that citizens are to be manipulated for their votes, nothing more. The actual concern of the characters (and most likely their real-life counterparts) is how to combat each other, discreetly.

The settings are complicit in revealing the hypocrisy. The camera is careful to show Sarkozy (the “cost-of-living” candidate) wrestling with Louis Vuitton luggage or taking a call on the steps of a vanishing pool. “I’m a Ferrari!” he exclaims. “You open the hood with white gloves.”

The carnival-band score undercuts the seriousness of the film, suggesting that the life of a presidential candidate is...
Beneath the Darkness
Boogeyman drive from director Martin Guigui about a mortician (Dennis Quaid) who likes to stock his caskets with his own kills. And he would have gotten away with it too, if it weren’t for those meddlin’ kids.

The film goes for a semblance of theme by drawing loose parallels in a high-school classroom between the murders and the ghoulish deaths from classics such as The Tell-Tale Heart and Macbeth. Looking at the students, one might wonder where the acne is. Where are the overweight students? The unattractive? The poorly dressed? The poor?

The script aims for juvenile banality and fails short of even that mark. The acting is a roundup of static delivery and clichéd expressions. I’ve always found Dennis Quaid to be a capable performer, but he never finds his stride with “crazy.” He’s too stiff in his movements, too overreaching in his lines. He never appears comfortable in the role (see Pandorum).

The photography doesn’t so much achieve a style as it suggests a hap Hazard mix-match of textbook cinematography. The camera moves like the syllabus for an “Intro to Film Production” class — all derivative techniques, no substance.

The greatest problem is that the film is devoid of suspense. Every camera angle misses the scene’s intention; every music cue falls flat. The pacing is a mess. Sloppy, uninspired filmmaking.

Tomboy
Writer/director Céline Sciamma brings us a French meditation on the complexities of life for a gender-questioning young protagonist in an open con-frex-Lit tracking shot, trailing the head of the overweight students? The unattractive? The poorly dressed? The poor?

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The struggle is revealed in subtle degrees: Laure introducing herself with a male name to impress a female crush or substituting a white shoelace for the pink one that holds her house keys. These details are woven into the brilliant script — no need to hammer home a social agenda. The dialogue is sparse, leaving room for the discerning viewer.

The film is remarkably patient (almost trance-like) in its depiction of childhood play and banter. This is most apparent in the scenes with Laure’s younger sister, the darling Malonnn Lévana. She possesses an intrinsic toler-ance — too young to question why her big sister dresses like a boy. She simply loves her sister as her sister loves her.

Zoé Héran in the lead role strikes featuring stories that fit the part, softly boyish and brusquely feminine. Her hawk-like eyes and high cheekbones angle sharply under her short hair. She is in almost every scene of the movie, and the camera follows her with a documentary-style objectivity.

An eventual crisis of understanding does come, and it does well to highlight the hardship and isolation that gender-questioning children must face, even within their own families. The film unfolds as a sort of a Boys Don’t Cry for the grade-school age. There is no rape or murder, but the climax is no less agonizing.

Tomboy opens Friday, 1/20, at Landmark’s Ken Cinema.

The Iron Lady — Margaret Thatcher, in retirement, fades sadly into senility


— John Rubio

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubio, Scott Marks, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the − symbol. Reviews are sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

The Conquest — Three of the Franco-Belgian comic-book yarns by Hergé are smoothly poured into a pretty, motion-capture animation by Steven Spielberg. Short on real cartooning, long on quintessence, short on story, long on hectic action, it is for un-impressive boys 7 to 12. For the rest of us, it is a kind of projectile doodling. Emotions are never captured. There is a fine plane crash and a dog in yippy debt to the Thin Man’s famous Asta of the 1930s. 2011. — M.L.

Carnage — A crafty, good-looking Roman Polanski film of a facile but entertainingly bitchy play by Yasmina Reza, sort of Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf funnelling into Who’s Afraid of Neil Simon? Two married couples (Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz, Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly) fuse, spar, and rip apart their civet-caked facades in a classy Brooklyn apartment, proving that they are more childish than the teen offspring that caused them to get together. Nothing new here, but plenty of tasty ensemble acting — superbly paced, blocked, and nuanced. 2011. — D.E.

★★★★ (HILLCREST; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Conquest — Reviewed this issue.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

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★★★ (HEN, FROM 1/13)

Contraband — Drug smuggling, counterfeit money, and violence in Panama set the urgent tone of Baltasar Kormákur’s thriller. With Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi, Diego Luna. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/13)

The Artist — A comedy of unreserved love, shot in Hollywood by French director Michel Hazanavicius. Big silent star George (like a merger of Douglas Fairbanks, John Gilbert, and Warren William) falls when sound arrives. The casting of brash, funny, hugely likeable Jean Dujardin as George gives heart to the charm. Bérénice Bejo (the director’s partner) as Peppy, an emerging star of talkies, is siff (female stars of the era had more flesh), but the sure is “well.”

The Iron Lady — Margaret Thatcher, in retirement, fades sadly into senility

★★★★

Lois Bedwell

San Diego Reader | January 12, 2011

A COMEDY OF NO MANNERS
2 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTRESS: JODIE WINSTON
BEST ACTRESS: KATE WINSLET

“WE’RE TOO BUSY LAUGHING! WICKEDLY FUNNY!”
A GOLD STANDARD FOUR SOME!

— Karen Dorch, ELLE

VIEW THE TRAILER AT WWW.CARNAGEMOVIE.COM

Carnage
A ROMAN POLANSKI
RATED R
BASED ON THE PLAY “GOD OF COMEDY” BY YASMIN REZA
STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
A Dangerous Method — Freud may be out of fashion, but he shouldn’t be boring. Freud (Viggo Mortensen) and Jung (Michael Fassbender) and their patient who became a brainy disciple and colleague, Sabina Spielrein (Keira Knightley), trade analytic ideas and furtive, sado-masochistic feelings. Knightley bravely uses her beauty, even jettisoning her cut a few times like Billy Bob Thornton in Sling Blade. But she never finds dramatic leverage, and the film seems more like a footnoted thesis than a triangle of destiny. John Huston made the once-bold therapies more risky and challenging in Freud, partly by toning down Montgomery Clift. 2011. — D.E.

The Devil Inside — Two American businessmen (Emile Hirsch, Max Minghella) meet two nifty girls (Olivia Thirlby, Rachael Taylor) in a Moscow dance bar. Then the aliens arrive, looking like falling Christmas decorations as they land but invisible as they track and kill. Chris Gorak’s generic film falls into décor as they land but invisible as they track and kill. Moscow is at their backs. 2011. — D.E.

donald trump reads a telephone book. I can’t go any further. Moscow is at my back.”

The Iron Lady — Britain’s greatest prime minister since Churchill is seen through a glass, darkly jutting out her jaw a few times like Billy Bob Thornton in Sling Blade. His grumpy gramps. With Judy Greer, Nick Offerman, Christopher Guest, Wes Anderson as a cinematic collaborator, and a world where zombies, trolls, or any type of fantasy creature you can imagine all live in modern New York. The main character is a social worker in the city and it’s his job to help all of these creatures exist together peacefully. The details in the animation are charming, and the stories are hilarious. Worth checking out!

The Devil Inside — The Devil Inside is a midget racer in the exorcism derby. Requisite amounts of profanity spewing hooloos, demagogic railing on the ceiling. bodies with more twists than a Brazilian pretzel factory, and a Dolby-sussed house pet leaping from out of nowhere to remind viewers that it’s a scary movie we’re watching. — all captured in the hand-held cinematic splendor of Blair Witch/Paranormal Activity. A rare event. Be afraid. Be very afraid. Directed by William Brent Bell. 2012. — S.M.

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Joyful Noise — The gospel offspring of Sister Act and Burlesque
MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL
San Diego Natural History Museum
Kaplan Theater
1768 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-0248)
Dinosaurs 3D: Giants of Patagonia
(NOT RATED) Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:00, Sun 1:00, 2:30

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Reading Carmel Mountain
11720 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264)
#2794
The Adventures of Tintin
(NG) Fri, Mon-Fri 10:00, Sat-Sun 10:00, 1:00, 3:00
Town Square
Reading
CLAIREMONT
The Devil Inside
(R) Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30
Contraband; War Horse; We Bought a Zoo
Young Adult (R)

CORONADO
Vintage La Costa
820 Orange Avenue (619-437-6161)
Call theater for program information.

DOWNTOWN
Reading Gaslamp
701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
Beneath the Darkness (R); The Darkest Hour
(PG-13); The Devil Inside (PG-13); My Week with
Marilyn (R); New Year's Eve (PG-13); Tinker Tailor
Soldier Spy (R); War Horse (PG-13); The Way
(PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG), Young Adult
(R)

KENSINGTON
Landmark Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Conquest (NR) Fri - Thu 7:00, 9:30; The Bulli;
Cooking In Progress (NR) Fri: 2:30, (4:45), Sat - Mon:
2:30, 4:45, Thu - Thu 7:00, 9:40; Tomboy (NR) Opens
Friday, January 20, The Rocky Horror Picture Show
(R) With "Crazed Imaginations" Shadow Cast, Plays
Saturday, January 21

LA JOLLA
AMC La Jolla
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4366)
The Adventures of Tintin; Beauty and the Beast
(G) Fri 2:20 pm; Beauty and the Beast 3D (G)
Fri 9:45; 12:05, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30 Sat-Sun. (9:45) 12:05,
2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30, Contraband; The Descendants;
The Devil Inside; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo;
Hugo; The Iron Lady; Joyful Noise (PG-13) Fri. (10:30)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 Sat-Sun. (10:30) 1:30,
4:30, 7:30, Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol;
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; War Horse;
We Bought a Zoo

Landmark La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-818-0236)
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (R) Fri, Tue - Thu
(1:00), 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, Sat - Mon. (1:00), 4:00,
7:00, 10:00, The Artist (PG-13) Fri - Thu, 1:20
(4,10), 7:10, 9:45; Sat-Mon. (10:30), 1:20, 4:10,
7:10, 9:45; A Dangerous Method (R) Fri, Tue - Thu
(1:30), (4,20), 7:20, 9:15; Sat - Mon (1:30), 1:30,
4, 20, 7:20, 9:15; My Week With Marilyn (R),
Tue - Thu (1:40), (4,30), 7:30, 9:30, Sat - Mon
(11:10), 1:40, 4, 30, 7:30, 9:30, Discount Shows
at Landmark's La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets
(‘) ‘), A Separation (PG-13) Opens Friday, January 28

MIRA MESA
Regal Mira Mesa
10713 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol; Sherlock
Holmes: A Game of Shadows; The Sitter; Tinker Tailor
Soldier Spy; War Horse; We Bought a Zoo Joyful Noise
(PG-13) Fri-Sun. (10:30) 1:45, 7:30, 10:30

UPTOWN
Landmark Hillcrest
3963 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Artist (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:40) 7:20, 9:45 Sat-Sun.
(11:15) 1:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45; Carnegie (R) Fri.
(2:10, 4:50) 7:30, 9:45 Sat-Sun. (11:15) 2:10, 4:50,
7:30, 9:45; The Descendants (R) Fri. (1:40, 4:20)
7:00, 9:40 Sat-Sun. (11:30) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40,
Pariah (R) Fri. (2:15, 4:55) 7:55; 9:40 Sat-Sun. (11:40)
2:15, 4:55, 7:55, 9:50; Shame (NC-17) Fri.
(2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30 Sat-Sun. (11:25) 2:00,
4:30, 7:30, 9:30

Revuen H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Call theater for program information.

EAST COUNTY
EL CAJON
Regal Parkway Plaza
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3498)
Call theater for program information.
**LA MESA**

Reading Grossmont
3500 Eastlake Center Drive (800-326-3264)

**SANTEE**

Santee Drive In
19999 Wonderland Avenue (619-448-7474)

Call theater for program information.

**SOUTH BAY**

CHULA VISTA

AMC Palomar Dome
770 Denney Road (888-262-4386)

The Adventures of Tintin: Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri. (12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30)

**SANTEFE**

Santee Drive In
19999 Wonderland Avenue (619-448-7474)

Call theater for program information.

**SOUTH BEACH**

AMC Bonita Plaza
3031 Bonita Boulevard (888-262-4386)

Beast (PG) Fri. (12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30)

**CARLSBAD**

OCEANSIDE

Regal Oceanside
4671 Mission Road (858-438-1713)

Call theater for program information.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**ESCONDIDO**

Regal Escondido
3351 Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

Call theater for program information.

**FALLBROOK**

UltraStar River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (858-494-4784)

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**ESCONDIDO**

Regal Escondido
3351 Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

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**FALLBROOK**

UltraStar River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (858-494-4784)

**NORTHEAST CALIFORNIA**

**MID-AMERICA**

**CARLSBAD**

Moviemax Plaza Coastal
2385 Mary Road (760-729-7499)

Call theater for program information.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
1716 Coast Highway 101 (858-436-7269)

The Muppets (PG) Fri. -Sun. 6:00 pm; My Week with Marilyn (R) Fri. 8:25 pm; Sat. 8:25 pm.

**OCEANSIDE**

Regal Oceanside
4671 Mission Road (858-438-1713)

Call theater for program information.

UltraStar Oceanside Mission
Marketplace
College and Mission Avenue (760-806-1709)

**CENTRAL COAST**

**CARLSBAD**

Moviemax Plaza Coastal
2385 Mary Road (760-729-7499)

Call theater for program information.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**ESCONDIDO**

Regal Escondido
3351 Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

Call theater for program information.

**FALLBROOK**

UltraStar River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (858-494-4784)

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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3351 Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

Call theater for program information.
HELP WANTED
ACCOUNTING / FINANCE
BOOKKEEPER. Bookkeeper with variable QuickBooks experiences. Part-time position, some flexibility in work hours. Benefits not available. Call Bonnie at 619-296-2020 or email utds@msn.com.

DOMESTIC SERVICE
House Person II
$10.63-$12.50/hour. Minimum 2 years’ hospitality or health care experience, 2 years’ experience in housekeeping required. Light maintenance skills required. High school graduate or GED. Optimum Health Institute is a mission of the Free Sacred Trinity Church. Apply in person: 9825 Granite Ridge Drive, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123. Or apply online at: www.OptimumHealth.org. For more information call: 858-634-5519.

DRIVERS / DELIVERY
DRIVER/ COURIER. Part-time shifts available. Must have pickup with shell, minivan or cargo van. Excellent pay, mileage, and benefits! Call 858-444-2355.

TRUCK DRIVING INSTRUCTOR. Truck instructor needed for vocational education program to teach both classroom and field training using curriculum provided by the school. Minimum 5 years of recent, verifiable commercial truck driving experience.

EDUCATION
TEACHER’S AIDE/ FLOATER. 10am-6pm Monday-Friday (temporary). 12 ECE units required. Must be reliable, flexible and punctual. Contact through CCL, Hillcrest Preschool, Dana, 858-295-4147, or fax 619-295-1669.

HEALTH CARE
ATTENDANT FOR QUADRUPLEGIC. Experience necessary. Part-time. Must have valid CA driver’s license, vehicle and cell phone. Must use no tobacco products. 619-626-3793.

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONIST. Attendant offering a behavioral intervention position in all counties. Provide one-on-one behavioral therapy to children with autism, in their homes. Must have experience with young children. Email resumes: aribelgci@gmail.com. Evening availability is preferred. Must have reliable transportation.

CAREGIVER. Live-in Caregiver for quadriplegic. I’m looking for a live-in caregiver to work weekends, Friday 3pm through Sunday 3pm. $150 per day. Pay by HBIS. hfbmac.com.


CAREGIVERS. Experienced (5+ years). Compassionate caregivers needed for non-medical homecare for seniors. Serving Poway and surrounding cities. Send resumes with cover letter to: philip@visitingangels.com.

CAREGIVERS. Needed from all areas. 1 year’s experience, hourly and flex shifts. AssisiCare at Home Inc., 3774 Grove Street, #17, Lemon Grove, 619-486-6890.

MISCELLANEOUS

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A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week in our online contest. You must include a message on your submission. Your entry must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You must submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown weekly for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each entry. You will be disqualified.
4) One entry per person per week or online each week to SDReader.com.
5) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
6) No other words or less, no URLs or phone numbers. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
7) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown weekly for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each entry. You will be disqualified.

Across
1. Mammoth trio
2. Letters on old rubies
3. O’Neill’s “The Iceman _____”
4. Sine ____ non
5. Accomplishes
6. One writing an Op-Ed piece
7. People rival
8. Eva of “Hitch”
9. X ____ xylophone
10. Artistic impression?
11. Country singer Shelby
12. Witchy women
13. 2003 Will Ferrell movie
14. Coastal California region
15. Yoga class need
16. “Are you calling me ____?”
17. Salinger heroine et al.
18. Fridge problem
19. Show the way... or an otherwise common word that happens to contain each of the pronouns at the starts of 17-, 25- and 66-Across
20. Apiece
21. “Check” in poker
22. Ethan of “Training Day”
23. Doo-wop syllable
24. 1948 Literature Nobelist
25. “Mighty” tree
26. 1998 Spike Lee movie
27. Some pinball targets
28. Tired toddler’s plea
29. Versace rival
30. Title for Judge Judy
31. “Just like you said”
32. Singer India.____
33. Calendar division
34. Winter woe
35. Bloodsucker
36. One of the Obama daughters
37. Work ____ sweat
38. Yoga class need
39. Bloodsucker
40. Halloween mystery
41. See 12-Down
42. “King Kong” studio
43. It went down in history
44. You might play something by this
45. Monstrous
46. Green Hornet’s sidekick
47. “Nonsense!” to a Brit
48. Arithmetic sign
49. Sits heavily
50. Juice box go-with
51. “Of course!”
52. 1998 Spike Lee movie
53. Film flop of 1987
54. “Tiger!”
55. Manicurist’s board
56. “Mighty” tree
57. Film flop of 1987
58. “Nonsense!” to a Brit
59. 1998 Spike Lee movie
60. Film flop of 1987
61. Film flop of 1987
62. Film flop of 1987
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68. Film flop of 1987
69. Film flop of 1987
70. Film flop of 1987
71. Film flop of 1987
72. Film flop of 1987
73. Film flop of 1987

Down
1. Splenda rival
2. Disheveled
3. Admitted politely
4. Alphabet trio
5. Rum’s partner
6. Boston NBAers
7. College maj.
8. Felipe’s food
9. What a scared person might sleep with
10. Prized Chinese collectible
11. Draw to a close
12. With 67-Down, a little laugh
14. Kin of -ess or -tri
15. Like the letters on a dreidel
16. Food writer Rombauer and others
17. 2000 role for Julia
18. 2003 Will Ferrell movie
19. “Mighty” tree
20. X ____ xylophone
21. Artistic impression?
22. Country singer Shelby
23. Witchy women
24. 2003 Will Ferrell movie
25. X ____ xylophone
26. Country singer Shelby
27. Witchy women
28. 2003 Will Ferrell movie
29. Witchy women
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72. Witchy women
73. Witchy women

This week’s winners:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)

This week’s winners:

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy. S _______ T-shirt:  S _____ M _______  L _______  XL _______  2. Disheveled
3. Admitted politely
4. Alphabet trio
5. Rum’s partner
6. Boston NBAers
7. College maj.
8. Felipe’s food
9. What a scared person might sleep with
10. Prized Chinese collectible
11. Draw to a close
12. With 67-Down, a little laugh
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73. Witchy women

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________
City:__________________________ Zip Code:_________________________
State:__________________________
Personal Message:________________________________________________
Please check one:
Cap:________ T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _______

We sell Dickie uniforms in 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 .doc format. Will be 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) We will award winners 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 and online.
4) Only one entry per person per week or online each week to SDReader.com.
5) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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A puzzler and a writer?

The Reader Sudoku Puzzles: Rules of the Game

1. Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete a puzzle and get it to us by 7:00am Monday.

2. Send the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words at max, no URL or phone number). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject any entry.

3. We will award winners 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 winners’ names in the paper and online.

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

5. Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8503, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: sudokured@sdreader.com.

6. All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

7. Late entries will not be considered.

8. One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 pixels by 800 pixels maximum (or size of 1MB). Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

This Week’s Winners:

Don Bowman, Santa Ana

Dushanti Patterson, San Diego

Michael Hutchings, San Diego

Richard Hutchings, Santee

George Elam, Vista

Tom Thetford, Lemon Grove

Each week winners will be spotlighted on our website. To read more, visit www.sddreader.com.

This Week’s Winners:

Don Bowman, Santa Ana. What did the Indians go to the Pow-Wow? A puzzler and a writer?

Dushanti Patterson, San Diego. 1. What do you get when a camel eats a banana? A banana spit!

Michael Hutchings, Santee. I’m working on making my second million dollars. I gave up trying for the first.

Richard Hutchings, Santee. 5) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8503, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: sudokured@sdreader.com.

2) Submit the correct answer to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words at max, no URL or phone number). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject any entry.

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Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 pixels by 800 pixels maximum (or size of 1MB). Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.


PACIFIC BEACH, $1275. 1BD+1BA, ocean view! 2 BD rooms, 2 BTH rooms. 4 blocks to ocean. 2-car garage. Fireplace, skylights, laundry hookups, garage plus parking space, fireplace, all new appliances. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $950. 1BD+1BA bayfront. 2 blocks to ocean. 4 blocks to bay. Balcony. Pool, recreation room, no pets. Available 2/20/12. 5154 Waring Rd, San Diego • CA 92120. 858-393-0303. 6244 El Cajon Blvd., #30.


PACIFIC BEACH, $1900. 2BD+2BA large apartment in very nice north beach location. Across from CVS, next to Platt College (across from harbor). 1 BD rooms, 1 BA rooms. 10 mins to 5th Ave. (across from CVS, next to Platt College) and to Downtown's popular 5th Avenue. Ocean view. New paint. www.HughesManagement.net. 619-231-2385.

**Brainstorms**

**by Don Rubin**

**Spot check**

Each of these illustrations, courtesy of the Cleveland Hair Clinic, illustrates a balding condition, as seen from above or the side.

Can you match the top and profile views?

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**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:**

Why knot?

**DROP US A LINE**

Drop us a line.

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**BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:**

**RULES OF THE GAME**

1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

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

3) We will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper and online.

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

5) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 83803, San Diego, CA 92138-5803, 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 JPEG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

7) Late entries will not be considered.

8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)

- Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 5. Before they occupied were they pre-occupied?
- Martha Awdziewicz, Clairemont, 4. What did the fish say when it swam into a wall at Lake Hodges? Answer – Dam.
- L. Barling, El Cajon, 1. If you weren’t allowed to sit to take those high school SAT exams, would they be called something else?
- Ed Barno, San Diego, 2. If no one cares, then no one should care that no one cares.
Studios/rooms, furnished. Free utilities, Avenue. 619-239-1639 x2.
No pets. Tenth Avenue Apts. 743 10th courtyard. Utilities included. No lease.
Best deal in East Village! Spacious DOWNTOWN, $650 & UP.

2443 Kettner Blvd.
Open 7 days 10 am-11 pm
• Deep tissue • Table Shower

Little Italy
$20 off with ad
$10 off 1-Hr. Massage
$10 off 1/2 hr
• Deep tissue • Table Shower
• Swedish
• Hong Kong Massage
Open 7 days 10 am-11 pm
Kimmi Spa
2443 Kettner Blvd., Suite M, San Diego, CA 92109
619-255-9990

Grand Opening Special Full Body Massage
1 Hour $34.99
$19.99

Foot Massage
Free Table shower after Services
Offers valid with this ad. Expires 2/2/12
Open 7 Days, 10 am - 10 pm
We accept competitors coupons!
Point Loma Foot & Body Massage
1915 Midway Dr., Suite M, San Diego, CA 92110
619-255-9990

Grand Opening $10 Off with ad
$10 off 1/2 hr

New in Escondido
GOLDEN SPA
$10 Off $10 off with ad
½ Hour Massage with this ad

The Best Oriental Massage
$20 Off
One Hour
704-796-4122
301 E. Washington Ave.
Suite A (at jumper) - Escondido

NEW in Escondido
Hablamos Espanol
License #160625
760-291-0399
Open 7 days a week 10am-11pm

$35/60 min Body Massage
With coupon. Reg. $40

Cajon Spa
619-888-3999
6506 El Cajon Blvd., #A
Between College Ave. & 70th Street, San Diego
(Behind Crown Buffet) sign

Open 7 days a week • 10am to 11pm

Oriental Chi Spa
$20 off 1 Hour
$10 off 1/2 Hour
½ hour massage

With this ad

TOKYO SPA
4442 VanDever Ave.
Molin 281-8851
www.tokyospa.com

SOURCES

San Diego Reader, pages 12, 13, 14

January 12, 2012

Reader

San Diego

COLLEGE AREA, $1050. No Appointment Necessary! to change/ tax.) California Suites heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), Expanded rates: $1195*/ month for CLAIREMONT, $950. Pet OK. Must see! 619-517-6111. patio, fenced yard, garage, storage. painting, all appliances, fans, huge SDSU. New windows, granite, tile, Coastal Penthouses, $2250. 1BD+1BA, $1555. 2BD+2BA units, some DEL MAR, $1555-2395. Leasing Unlimited, Lic#00976056, 760-715-1770. Cody, garage, storage. available now. Call- Coldwell Banker Property Management, 888-488-2228.

North County coastal
CARDIFF, $2500. 2BD+2BA beautiful house. New 2- and 3-bedroom townhouses, 8101- 1BD+1BA. Gated condo with fireplace, #7. 619-804-3325.


Old Town & Upton
CITY HEIGHTS, $1131. 2BD+2BA. Two units just became available! New, spacious 2BD+1.5BA townhouse apartment in Quiet Hillcrest. 2BD+1.5BA. $1425. Leasing Unlimited, Lic#00976056, 760-744-4784. 760-439-5728.


HILLCREST, $2950. 1BD+1BA. 1st month free with year lease! Large, with hardwood floors. Gated, on-site laundry! Great location! Great agent. 619- 298-7724.

HILLCREST, $1900. 1BD+1BA. 1st month free with year lease! Large, with hardwood floors. Gated, on-site laundry! Great location! Great agent. 619- 298-7724.

Aww, hell yeah! Because Hitchiker’s Guide to the Galaxy is an awesome freaking book. And I really want a Babel fish in my ear so I can understand all the weird languages I meet.

I would only if it was the Tenth Doctor who came to get me because he is really hot and I really want to have sex with him. I’m not sure if he’s gay — that was never explained in the show — but he’s also fictional, so I’ll believe what I want to, damnit!

I would go because you only have one life to live. So, F it — live for adventure. “Big or go back to historical Earth and find some for sure.”

**Jonathan Orozco**

**North Park, Server/Bartender**

**Christen Brown**

**North Park, Bartender**

**Aaron Palmer**

**Downtown, Bartender**
LEAD STORY
— “You eat story, so why not blood?” asked The Globe and Mail, which sampled several Toronto restaurants’ sanguine haute cuisines, including the Italian eatery Bucatis spaghettis with blood-blackened noodles and torchi di sanguinaccio (figs, almonds, buffalo-milk creme, on a base custard of dark chocolate and slow-cooked pigs’ blood). Patrons “thought we were crazy,” said chef Rob Gentile, but now “we’ve got a cult following.” The Black Diamond restaurant uses metal tongs of fresh blood a week for dishes like its own blood custard, seasoned with rosemary and pickled pears. Montreal’s DNA kitchen sometimes highlights blood soup and blood pasta. (The Noma in Copenhagen, Denmark—which some believe to be the best restaurant in the world—manufactures calf’s blood in pig’s blood.)

Family Values
— An 11-year-old California boy and a 7-year-old Georgia girl have recently decided — with parental support — to come out as the other gender. The boy, Tommy, wants more time to live as a boy for a year, said father Tommy Theilny, a transgendered man who is actually the one who gave birth. Theilny petitioned the school board in September (unsuccessfully) to allow the child to use the boys’ bathroom. Theilny said the girl first noticed she was a boy at age 18 months.

— Italian men are notorious bamboccianti (“big babies”) who exploit dinners by remaining in their family homes well into adulthood, sometimes into their 30s or later, expecting meals and laundry service. Many mothers are tolerant, but in September an elderly couple in the town of Mestre announced through a consumer association that if their 41-year-old, gainfully employed son did not meet a deadline for leaving, the association would file a lawsuit to evict him. (A news update has not been found, perhaps indicating that the son moved out.)

Bright Ideas
— In Malone, N.Y., in September, Clyde Gardner, 57, was sentenced to fine to 15 years in prison for trying to murder his ex-girlfriend twice. Initially, he was going to dress in a re

parents. Our guaranteed lowest price on all food, bedding, toys, and supplies and medicine. Mention this ad guaranteed lowest prices on all food, bedding, toys, and supplies and medicine. Mention this ad

Puppy Love Run/Walk. Benefits Hope House Animal Advocates. Proceeds to support spay/neuter programs. 5k run and 1-mile walk, dogs invited. October 1, 8-10 a.m. at the corner of Via de la Valle and Nipple Hill. Free. For more info, call 858-768-7335 or visit www.puppylove.org.

Suffer With Anxiety, Depression, Stress? Overeaters Anonymous. 3-step meeting for people with OCD/ OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Disorder. Open meeting. 10:30am—12pm, 1500 7th Ave., San Diego. For more info, call 619-504-2300.

Pregnant Considering Adoption? Talk with caring agency specialists. Open to all who are considering adoption with families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Please call 858-275-0364. For info, visit BabiesAndAbortion.com.


BICYCLES

MOTORBIKES, Gas motorbikes, 80cc, 100cc, 150cc, 250cc, 350cc, 600cc, etc. $300 up. No driver’s license required to drive them. 50 year experience. 760-877-6477.

WANTED/TRADE


WANTED/TRADE, clothes, DVDs, CDs, computers, etc. Estate sales- garage sales. Buy- sell trade. 2771 Imperial Ave. (Corner of 28th St. and Imperial Ave.)

WRITER NEEDED. Experienced writer needed for column. $50 per article. Must be computer literate. 858-799-0519.

ANTIQIUES & COLLECTIBLES

ANSTEAD’S AUCTION, We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, jewelry, tools, old radios, televisions, pianos. Prompt service. Local and long distance. Serving San Diego since 1971. 216-278-3600.


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BRAKES… $10 OFF 1995 and older. Dual overhead cam extra. 4-cyl. $25/6-cyl. $35/8-cyl. $45*

BASIC TUNE-UP Most cars. Includes up to 5 qts. oil change, Top Off Fluids, Check Engine light and Smog Test, Fuel Injection Service. Model years 1976 - 1995 $10 extra


A/C Service $25 Includes performance test on compressor, visual and dye test for leaks, refrigerant check and recharge (freon EXTRA.) Call for details.

BASIC Tune-Up with oil change 4-cyl. $49* 6-cyl. $69* 8-cyl. $89* Most cars. Includes oil change and filter, inspect all running lights, inspect brakes, belts & hoses, inspect exhaust system, check front end alignment, inspect engine for: vacuum leaks, misfire, timing, air cleaner, cooling system, battery, alternator, hoses, belts, etc.


$150 OFF Transmission Rebuilds! Free Towing with all Major Repairs! Warranties on all Transmissions.

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San Diego Smog Test Center Only 2921 Adams Avenue 619-516-3536 • www.sdsomg.com Monday-Friday 8 am-7 pm Saturday 8 am-4 pm

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New Smog Test Special! Falcon High Country 255/70/16 $99 ea. $209* 3 stops - $249*

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A/C Service $25 Includes performance test on compressor, visual and dye test for leaks, refrigerant check and recharge (freon EXTRA.) Call for details.

Basic Tune-Up with oil change 4-cyl. $49* 6-cyl. $69* 8-cyl. $89* Most cars. Includes oil change and filter, inspect all running lights, inspect brakes, belts & hoses, inspect exhaust system, check front end alignment, inspect engine for: vacuum leaks, misfire, timing, air cleaner, cooling system, battery, alternator, hoses, belts, etc.

60K/90K/120K Services $149* 4-cyl. $199* 6-cyl. $249* 8-cyl. $299* Most cars. Includes oil change and filter, inspect all running lights, inspect brakes, belts & hoses, inspect exhaust system, check front end alignment, inspect engine for: vacuum leaks, misfire, timing, air cleaner, cooling system, battery, alternator, hoses, belts, etc.

Fuel Injection Service 3-Stop - $119*

Check Engine Light and Smog Check Service (FREE if repairs are performed on site).

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TIMING BELT SPECIAL $99.95 Includes parts and labor. Most 4-cyl. cars 1995 and older. Due to new emissions regulations, timing belt replacement is often necessary.

BRAKES… $10 OFF Front & rear rotors, drums, new pads, lining, metal. 15% cash. 619-231-8764

FREE Alignment & Brakes Replace pads or disc, steel, $90 619-231-8764

5- Year Warranties - 60K/90K/120K Mileage. Honda, Toyota, Acura, Acura, Infiniti, Suzuki, etc.

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