

SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 41 / NUMBER 6  
FEBRUARY 9, 2012

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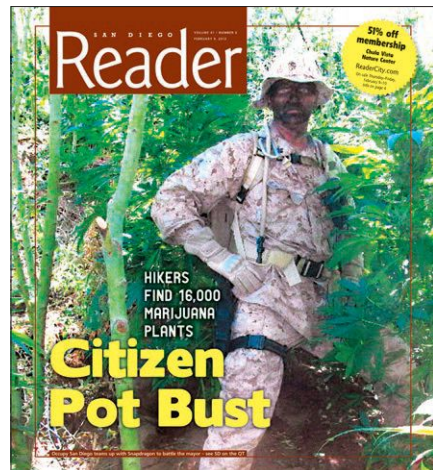
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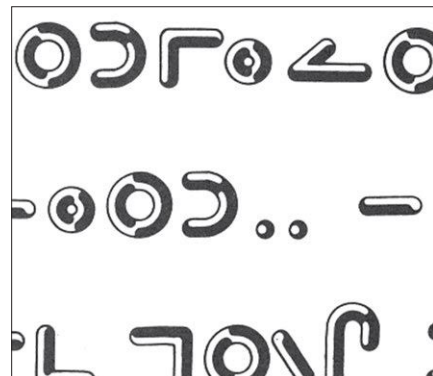
February 9, 2012



Green hell — page 24



Pale solicitor — page 96



Moon type — page 116

## ADVERTISING

### Classified Ads

Classified Index .....	123
<b>Display Ads</b>	
Automotive .....	119
Career Training .....	104
Health and Beauty .....	40
Help Wanted .....	102
Legal Solutions .....	10
Music .....	77
Rentals .....	113
Research Studies .....	30
Services .....	115
Travel & Getaways .....	56

## NEWS & FEATURES

### City Lights

American tech worker an endangered species; and Under the Radar .....	2
The don of district improvement; and News Ticker .....	3

### Letters

### Diary of a Diva

Barb's belief in all things dragon .....	6
--	---

### Straight From the Hip

When is a sardine a sardine? .....	8
------------------------------------	---

### SD on the QT

Almost factual news .....	12
---------------------------	----

### Blog Diego

On desperate men, jilted sextenarians, and foot masseurs .....	16
--	----

### Sporting Box

Seven months of nothing .....	18
-------------------------------	----

### Fast Break

High school B-ball highlights .....	20
-------------------------------------	----

### News of the Weird

.....	22
-------	----

### Citizen Pot Bust

Filthy, reeking backwoods dopers meet their match. By Chuck Harper .....	24
---	----

<b>Puzzle</b> Wordsmiths play here .....	112
--	-----

<b>Sudoku</b> Find fame in a numbers game .....	114
---	-----

<b>Brainstorms</b> Graphic mind-benders .....	116
---	-----

<b>Off the Cuff</b> .....	117
---------------------------	-----

<b>Typo Patrol Results</b> .....	122
----------------------------------	-----

## CALENDAR

### Events

Outdoors, Special Events, Dance, Food & Drink, For Kids, Galleries, Spoken Word, Comedy, Book Signings, Lectures, Sports, Art Museums, Classical Music .....	55
--	----

### Travel & Getaways

Ayutthaya, Thailand — City of Buddhas .....	56
Hike back to a time before there was a desert .....	57

### Poetry

“Ready to Kill,” by Carl Sandburg .....	60
---	----

### Religion

That other place is not a good place .....	65
--	----

### Restaurants

Tin Fork .....	67
Feasters' delights (and disappointments) .....	68

### Music

Classical Music Review & Guide .....	66
Blurt .....	77
Club Crawler .....	80
Confusion of the horn .....	82
Everyone's a Critic .....	88
Happy Hour .....	91

<b>Theater</b> .....	94
----------------------	----

### Movies

The haunting of Harry Potter .....	96
------------------------------------	----

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**UNDER THE RADAR**

**Kehoe's China adventure** Democratic state senator **Christine Kehoe**, barred by term limits from running again for her seat, has continued to collect contributions for her so-called officeholder account, a means that state law sanctions to tap special interests for cash to be used for personal political causes. The law is broad enough to permit expenditures on travel, lodging, and meals, which Kehoe and many other legislators take major advantage of. Last October, for instance, for a California Air

Resources Board meeting, the senator from San Diego hosted a party of nine, including herself, for a \$230 luncheon at the Acqua restaurant inside the Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa. The officeholder fund plunked down \$281 for 11 meals at Sacramento's Buckhorn Grill for an Appropriations Committee staff meeting. Then there was a \$230 tab at Frank Fat's restaurant, also in Sacramento, for three diners at a meeting with a member of the California Energy Commission. Back in San Diego, it was \$245 at Seaport Village's Harbor House for a holiday staff luncheon for eight. In September, San Diego's Red Door played host to a \$139 staff farewell lunch for seven. And Kehoe apparently didn't have weight-watching in mind when she ordered \$584 worth of merchandise from See's Candies for office use.

But the fund's largest expenditures were made for a two-week "cultural exchange trip" Kehoe took from San Diego to Beijing, China,

in the first half of November, according to the report. Airfare on United was \$5955.20, with a leg to Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City costing \$606.90 on China Southern Airlines. But the bulk of that fare appears to have been credited back by the airline, and the officeholder account paid \$337.07 for medical treatment Kehoe received on November 5 at Xie He Hospital in Beijing. (According to the filing, the committee is seeking reimbursement from health insurance.)

In a phone interview last week, Myrna Zambrano, Kehoe's district director, confirmed that the senator had become ill during the trip, but said that she had since recovered. Zambrano said she would ask Kehoe's permission to disclose further details but didn't call back.



Why is Christine Kehoe smiling? Because somebody else is paying for her meals and travel?

**Get out of jail free cards** San Diego County sheriff **Bill Gore** is looking for a few good legal researchers to help the denizens of his jails throw off their chains. "The inmates' right to conduct legal research has been determined to be within their constitutional right to access the courts,"

says a January 25 bid request on the County's procurement website. "The County of San Diego Sheriff's Department has determined the inmates' use of legal research services offsite, or outside of a detention facility, is preferred for security reasons and for cost effectiveness. Therefore, the Sheriff intends to award a contract with an initial term from the date of the award through June 30, 2013, and three option terms of one year each." Under the plan, the inmates in stir will submit written research requests, which will then be followed up on by attorneys on the outside.

"Approximately 95,000 inmates are processed through the Sheriff's seven detention facilities each year," the request continues. "The average daily population of inmates is approximately 4700 housed in the facilities that include: the East Mesa Detention Facility, the Facility 8, the George Bailey Detention Facility, the Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility, the South Bay Detention Facility, the San Diego Central Jail and the Vista Detention Facility.

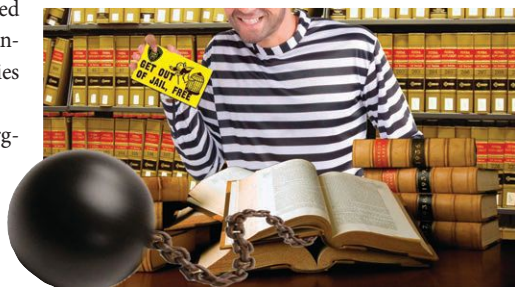
"On average, 300 inmates request legal research assistance monthly. Each inmate is granted one request for assistance per month. Each request is allowed up to five (5) line items on a request form for a total of 50 pages maximum per request (25 double-sided pages). All requests are limited to criminal case law or conditions of confinement."

Successful bidders will be lawyers in good standing with the state bar and without a criminal record who are able to return "written responses...in an unsealed envelope with the inmate's name and booking number printed on the front..." The cost to taxpayers for the free legal research will not be known until after the bids come in next month.

**He contributes, you decide**

**Rupert Murdoch's** Fox Group gave \$1000 to the reelection bid of liberal San Diego Democrat

*continued on page 44*



This inmate needs legal help. And you're going to pay for it.

**Fed Probes May Help American Engineers**

By Don Bauder

**A**merican computer professionals who complain that they lose jobs or get lower pay because of imported tech workers may have reason to smile. Government regulators are cracking down on alleged fraud in worker visa programs.

But some heavyweight companies, such as San Diego's Qualcomm, are lobbying hard to bring in even *more* foreign engineers. Smaller local software companies want more offshore techies, too.

On January 25, India-based Infosys, a so-called body shop, or placement firm that sends talent to American companies, revealed that it and some of its employees are targets of a Texas criminal investigation into fraud and abuse of United States visa laws. The State Department, Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and Internal Revenue Service are investigating Infosys practices.

Importation of tech and other workers with a bachelor's degree is normally accomplished through the H-1B visa program, by which foreigners can take jobs of up to six years with American corporations. America brings in 65,000 such workers a year, plus another 20,000 with advanced degrees. In addition, foreign workers take jobs with nonprofit organizations, and under the L-1 program, companies bring in employees already working in their overseas subsidiaries.

Critics complain that the H-1B engineers (heav-

ily from India and greatly under age 30) are paid less than their United States counterparts, thus depriving Americans of jobs and depressing the general technology wage

the workers' pay in their Indian bank accounts and gave them bank debit cards to cover living expenses in the United States. The workers' names weren't on the books, and state and federal withholding taxes were not paid. The whistle-blower's Alabama lawyer shared his information with federal government investigators, and in May of last year Infosys reported that its records were being subpoenaed. Then, on January 25, the company revealed the depth and breadth of the investigation and said it could adversely affect



As this screen shot suggests, American engineers are seething over the loss of jobs to foreign — mostly Indian — workers.

level. Under United States law, this is not supposed to happen, but studies have shown that it does.

Infosys was first sued in a whistle-blower civil suit in Alabama. An employee said he suffered retaliation after complaining that Infosys engaged in large-scale visa and tax fraud. In particular, he charged, Infosys got around the H-1B limitations by using the B-1 visa program. B-1 visas are only for nonproductive purposes, such as attending a convention; people with B-1 visas cannot receive wages from American employers. The whistle-blower charged that Infosys deposited

Infosys business. The critics hope such adverse effects will spread throughout the H-1B program. The Infosys investigation "has put a chill in the industry," says Donna Conroy, director of Chicago-based Bright Future Jobs, which represents American workers pushing for outsourcing reform. "The regulatory pressure has been beefed up. Companies are talking about hiring Americans again."

Don Tennant, columnist for *IT Business Edge*, says that the civil and criminal Infosys cases, along with some other positive developments, are indus-

*continued on page 44*

## Good Advice? Don't Pay Homeowners

By Dorian Hargrove

In 2009, a few downtown residents discovered that they, along with over 2600 other downtown property owners, had been

overcharged by the property and business improvement district in which they lived. The assessment district, also known as the Clean and Safe Program, provides enhanced city services such as sidewalk cleaning, tree trimming, and security patrols for 5300 parcels in East Village, Gaslamp, Core Columbia, and the Cortez and Marina districts.

Some residents had overpaid only \$32, while others had unknowingly shelled out \$1500 extra. In all, the error was estimated to total more than \$269,000.

More than two and a half years later, the residents have not received refund checks, despite repeated promises from the City.

As residents continue to wait, the Downtown San Diego Partnership, the



The partnership overcharged residents \$269,000.

business advocacy group that administers the improvement district, has been writing other checks.

Starting in May 2011, the district began paying Marco Li Mandri \$10,000 per month to serve as "key advisor" for district operations.



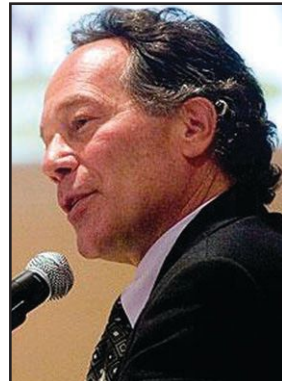
Kris Michell, president of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, hired Marco Li Mandri to be a "key advisor" for \$10,000 per month.

The job entailed reviewing contracts, presenting strategies on how to raise more funds, and renewing the "special benefit district for the maximum term available, if not in perpetuity," according to the contract.

Li Mandri's paycheck is in addition to the \$1.6 million that the district budgeted for salaries and wages in fiscal year 2012.

The discovery that the district was paying a \$10,000 monthly consultant fee, combined with its refusal to refund the overassessments, has left many residents upset and frustrated.

"I am an owner in the Cortez District and as such



try to keep abreast of the monies spent and services rendered in this area Clean and Safe," wrote one Cortez Hill resident who wished to remain anonymous.

"I was appalled to discover Mr. Li Mandri has been hired as a consultant by this group and he is receiving \$10,000 per month. It does make one wonder in what direction this organization is headed. It seems to be growing in leaps and bounds, not in the field forces but in the management group. I'd venture to say this is yet another example of non-transparency."

Li Mandri, whose office is on West Ivy at Columbia Street, specializes in assessment districts. His for-profit company, New City America, has formed 61 districts across the country.

His business practices, however, have come under fire in recent years. Between 2005 and 2007, a joint investigation by the FBI and San Diego Police Department looked into conflict-of-interest allegations involving a business improvement district in North Bay that Li Mandri set up for the City of San Diego and ran for a time as executive director; later, the district awarded Li Mandri's company contracts. (The investigators submitted their report to the district attorney, requesting that Li Mandri and others be charged with violations

## NEWS TICKER

### Chargers Bolted to the Q?

Goodell Shuts Door on NFL Teams Moving

Mission Valley — The big controversy over the Chargers moving to Los Angeles would appear to be over. National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell said on TV last night (Thursday, February 2) that the league "doesn't want to move any of our teams."

For years, the Chargers have been going down two tracks: the team preferred L.A. but continued to seek out opportunities (massive taxpayer subsidies) in San Diego, but continued to seek out opportunities (massive taxpayer subsidies) in San Diego, but continued to seek out opportunities (massive taxpayer subsidies) in San Diego.

Goodell's statement probably is rooted in the league's fear of antitrust lawsuits, says San Diego attorney Mike Aguirre. With new redevelopment money probably dead, the league against team relocation, and San Diego ailing financially, the Chargers should be staying at Qualcomm Stadium, where the ownership is making a bundle of money.

By Don Bauder  
Friday, February 3

### Signage Ban Snapped

Snapdragon Deal Left Key Official in the Dark

San Diego — Mayor Jerry Sanders has finally released documents responding to the California public records act request we made on December 12 of last year regarding his "Snapdragon Stadium" promotional name-change gambit.

As we were first to report last month, a December 7 memo from city attorney Jan Goldsmith held that the promotion — which sources say was done by Sanders as a favor to his longtime political backers at Qualcomm, Inc., including founder Irwin Jacobs — violated city law.

The documents released by Sanders show that the name-change plans were in

motion at least as early as October 28 of last year. By November 18, a problem had cropped up regarding the legality of the project, prompting an email from the city's stadium manager, Mike McSweeney, to chief operating officer Jay Goldstone, a top Sanders aide.

As Goldsmith's legal opinion would eventually point out, plans to put giant Snapdragon signs around the outside of the stadium would violate the city's so-called off-premise sign ban, which prohibits signage touting products that are not sold where the signs are located.

But McSweeney told Goldstone he had come up with an answer and that the city's code enforcement staff had signed off on it: "Essentially, if game attendees can download the app from their smartphones in the stadium, the product is sold within the stadium, making it compliant with the ordinance."

On December 16 came an email from Mary Lewis, the city's chief financial officer, raising questions about the value of the Snapdragon deal to the city.

"Is the City being compensated for promoting a specific Qualcomm product?" Lewis wrote. "This kind of product exposure is worth a considerable amount of money and was this part of the negotiation?" On the morning of December 19, McSweeney emailed Patrick Connors, president of San Diego's Gravitare Sports Marketing, to say that he had been given approval to sign an agreement with Qualcomm.

The document, released by Sanders's office to us last month, required Qualcomm to pay the city a \$1000 promotional fee.

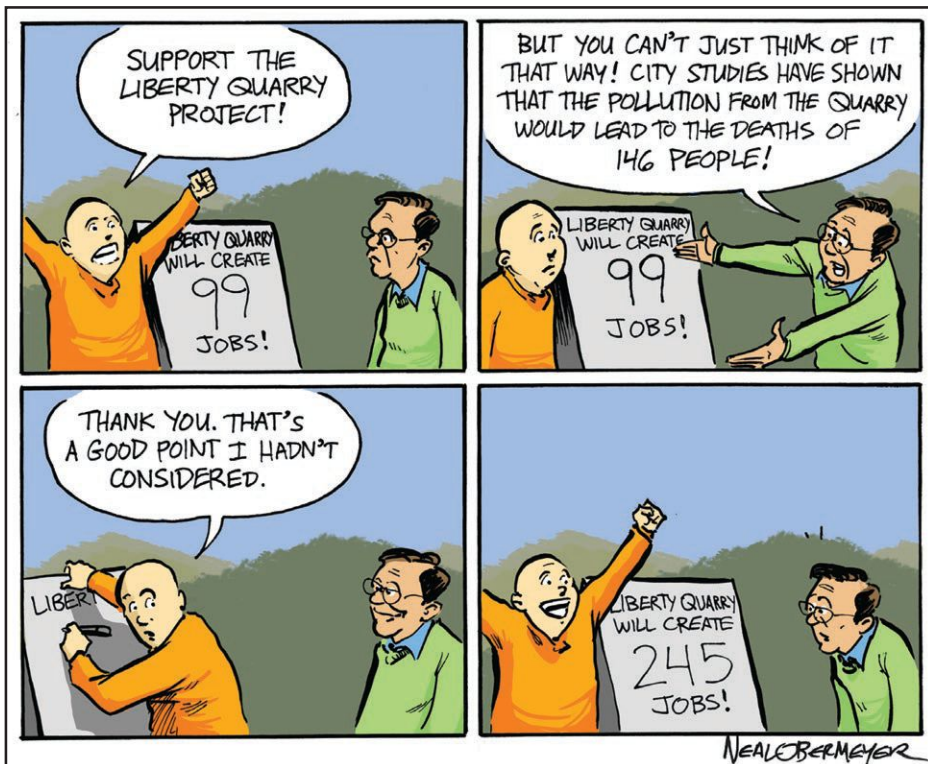
By Matt Potter  
Wednesday, February 1

### Acceptable Radiation

Possible Leak Shuts Nuclear Station

continued on page 49

## Neal Obermeyer



continued on page 48

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### Welcome Back, Donna

Thank you very much for printing the interview with Donna Frye on January 26 ("So San Diego," Cover Story). I loved listening to what she had to say. I hadn't heard from her for some time, so I appreciate the Joe Deegan story on Donna. It gives us an idea of where she is, what she's doing, and where she wants to go. We need people like her around.

B.J. Withall  
via voice mail

### What We'll Do For You

I was pleased to see someone (John Wise, Letters, February 2) respond to that inane letter from Ted Rodosovich the previous week. He thoroughly deserved another slap to the head, so here goes. To recap and summarize the original letter, Ted and his fellow progressives have their knickers in a knot over those evil Republicans who dare to peek into their bedrooms, force religion on kids in school, put up crosses and the Ten Commandments in buildings, and replace "E Pluribus Unum" with "In God We Trust" on currency. Talk about Trivial Pursuit! Is that all they have to worry about? Doesn't a \$15.3 trillion debt (and rapidly climbing, thanks to the "big O," not Bush), federal taxes going up more than 30 percent in the next two years, loss of jobs, freedom, and housing bother any of you progressives? What a collection of arrogant, ignorant, gullible twits you must be. You think you have all the right

answers, but you don't even know how to ask the right questions. Just because millions of lefties might agree on something, it doesn't make that something factual or the truth. At best you just have the consensus of a bunch of left-leaning lemmings. Two cases in point are "man-made global warming" and "governments can spend themselves into prosperity."

Allow me to be a Republican spokesman with whom Ted might want to sit down and negotiate as he requested. Negotiate these: We will keep our noses out of your bedroom if you will keep your hands out of our wallets and gun lockers.

We will stop forcing religion onto young kids in school if you stop forcing "alternative lifestyles" and the global-warming hoax onto them. We will take down the crosses and Commandments if you put up a border fence to keep out illegals, terrorists, and drugs. We will stop rewording U.S. currency if you stop rewording (or just ignoring) the Constitution.

I normally don't waste my time trying to reason with drunks, Democrats, or two-year-olds, but this could be a fun exercise in futility.

Name Withheld  
By Request  
Oceanside

### Classical Omission?

I'm curious as to why you no longer list classical music, you only list other types of music extensively in the Reader.

Bernard Miller  
via voice mail

*The classical music listings are in the Calendar Events section. In the February 2 edition, the listings started at the bottom of page 59.*  
— Editor

### Back To Roots

Stringers Man, they've got to be more about the neighborhood. They look like press releases now.

Name Withheld  
via voice mail

### Comments from Reader website

*continued on page 52*

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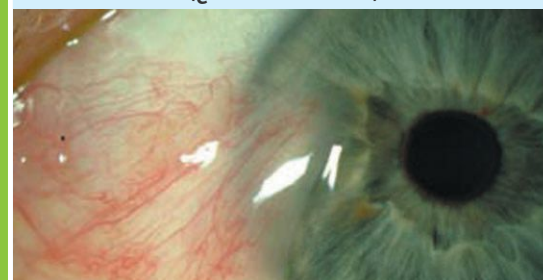
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by Barbarella

In 2011 I lost my kick-ass condo and went on anti-anxiety meds that — when combined with stress, financial troubles, moving house, and excessive drinking and dining out — left me two sizes larger. As if that wasn't bad enough, in 2011 I almost lost my father (who nearly died in the hospital while undergoing what was supposed to be a simple biopsy).

Last year was depressing, stressful, and effed up. But this year — this year holds such promise. Not only because I'm resettled, trying to wean off the meds, and working to regain the level of fitness I once had; I could do those things any old year. No, it's because this year — 2012 — is associated with a special symbol in the Chinese zodiac: the dragon.

I was born in the Year of the Dragon. Growing up, I wove its folklore into my identity. But before I go on

about why being a dragon is important to me, I must admit that, in general, I don't pay attention to astrology. There's a reason horoscopes are listed in the entertainment section. The entire field is fantastical quackery, which astronomers have proven by pointing out the Earth has shifted since the ancients devised their constellational categories, meaning whatever sign you think you are (and all of the characteristics supposedly associated with "your chart") is wrong. When the position of the stars is actually taken into account, my father is not a Taurus, but an Aries.

**It was a year of change and growth, and though I was out of my mind on a smorgasbord of drugs for most of it, I had an awesome time. It was a good year.**

## Divine Beast

And yet, regardless of all contrary evidence, I choose to hold tight to my belief in all things dragon because I find its traits suit me. For example, according to archaic Chinese documents, anyone born in the Year of the Dragon is perfectly compatible with anyone born in the Year of the Rat. It just so happens that David, my best friend/business partner/husband, is a rat. So when I read something like, "Dragon often takes center stage, leaving Rat to orchestrate the rest" or "They thrive on each others' energy and will do all they can to make their relationship special," I willingly suspend my disbelief.

If I were born in, say, the Year of the Dog, or if I were a dragon but David turned out to be born under my least compatible sign, I probably wouldn't give as much thought to this. But I'm happy it worked out this way — it's nice to have something to live up to.

As a girl who came of age reading historical romance novels and collecting statues of fairies, the dragon itself has particular

appeal. Unlike my Western sign, Virgo — "shy and conservative"? — my Eastern, birth-given identity was so...me. And any descriptions that weren't me yet were ways I wanted to be. I wonder if, rather than my serendipitous dragon-ness casting the mold for who I was to become, it was my



wanting so badly to embody the characteristics of the dragon that guided my development.

"Bossy, dominating, and authoritative being"? Check. "Loves to be the center of attention"? You betcha. "A force to be reckoned with"? Watch out. A "deliverer of good fortune and master of authority" is something I strive to be, along with all of my determined so-called dragon characteristics, which include "enterprising, flexible, self-assured, and brave." There's also "tactless and scrutinizing," but we're picking and choosing here, even though, if cornered, I'd confess to being both at times. My favorite bit has to be that "people born in Dragon years are to be honored and respected." That's a given — only a handful of masochists I know would choose to

be dishonored and disrespected.

There's no way I will allow any Year of the Dragon to be a bad one. The last Dragon year was 2000. In 2000, I was fired from a job I hated in Los Angeles, which prompted me to move back to San Diego. That was the year I got my dragon tattoo (two dragons, one red the other black, together forming a yin-yang symbol). It was the year I was first published, the year I went to Burning Man. It was a year of change and growth, and though I was out of my mind on a smorgasbord of drugs for most of it, I had an awesome time. It was a good year.

I like to believe we shape our destiny, to an extent. This is why, even though we're only a month in, I'm choosing to view 2012 as one of my best years. I want to embody the strength and the luck of the Chinese symbol under which I happened to be born.

Studies have shown that placebos can be effective up to 60 percent of the time. "Placebo" is Latin for "I shall please" and has come to mean "Any medicine adopted more to please than benefit the patient." I know that astrology is a bunch of hogwash. But this year — my year — I'm choosing to believe it as truth, because I want to remain optimistic about 2012; I want to manifest my belief that this year will be drastically better than the last. So I embrace my inner dragon and will do my best to embody the divine beast I was born to be. ■

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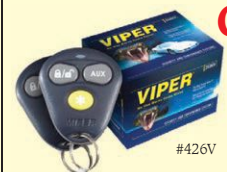
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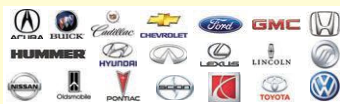


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## STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

ILLUSTRATION BY RICK GEARY

Hey Matt:

There has been a question bugging me since I worked at the O.B. Pier bait shop years ago. Is there a breed of fish called a sardine, or are they called that only after they are prepared? Any help?

— GA from SD

This isn't a can of sardines, it's a can of worms. Wasn't there something besides sardines to think about when you worked at the bait shop?

Anyway, there definitely is a kind of live, swimming-around fish called a sardine. Better yet, there are many kinds of live, swimming-around fish called sardines. But there are things that we don't call sardines but are found in cans labeled "sardines."

Science guys classify what ordinary folk call sardines into a family called *Clupeidae*, with brothers and sisters: herrings, sprat, menhaden, and shad. The next step down the classification chart is a fish's genus, separating the *Clupeidae* into smaller groups based on physical characteristics and habitat. About 17 genera of fish called sardines. Next step, with very specific characteristics, is the fish's species. Dozens and dozens of "sardine" species from warm, cold, fresh, brackish, or marine waters around the world: Atlantic sardine, India-oil sardine, perforated-scale sardine, Reader sardine — really. From St. Lucia. Not kidding. So there's your free-range sardines.

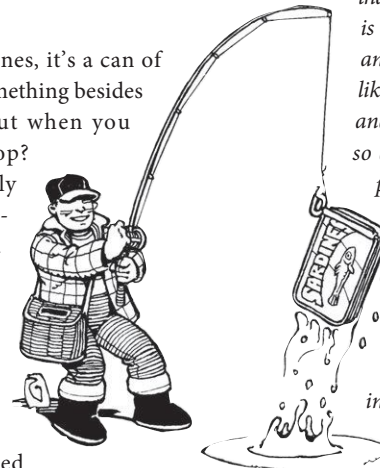
Sardines with their heads chopped off are a slightly different matter. The FDA permits a can labeled "sardines" to actually be a can of fish of the genera that include sprats, brislings, and small herrings, all of them being so closely related. So there's your argument for a sardine not being a sardine until it's put in a can. There are actually two internet sources that make your argument, too, one a supposed high-toned chef and the other some guy who writes for the *Boston Globe* as "Dr. Knowledge." Both claim sardines aren't sardines until they're in a can. Sure, occasionally a herring is a herring until it's put in a can labeled "sardines," but that's the exception. Worldwide, *Sardina pilchardus* is considered the "true" sardine; that's a fish the Brits call a pilchard, we call a sardine. Following United Nations guidelines, any fish sold as a sardine that is not a pilchard-type has to bear a clarification of exactly what species of sardine it is. Of course, this is much ado about a foodstuff nobody likes anyway.

Hey Matt:

Here's one that will put you into behavioral research textbooks. Are you up to the challenge? It is pretty well established that REM sleep is the period of our sleeping when we dream. And when we dream, we usually dream of places and objects

that we see in our daily life. Here is the question (the answer you and your helpers provide will likely appear in psychology and anatomy/physiology textbooks, so do your best research)...do people who have been blind since birth report having dreams? If so, do they dream of images, or perhaps only sounds? There are at least three psychologists or psych. students waiting for your reply. Thanks for doing the "heavy lifting" on this research issue.

— Michael, via email



Heavy lifting? Hah! Lightweight stuff, mostly because we've already answered this. No textbooks, no scientific papers, no extended research. We just asked a blind person. Your education environment has hijacked your logic; you've made the easy unnecessarily complicated. Just ask a blind person. If you'd done as we did, you'd learn that the blind dream exactly the way we do, experiencing their dreaming world in the same way they experience their waking world: sound, touch, smell, hearing. Our dreaming blind person had actually dreamed of driving a car, so the dreams of the blind are just as goofy as ours sometimes are.

Matthew Alice:

What does the M in M-16 rifle stand for?

— MFS, UCLA

Remember we're dealing here with the U.S. military, a no-frills, no-imagination outfit that runs on codes and letters and numbers and dashes and slashes and dots. If you were hoping for something romantic or even mean and nasty, you're out of luck. The M in M-16 stands for "Model." Model 16 semi-auto rifle. According to the Springfield (MA) Armory National Park, the largest repository of historical U.S. military weapons in the world, the M designation for rifles goes back to before 1800. In 1946 the Armormite company designed what they called the AR-15 rifle. The U.S. tried it out in the Air Force and Army and eventually bought the design from Armormite. They shifted the name from AR-15 to the military standard, and the M-16 began replacing older models in soldiers' hands.

Find more Matthew Alice online at [SDReader.com/hip](http://SDReader.com/hip)

**Got a question you need answered?** Send an email to [heymatt@cts.com](mailto:heymatt@cts.com) or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

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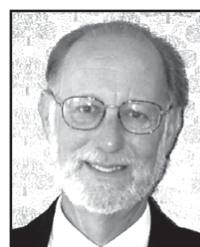
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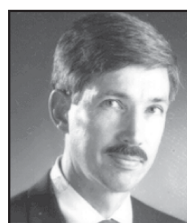
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# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news



Hipper than thou

## Hipster Dropoff

Following San Diego's Failure to Make Top 10 List of Hipster Cities, Pop Sensation One Republic Decides to Remove City's Name from Alternate Lyrics for Hit Single "Good Life" "Gotta protect the brand, ya know?"

Everybody knows that One Republic's earworm "Good Life" varies its lyrics for different radio markets. In D.C., the line "My friends in L.A. they don't know" becomes "My friends in Washington they don't know." Similar changes have been documented in Atlanta and Houston. And in San Diego, the line "Paris to China to Colorado" plays as "Paris to China to San Diego." That is, it did until

last week, when San Diego placed 11th in a nationwide ranking of cities by hipstericity.

A statement on the band's website reads, "Sorry, San Diego. We understand how much this must hurt. But, hey, at least we played a show there one time in 2010, right? And L.A. isn't that far away! Anyway, it's not our fault you suck. Stop whining."

## "I Learned It From You, Dad!"

Poway Town Hall Meeting on Teen Drug Abuse Yields Plan for Parental Instruction on Responsible Drug Use

"The family that tokes together, jokes together."

NO LONGER KIDDING OURSELVES, POWAY — Two weeks ago, the Poway Intentional Leadership League (PILL) held a community-wide meeting to address the surprisingly pervasive problem of teen drug abuse in this affluent, well-mannered suburb.

The meeting drew over 300 people from all walks of community life — parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, and even some students and their dealers. And while the debate was intense and occasionally raucous, it seems to have borne fruit: the PILL Plan for Observation and Practice (PILL POP). Essentially, the plan calls on Poway's parents to use recreational drugs with their children, instead of hiding out in the den or the master suite bathroom.

"It's not like we're not using these drugs already," explains PILL POP proponent Carl Dawson, a longtime Poway pothead and father of three. "Of course we are. But what makes us different from the tweaker living in his own filth in a dumpster behind the Circle K is the fact that we know the appropriate time to party and how much partying we can handle while still

maintaining a responsible image. How are our children ever going to learn these things unless we teach them? Through trial and error? Advice from peers? Movies and television? I think it's pretty clear that we need to get involved with our kids' highs."

Critics warn that the plan does not do enough to stress the illegal nature of recreational drug use, but Dawson dismisses that as pie-in-the-sky distraction from the real issues. "I cannot stress it enough — parents are their children's primary educators in the behavioral realm. It is essential that parents model responsible consumption when it comes to Oxycontin, marijuana, or other controlled substances. Otherwise, we are just going to see more deaths from overdoses, more kids smoking themselves right out of polite upper-middle-class society."

Besides just smoking out with your kids, Dawson suggests "making it an educational experience. Is your child interested in agriculture? Teach them about hybridization and sustainable growth by growing your favorite strain of weed with them. Does your daughter like chemistry? Try cooking up some meth together. And snagging a



Oxycontin, aka Middle-Class Crack

prescription for weapons-grade Oxycontin from your primary health care provider can be the occasion for a discussion of medical ethics and the health care crisis in general. Research has shown that these kinds of shared experiences are crucial to the well-being of your child. Plus, drugs are amazing."

"It's time to take parental drug use out of the closet," concludes Dawson. "Unless, of course, that's where the grow lamps are. And who knows? For some kids, the experience of getting high with their parents might be enough to turn them off illegal drugs forever."

## STRONG MAYOR?

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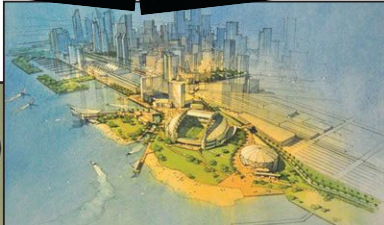
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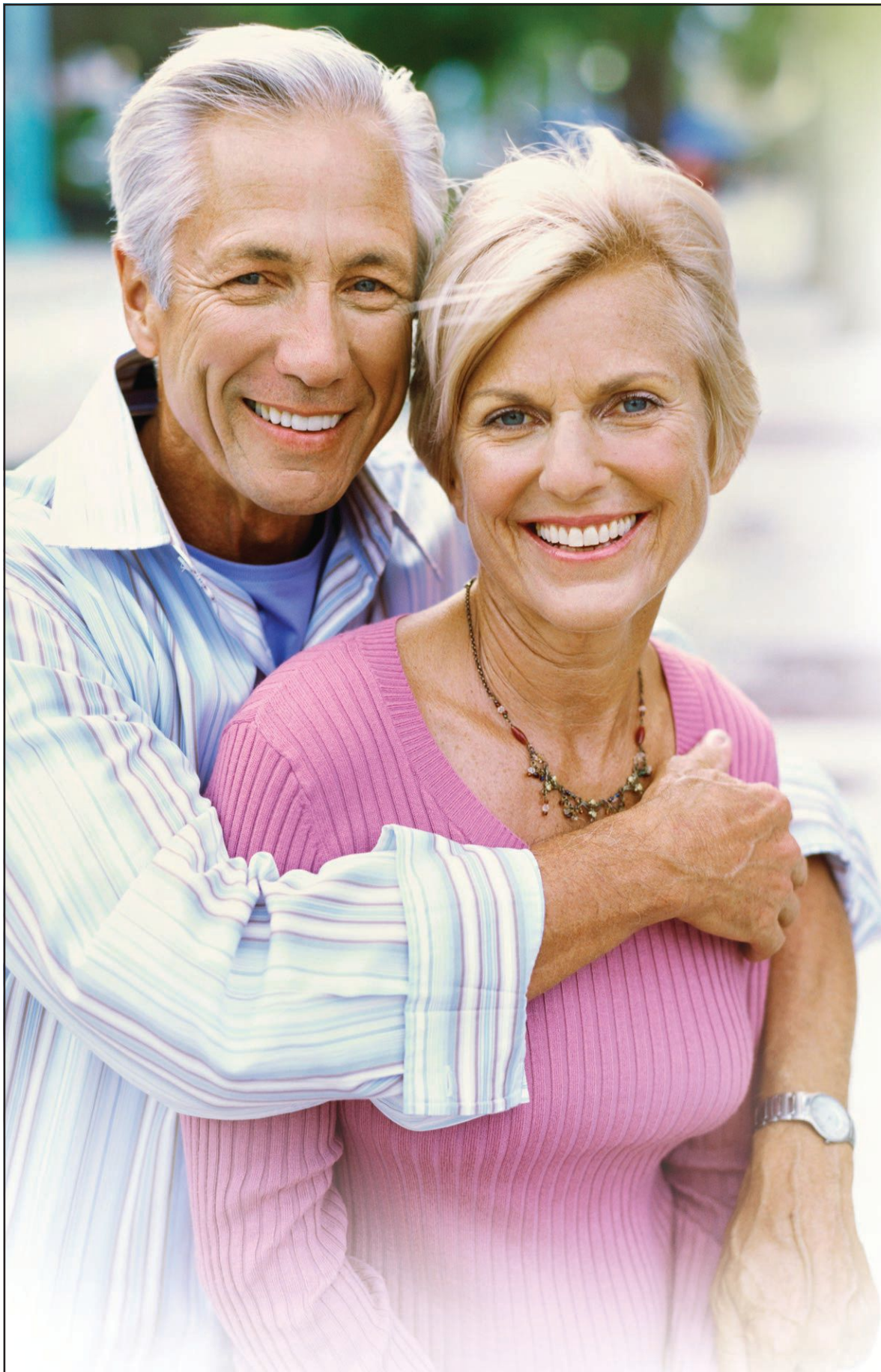
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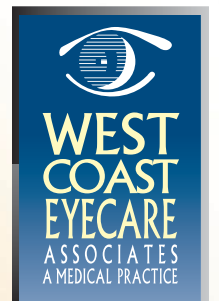
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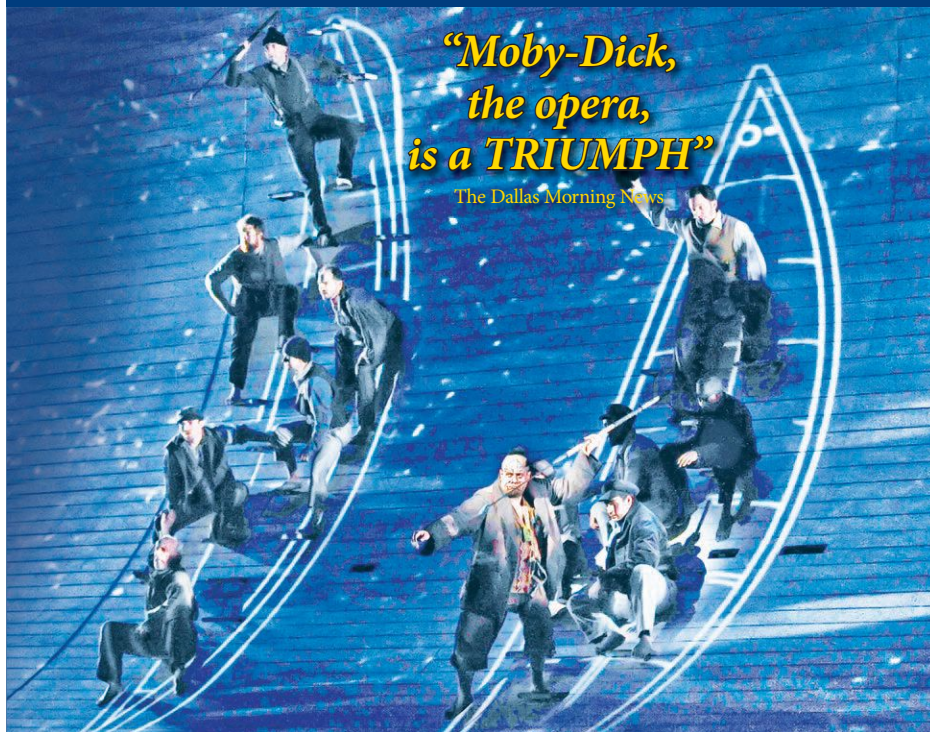
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Photo by Karen Almond/The Dallas Opera

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TITLE: **Strange Musings, Awesome Humans, and Nonsense Spewing** | ADDRESS: [jannairons.com](http://jannairons.com)  
AUTHOR: **Janna Irons** | FROM: **Encinitas** | BLOGGING SINCE: **2011**

POST TITLE: **Match.com, No Thanks.**

POST DATE: **August 12, 2011**

Profile Translator

"I'm looking for a woman who is loyal, honest, and genuine."

TRANSLATION: "I am looking for a woman who won't cheat on me like my bitch ex-girlfriend."

Occupation: "Self-employed" + Favorite TV show: "Weeds" + Favorite music: "Marley"

TRANSLATION: "I sell drugs."

"I just like to chill, be mellow, and cruise around town with my dog."

TRANSLATION: "I am lazy and I have no life. I might also sell drugs."

Age: "54" + "Seeking women 19-29"

TRANSLATION: "I may or may not be a pedophile."

His Date Preferences: "Height: 3'0" (91cms) to 5'11" (180cms) Body type: Big and beautiful, About average, Curvy, Full-figured, A few extra pounds"

TRANSLATION: "I'm desperate."

Screen names also quite revealing. For example, AdamWantsKids is tired of beating around the bush. Brains-n-Biceps wants you to know he's got more than just massive, gym-nourished guns. BigBlackMan22...um, I think that one's self-explanatory.

POST TITLE: **Adventures on Treadmills.**

POST DATE: **August 12, 2011**

I begrudgingly rolled into 24 Hour Fitness at 9 p.m., the short-bus of gym shifts. The hot, hip after-work crew (the women whose makeup is thick and sweat is nonexistent, and the men whose tank tops conveniently end just above their navels) had long since gone home. The retards of fitness were all present: the guy in the garbage-bag sweat suit who drools uncontrollably as he stair-climbs for well over an hour EVERY DAY (and is still somehow mildly overweight), the personal-trainer-gym-guy whose eyes never leave the mirror, and my personal favorite, the 60-year-old woman who I got

stuck next to on a treadmill once who told me, unprovoked, "All men are addicted to porn. The internet ruined the chances of a man being faithful" and then continued on with her tales of a 25-year-old "slut" her husband left her for.



POST TITLE: **I Just Wanted My Toenails Painted**

POST DATE: **August 11, 2011**

I had the strangest pedicure ever the other day.

The place was called Le Bleu de Blah-blah or something fancy and French-sounding...I walk in and no one in

there was French, or even European, or kinda white-skinned at all. They were Vietnamese. All of them. They were all middle-aged Vietnamese men.

So I sit down and the man takes my feet in his hands, lifting them up and looking at them at all angles, pulling them about 2 inches from his face and then leaning back, looking at them from afar. He puts on a pair of metal-framed glasses, examining my feet more carefully while rapidly spitting out what I was sure was Vietnam shit-talk.

Then a young Vietnamese boy appeared from the back room...He sits there, less than two feet from me, and well within my bubble, just looking at me, smiling. The place had no magazines, I had no book with me, or even an iPod, so I sat there awkwardly pretending to do something on my phone while the old man massaged my feet, and jabbered on in his foreign tongue while the weird little child stared at me. Plus, there was this weird French opera music playing and this chubby '80s lady kept repeating — probably about 12 times — to the creepy shit-talking pseudo-Frenchies, "Oh, I sure do wish I knew what you were saying," which they responded to by laughing and continuing on with their esoteric babble.

The seconds on the clock ticked by. The boy stared at me for well over 45 minutes. I am never going back. I think I'll stop being high-maintenance now.

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# SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

## Now Is the Winter of Our Discontent



Next NFL season is a long, long way off, Bucko.

I have Dewey Not-His-Real-Name Pienkey on the phone. He's a Nevada friend from olden days. Third generation, born and raised in Searchlight, a town of 550, an hour's drive south of Vegas, known for the El Rey Bordello and senate majority leader Harry Reid.

The early Mirage line had New England favored by 3½ points. That line lasted from 1:30 p.m. all the way to 2:30 p.m. on January 23, then moved down to 3 points and there it sat. Dewey wanted to bet the Giants but wanted another ½ point, so he chased 3½ points for the next 13 days. The line didn't move, so, Sunday morning, Dewey abandoned the Giants and put \$5000 on the Pats, giving three points. I called to offer condolences.

Dewey says, as any good gambler will, "That's not a problem. It's the end of the football year that hurts."

Which is true. It's not only that you wake up the morning after Super Bowl Sunday with a hangover. And not only that, it's the beginning of another workweek. Those conditions have been dealt with many times before. The problem is the alien world you now inhabit. You've been ripped from home, hearth, family, friends, and cast down into No NFL World. That's what hurts.

I say, "Let the great famine begin."

The day after Super Bowl marks the beginning of the great emptiness, like crossing the Pacific in 1521. There is no end of ocean. You sail through the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific. Two months further on, you'll be standing on the quarterdeck, spyglass sighted to the western horizon, and think, *This has no end.* Your journey could go on forever; maybe, likely even, you'll fall off the end of

the Earth. In other words, it's seven months before the 2012 NFL season goes off.

For Dewey, nothing can replace NFL emptiness. There is nothing to fill Saturdays, Sundays, Sunday nights, Monday nights, or Thursday nights. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Used to be, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays were given over to anticipation. Dewey rode a fan's high fueled by web-surfing, ESPN in all its forms, and sports radio. Dewey will reach the right level of enthusiasm by kickoff time. Depend on it.

Suddenly, no more anticipating the big game, no bullshitting about big game, no emailing about big game, no wagering and no arguing about big game. Suddenly, end of quality companionship time, end of quality tavern time, end of quality telephone calls. Even the sports page leaves a bitter taste; the newspaper speaks to other people now, creatures who follow non-NFL sports.

It's over. No more playoffs, no more Super Bowl, no more (God help us) Pro Bowls. Nothing. NFL is done, and we won't see its like until pumpkins return to Capistrano. Seven months will pass before we watch another surgeon dig into a Rob Gronkowski ankle and root around for bone fragments or watch a Joe Theismann turn his foot backward and try to tap dance on AstroTurf. Seven months is enough time to have a world economic meltdown, enough time for a viviparous shark to become impregnated and give birth to a little manatee, enough time for a field of water-melons to grow and rot, enough time for...it's a long, long time, Bucko.

I say, "Dewey, what are you going to do, start talking to your wife and kids?"

"Looks like," Dewey says. Long pause. "Will they want to have dinner at the dining room table? How long does that take?" Pause. "No, I'm kidding. Great wife, great kids.... It's just that...they're always around. Just kidding."

"I see a reeducation camp in your future." Dewey mumbles, "Great wife. Great kids." "Buck up, lad. March Madness is coming." "Yeah, goes three weeks," Dewey says.

"Sure, I'll watch some. Why not? Who cares? Baseball begins its endless, dreary slo-mo in April. Unwatchable dreck. There is the NFL draft. It's a tease to let me know what I'm missing. The NBA isn't worth watching until the playoffs. Even then I can't watch the Lakers one more time. That's not possible."

"How about soccer?"

"I'm an American; I don't care for soccer. Golf, how do people watch golf on TV? What do these people do the rest of the time? Why are they here?"

"Come on, Dewey — the summer Olympics. You've got to like the summer Olympics." "Conflicts with the opening of NFL training camps. It will be a distraction."

I pull out my last suggestion. "There is hockey. There is always hockey on channel 9000."

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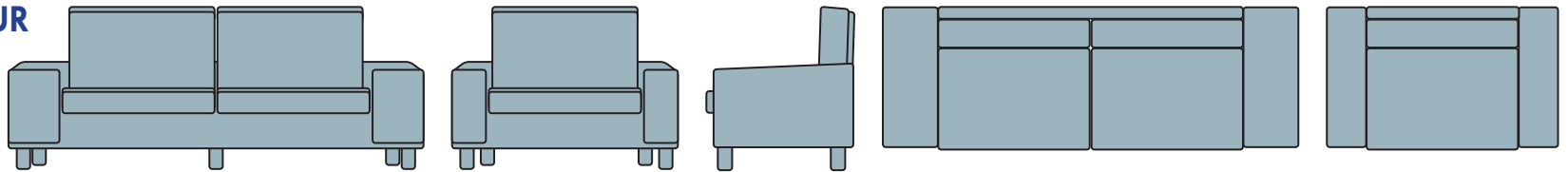
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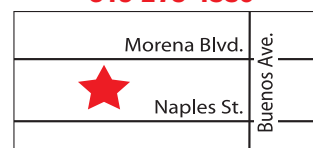
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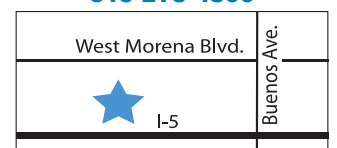
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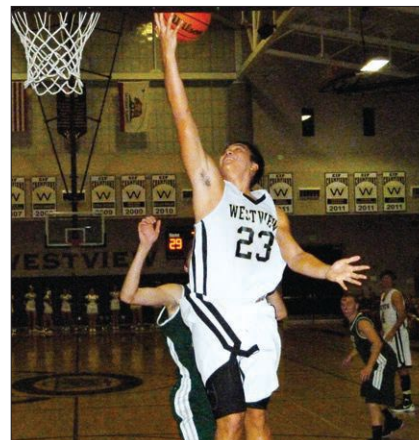
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# fast break

By Anthony Gentile



Westview guard Ryan Pineda lays up the ball in the lane against Poway.



Mount Miguel guard Izzy Wagner leans into Monte Vista guard K.J. Houston to set up acrobatic shot attempt.

## La Jolla Country Day Evens Score with Francis Parker

**La Jolla** — After an uneven start to Coastal League play, La Jolla Country Day is charging back into contention. Friday night (January 3) at home, the Torreyes used defense to dominate Francis Parker 53-35 in a win that exacted revenge and moved them squarely into the league title picture.

"We were confident, and we came out and played lights out," said La Jolla Country Day senior guard Nick Schlossberg. "The mindset of this game was to get them back like they got us, and that's what we did tonight."

La Jolla Country Day (14-6, 4-2 Coastal) scored the first eight points of the game and led 17-7 after the first quarter. The Torreyes held Francis Parker (11-11, 4-2) to four points in the second quarter to open up a convincing 28-11 lead by halftime.

"We just wanted to play as a team — not as five individuals but just come together — and we really did that this week, especially in practice," Schlossberg said.

Francis Parker opened the second half with a 9-2 run but couldn't get closer than double digits as La Jolla Country Day held an 18-point lead after the third quarter. The Torreyes led by 24 points in the fourth quarter and comfortably avenged a 22-point loss to the Lancers on January 13.

"This is the toughest part of our schedule, and [we knew] if we beat [Francis Parker] we'd be on a steady pace to win league and go on to CIF," Schlossberg said. "We're really excited about this win."



Francis Parker guard Coleman Baker blocks the shot attempt of La Jolla Country Day guard Jonathan Brewster.

Schlossberg scored 14 points to lead La Jolla Country Day — including three three-pointers — and was one of three Torreyes in double figures. Off the bench, 6-foot-8 sophomore center Jordan Poland finished with 14 points for the Torreyes and presented problems for Francis Parker on both ends of the floor.

"We have a new big guy this year and he helps us out as a defensive and offensive presence," Schlossberg said of Poland. "We put in a new play for the big man, and every time he's open we try to get him the ball and let him do his work."

La Jolla Country Day came out of its biggest week of the season with wins over Army-Navy and Francis Parker. As a result, the Torreyes are right in the mix for a league title.

"I think we can win this thing," Schlossberg said. "If we win out, we win the league, and that's our mindset."

La Jolla Country Day — 53 (17-11-10-15)  
Schlossberg 14, Bamford 11, Burmeister 8,  
Brewster 5, Tuites 0 (starters) Poland 13,  
Damanhoury 2

Francis Parker — 35 (7-4-9-15)

Dunklin 14, C. Polk  
10, B. Fitzner 6, Baker  
4, Jenkins 0 (starters) 1  
point unaccounted

## Week 11 Top 10

1. La Costa Canyon (23-2)
2. Hoover (23-3)
3. Cathedral Catholic (23-1)
4. Lincoln (14-8)
5. San Ysidro (10-3)
6. El Camino (17-6)
7. St. Augustine (19-5)
8. Army-Navy (18-5)
9. Morse (19-6)
10. Westview (18-5)

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## LEAD STORY

— Don Aslett, 76, recently opened the Museum of Clean in Pocatello, Idaho, as the culmination of a lifelong devotion to tidying up. Highlights are several hundred pre-electric vacuum cleaners plus interactive exhibits to encourage kids to clean their rooms. Aslett told London's *Daily Mail* in December that people who don't understand his dedication must never have experienced the satisfaction of making a toilet bowl sparkle.

## Government in Action!

— Predator drones are an important weapon against terrorists in Afghanistan, Yemen, and other countries, but in June, an unarmed predator was employed stateside to help catch cattle rustlers. The Department of Homeland Security owns eight predators for surveillance and occasionally assists local law enforcement. The cattle rustlers had been arrested, then jumped bail and holed up on their vast ranch near Lakota, N.D., but the predator spotted their exact location on the property, leading to a raid that ended without bloodshed.

— India's legendarily plodding government bureaucracy had long stymied a snake charmer named Hakkul (a villager in Uttar Pradesh state) who had sought a snake-conservation permit, which had been authorized at one level but delayed locally. In November, finally exasperated, Hakkul walked into the land revenue office in the town of Harraiya with several sacks of snakes (including cobras) and turned them loose, sending clerks and visitors climbing furniture or fleeing. Recent news accounts report that "almost all" of the snakes had been rounded up.

— A December news release from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control warned of the dangers of *Campylobacter jejuni* bacteria infections on a sheep ranch, but apparently only among workers who used an old-style (19th Century) method of castrating the animals. CDC strongly urged that workers stop biting off the sheep's genitals and instead use modern tools.

## Chutzpah!

— Convicted serial rapist Steven Phillips was exonerated in 2008, one of a continuing string of wrongly convicted Dallas-area "criminals" proved innocent by DNA testing, and under a formula by state law, he was awarded about \$4 million, tax-free, for his 25 years behind bars. Recently, Phillips's ex-wife filed a petition in court demanding a portion — even though the couple had been divorced for the last 17 years of his incarceration, and the ex-wife had remarried and had a child. (The ex-wife claims it was Phillips who originated the divorce and that she had given up on him only because he had revealed a "disgusting" history as a "peeping tom" and flasher.)

## Felicitous Discoveries

— Dan D'Amato, 45, partying in an Orlando, Fla., motel room in December, was accidentally shot by a stranger who was having a dispute with another partygoer. Later, as his wounded hip was being treated at a hospital, doctors discovered and removed two "huge" tumors in D'Amato's abdomen that had so far gone unnoticed. The tumors were not cancerous but had they not been found, they would soon have disabled him.

— At a home in Taylorsville, Utah, in December,

a housemate who was pursuing a mouse in the kitchen accidentally shot another housemate. As police investigated, they discovered a 13-year-old girl hiding in a closet. A third housemate, Paul Kunzler, 28, was then arrested and charged with carrying on a months-long sexual relationship with her.

## Police Report

— John Whittle, 52, was charged in December with robbing a Wells Fargo Bank in Port Richey, Fla. According to police, Whittle ordered a beer at the Hayloft Bar shortly after 1 p.m., then excused himself, and a few minutes later, returned to finish his beer. In the interim, police said later, Whittle had walked down the street to the bank and robbed it.

— In December, Russell Mace, 55, was caught soon after robbing a Union Savings Bank branch in New Milford, Conn. A bank employee had spotted Mace acting "suspicious" in the parking lot, and indeed, he said, Mace entered, robbed the bank of about \$3000, and fled to a waiting car. Police, however, identified the car, which they had noted from Mace's recent arrest for shoplifting. (The "suspicious" behavior the bank employee had noticed, he told police, was Mace, pants down, defecating, in plain view among parked cars.)

## Update

— Not all states have anti-bestiality laws, and Peter Bower's ongoing case in Ohio exemplifies prosecutors' frustration. There was evidence that Bower had had sex with a dog ("Maggie") and had written her "love" letters, and police arrested him in June. Prosecutors were willing to settle

the case in November for minimal punishment because the only law Bower could have been charged under is "animal cruelty," and they explained that they might have had trouble showing harm to the apparently adored dog. (At the time of Bower's arrest, a search had uncovered human-animal pornography and a life-sized inflatable sheep.)

## Clichés Come to Life

— A 28-year-old man in New York City quietly excused himself the morning after his wedding in November (at a hotel following an elaborate reception), took a taxi to a Harlem River overlook, and jumped to his death. According to a relative, the man's suicide note mentioned that he "couldn't take it anymore."

## Undignified Deaths

— A 77-year-old man was killed by a sheriff's deputy in December while standing beside his own engraved tombstone in a Gardnerville, Nev., cemetery. The victim was holding a shotgun and was distraught over the death of his wife.

— A 20-year-old man died of an apparent cocaine overdose in North Charleston, S.C., in December as a result of trying to help his older brother. The pair had been arrested and placed in a police cruiser when the older brother convinced the younger one to swallow the ounce of cocaine the older man was carrying. (According to a police report, the cocaine had been stored in the older man's "backside.")

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# Citizen Pot Bust

**“This is Steve Reed with the DEA,”  
said the man on the phone.**

“You called the DEA several months ago about a possible irrigation line you found in Cuyamaca State Park,” he continued. “I have a Post-it note on my bulletin board with your phone number.”

“Ah, yeah, I did call that in,” I hesitantly confirmed.

“What do you think it is?” pressed Agent Reed.

“Well, it was an irrigation tube about one inch in diameter, buried in the pine straw and way off the main trail.”

I thought about the spring day my two hiking buddies and I were off-trail, crashing through dense thickets of tangled brush. It was growing dark, and the three of us had gotten separated. I stopped to rest and happened to look down and I saw a plastic pipe. I wondered why an irrigation tube would be way out there.

To the agent I said, “I followed the black pipe for about 20 feet before it disappeared into a thicket. At

first I thought the park rangers were watering trees or something, but I wised up when I saw how well hidden it was. I hooked up with my buddies, and we returned to check out the hose before we headed back out to the main trail.”

“Can you tell me how to get there?” Agent Reed asked. “We recently had a bust at Cuyamaca, and I’m trying to find out if it’s the same location.”

I’d read about that bust in the *Union-Tribune*, one of the top five drug busts in San Diego County, a marijuana field with a street value of \$300 million.

“No, it was too remote, real thick brush,” I said, “and it was getting dark when we left. But I think I could find it again.”

“That would be great.”

“When do you want me to look for it?”

“Tomorrow.”

“Tomorrow?” My brain whirled with the logistics of

a deep-brush penetration on such short notice. "Would it be all right if I brought my buddies along?"

"Sure," said Steve. "Call me if you find anything."

I sat in my oversized La-Z-Boy, trying to sort out what had just transpired, and what was expected. I was going to assist the DEA with looking for pot in the bowels of Cuyamaca park. What, exactly, had I volunteered to do?

My hiking pals and I have nicknames we use when embarking on deep-woods diving. One friend is Bull, the other Shark. I'm Goat. I gave my friends a call.

Bull said, "I'll have my gear packed tonight."

Shark said, "Hell, yeah, bro, frickin' frickin' bro bro bro! I'll be packin', bro! I'll bring MREs



**The growers' camp, where breakfast was still cooking. All food stores were Mexican — bottles of Tapatio hot sauce, cans of refried beans, packages of corn tortillas, and an assortment of chilies.**

[meals ready to eat] for all of us." Shark was the only one of us with military service.

When the Princess got home, I switched gears

from, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" to a more nuanced, "This is a civic duty, honey."

Before the sun had risen above the moun-

tains east of Santa Ysabel, Shark, Bull, and I were packed into my Dodge Ram pickup, our full packs bouncing in the open bed as we drove to Cuyamaca

Rancho State Park. Arriving before the park kiosk opened, we self-registered and geared up.

Shark handed out the military MREs encased in brown plastic. "Bro, these are great! Twenty-five-hundred calories each. This is what the SEALs eat on special ops."

Bull pulled a megaphone from his pack to insert the MRE.

Shark asked, "What's that for, bro?"

"In case we run into any dopers," Bull said.

We stepped off onto a well-groomed trail. Our boots crunching dirt made a muffled sound. High-pitched bird calls emanated from the dead pine treetops, announcing us as intruders. After a half mile, the trail gently dropped to a creek bed. Clear water gurgled between white-barked mountain lilac saplings

and tall weeds choked with poison oak.

"This is it," I said hesitantly, not quite trusting my recollection.

"You sure?" said Bull. "It must be. I remember this creek."

"Let's go," whispered Shark, not wanting to be seen out on the groomed trail.

We headed uphill into heavy brush, looking for a deer skull we'd found on the previous trip; we hoped to use it as a location marker. Inevitably, we parted ways, as each man chose his own brush-choked maze.

For the next half hour, we tried in vain to penetrate the green wall, finding no passage short of a belly crawl into the labyrinth. We retreated back to the trail. We were breathing deeply from our failed efforts, our camouflage outfits embedded

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with twigs and leaves.

I apologized for the energy and time lost. "I could have sworn we came out just before a creek last time."

"We'll never get through that mess," Bull said. "Let's keep going on the trail."

A few minutes later, we felt the cooler, moist air of another brook ahead. We crossed the water and ascended the left bank. The brush here was patchy, with gaps between clumps. Shark motioned with military-style hand signals that

he'd found the deer skull; we knew it was the same one by a puncture wound below its right eye, probably a cougar kill.

With renewed resolve, we now became human pinballs, bouncing off impassable bumpers of brush into narrow passes that ejected us finally onto a grassy hillside. The buckwheat-covered slope ran along the same creek we'd crossed earlier. The creek was choked with thickets and blackened trunks of oak and white fir, the dead titans mutely testifying to the devastat-

ing Cedar Creek fire.

"Man, I smell a skunk," I whispered to Shark.

"I smell it, too. Frick, it has to be close, bro."

It dawned on us simultaneously — it might not be a skunk. Shark halted. He pulled out his camo binoculars, glassing the wall of emerald foliage below. "Goat, take a look there, bro." He handed me the binoculars. I swung the glasses in the general direction of the creek. "Do you frickin' see it?" Shark said. "Between the two trees, 30 yards into the

brush, bro."

I eliminated the plants in the lens one by green one. "Yeah, yeah!" I whispered excitedly. "I see it now." A huge jade-hued pot plant was perfectly camouflaged into the surrounding foliage. Bull was ahead of us. We trotted to catch up.

"Bull, we found pot."

"Where?" Bull glassed the plant with Shark's binoculars. "Yeah, baby! I see it...I want to get a photo." He headed down to the green wall, pushing saplings aside.

The lilac thicket gave

way to a small clearing, where a robust seven-foot-tall marijuana plant basked in the sun. "There's another one and another, and another," I said. Our vision now attuned, everywhere we looked we saw mature pot plants.

In a low voice, I said, "We're in danger. Let's get the hell out of here now."

Shark had seen enough and slithered out, but Bull lingered. "I just want a picture," he said, searching his pack's side pocket for a camera.

My sense of danger was on full tilt. We were

trespassing and could be shot any second. "Let's get out of here now," I pleaded.

Satisfied at last with his centerfold for *High Times* magazine, Bull and I retreated to the buckwheat-blanketed hill and met up with Shark. We all took cover behind the wide trunk of a huge, dead Englemann oak about 70 yards from the pot plants.

The hair-raising silence was broken by squawking birds in the pot farm below. Something big was on the move.

Shark slapped a mag-

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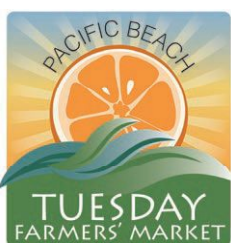


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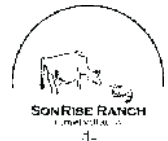
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azine into his Kimber .45. He put another full mag in his pocket. My gut churned. The mood of the adventure had changed — this was deadly serious. Would the pot-growers snipe us? Would they flank us, or just charge up the hill with guns blazing? How many were there, anyway? *Helping the DEA*, I thought, *might turn out to be the stupidest thing I've ever done.*

Shark began rubbing soot from a burned tree branch onto his face for camouflage. The imminent danger made him seem more alive. I could almost hear Jim Morrison singing, *This is the end, my only friend, the end.*

Bull and Shark scanned the tree line for movement. I nervously dialed Steve Reed's cell phone.

"This is Steve," he answered in an I'm-really-busy-this-better-be-important kind of voice.

"Hello, Mr. Reed," I whispered into the cell phone. "This is me, Harper — remember the guy you talked to yesterday?"

"Yeah?"

"Well, we're at Cuyamaca and we found some pot."

A pause. "Oh, yeah, Harper. What did you find? A couple of plants?"

"No, it's the mother lode — plants as far as we can see."

And now this narc was all over it. "I'll get a bird in the air, and my ground crew will head your way. I'm about 40 minutes out — I'm coming from San Diego. When you hear the chopper, call me on this number and guide me in. Okay?"

"Yes, sir," I said.

Time passed like mud through an hourglass. A branch snapped in the forest. Bull, Shark, and I huddled behind our oak wall in silence, listening. Bull had followed Shark's lead and rubbed charcoal onto his face; he looked

like a recruitment ad for Special Forces. Not wanting to be the only white-faced target left, I did the same.

Shark called a friend of his who worked for the FBI and told him our location. "Hey, bro bro, if you don't hear from me tonight, frick, search for us in Cuyamaca State Park, bro."

Five more minutes of silence. Our breathing was shallow, ears alert to any sound. *Hasn't it been 40 minutes, for God's sake, I thought.*

Bull moved slowly, gently lifting his pack to get something out. Then came the piercing wail of a police siren, rising and falling. The sound came from Bull's pack.

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In a panic, he fumbled to open it and kill the siren's switch.

"Damn," he said sheepishly. "Sorry about that, guys. I didn't know the megaphone was on."

Hide and seek was over. If the pot farmers hadn't known where we were, they did now. Would they rush us, thinking we were the cops?

A dozen squawking birds bolted from the tangled woods, their high-pitched calls announcing a world of chaos below. The birds lifted in frantic flight in a steady progression away from us. More scrub jays and woodpeckers pealed off, one by one, signaling with their alarm calls that whatever or

whoever was in the forest was also heading away. Bull's megaphone faux pas had worked in our favor.

In the distance we heard a reverberated staccato cadence: *wap wap wap*. "That's the chopper!" Bull said.

Into the cell phone I said, "Steve, you're to the south of us." A minute later, he was to the east. He couldn't see us. Several more passes, several more phone calls. Then he spotted Shark, who had moved into a slight clearing, giving the chopper pilot military arm signals to land. The helicopter came down on the other side of a nearby ridge.

Talking to someone by phone, you get a mental picture of what he might

look like. Steve, I imagined, was a no BS, by-the-book drug-enforcement

in a scruffy T-shirt, torn jeans, and with a do-rag on his head sauntered

## "I can't believe we didn't spot this before. You can tell this farm has been here for years."

agent, clean-cut, crisply dressed, an authoritarian figure. Maybe Clint-Eastwood-Dirty-Harryish. The chopper lifted over the ridge, passing low overhead before heading back to the southeast. Then a dirty, stout, bearded hippie dressed

from the tall grass.

He introduced himself to our camouflaged band, checking us out with the same I-guessed-you-wrong look on his face that we had on ours. He'd probably expected three candy-ass hikers in DayGlo, with trendy gear from REI. Instead, he greeted a military-style, camouflage-dressed, wannabe tactical team.

Single file, we led Agent Reed to the pot garden's entrance. He took the point with his sidearm unbuckled. Shark, ever on alert, took up the rear, making sure that no one followed us.

We walked along well-traveled, terraced paths lined with pungent pot plants without finding the garden's end. "Wow! This is huge!" said Reed. Thousands of five- to seven-foot-tall marijuana plants, with bud tips as fat around as Louisville Sluggers, blended in with the native mountain lilacs.

Steve said, "I can't believe we didn't spot this before. You can tell this farm has been here for years."

We passed several campsites filled with heaps of trash. In one, the growers' breakfast was still cooking via a small fire under a flat rock that served as a griddle for tortillas and beans. All the bags of food stores contained Mexican cui-

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**The sun's rays shining through the translucent deer flesh gave it a pink glow similar to cherry taffy.**

sine: bottles of Tapatio hot sauce, cans of refried beans, packages of corn tortillas, and an assortment of chilies.

Steve answered his cell phone; it was his ground team at the park's entrance. "You

won't be able to find us," Steve informed them. He looked at us and, holding the phone away from his ear, asked, "Can one of you lead my team in?"

It was a fat mile of brush-stomping back to the parking lot. Shark was

already limping, and I didn't have the energy. An awkward, silent moment ensued. "I'll get 'em," Bull offered, cinching up his backpack. Then he disappeared into the forest.

Knowing we were in for a long wait, Steve

took a seat on four rocks that formed a chair with back and arms. No direct sunlight or heat penetrated the leafy canopy. He seemed pleased and content to rest and survey the mega-garden, relishing the size of this day's conquest. He looked like a hippie emperor on a petrified throne. He was one happy narc.

"So, Steve," Shark said. "How much is this frickin' worth, bro?"

"See this?" Without getting up, Agent Reed grabbed a huge gooey bud. "Three thousand dollars." He grabbed another, "three thousand," and another, "three thousand." Each resin-encrusted bud was larger than a man's forearm.

Shark asked, "What keeps you from taking some of this, bro?"

Clearly, Steve had been asked this question

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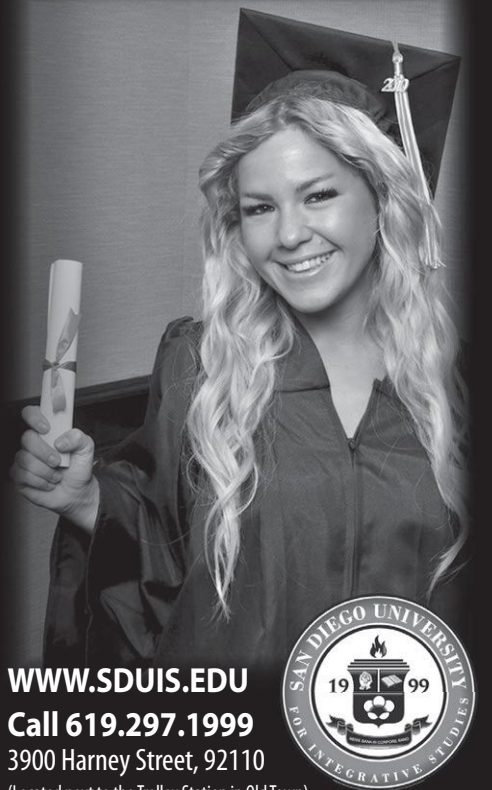
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before. Without hesitation he said, "I'm the third generation of law enforcement in my family. Not one of my relatives has ever gone bad, and I'm not going to ruin that legacy."

The pungent odor was giving me a throbbing headache. I left the garden and ate lunch with Shark on the buckwheat hillside. We were finishing our hot MREs just as Bull led two green-uniformed men out of the woods. One was from the Bureau of Land Management Narcotics Task Force, the other from Army Reserve Drug Enforcement. Both men were armed.

Back in the hidden pot plantation, we spread out to probe the size of the field. We followed the extensive system of irrigation hose. In the approximate middle was the growers' trash-strewn camp, years' worth of



**These scissors were used to prune back plants to increase the potency of the buds.**

human refuse. Shark found a walkie-talkie that worked and stashed it in his side pocket. A pile of resin-soaked clothing stood two feet high; the green-colored shirts and pants were too sticky to wear anymore, so they'd been discarded. Dozens of garbage bags —

stuffed, ripped, and overflowing — littered the forest. I remembered an old television commercial that had showed a Native American crying when he saw his once-unspoiled environment trashed. This scene would have sent him on the warpath. Along another trail,

the growers had cut down four trees. Fifteen-foot-long logs formed a crude frame three feet off the ground. This frame had been lashed to trees, then woven together with sturdy rope, forming a cargo net-like platform that held several sleeping bags off the cold ground. The frame was worn smooth from years of use.

A long rope stretched between two trees, and on this rope hung dozens of drying, upside-down, bud clusters. Another rope held strips of freshly killed deer meat — no hunting permit required here. Cured by the sun's rays, the deer's translucent flesh had a pink glow, similar to cherry taffy. Bambi had been blasted by a long gun; its plastic sheath lay on the ground, along with an open box of 12-gauge

double-ought buckshot shells.

Farther along another

## "Do you fear for your life?"

trail, an irrigation tube had been strung over a tree branch. An off/on irrigation valve controlled water flow. The crotch of the tree held bars of soap and bottles of shampoo, and a film of sudsy iridescent residue colored the earth.

Open bags of fertilizer and stashes of chemical growing supplements had been strewn all over the vast cannabis garden. Half a mile of black irri-

gation tubing and thinner feeder lines watered thousands of marijuana plants. At the lower end of the grow, alongside the creek, we found a hand-dug 15 x 15 foot pit. About six feet deep, it was half filled with rotting garbage and decomposing trash. There was no plastic, non-permeable liner to block the rancid leach.

Back at Steve's throne, we six huddled up.

"Just once, I wish I could catch the bastards," Steve fumed. "Make them clean up this mess."

"What happens to the growers, now that they've lost this year's crop?" I asked.

"With a garden this big, someone will die. The Mexican drug cartels are ruthless."

"Do you fear for your life?"

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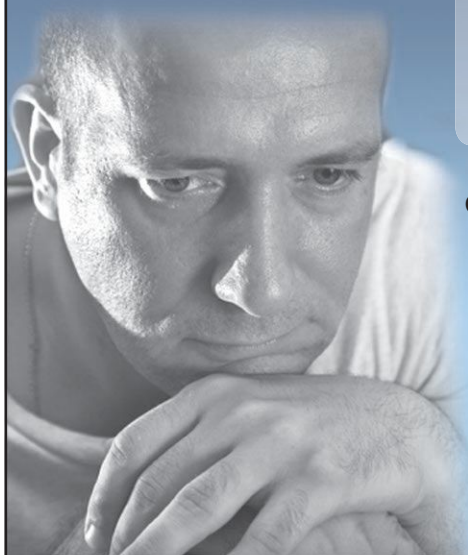
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"They know that the first time they kill one of us, we'll come down on them hard. They don't want to go there. Right now, it's a serious game of cat and mouse. They grow their gardens, and we bust them. Sometimes they win, and sometimes they lose. This time they lost big. This pot field was planted on a north-facing slope. The sun doesn't shimmer off the plants like it normally does, so we didn't see it from the air. These little pricks were smart. This is one of the best grows I've ever seen. And they've used this field for years."

Steve and his team got down to business. Drawing machetes from their packs, they started to cut down the plants. Shark, Bull, and I decided to go up the creek bed and scout for more grows.

"Should one of us go with them?" the Bureau of Land Management guy asked Steve.

"Naw, they're okay." Steve hacked at an inch-and-a-half-thick fibrous stalk.

*I hope so*, I thought.

We located the source of the irrigation, main lines immersed a hundred yards upstream. Then we continued on, hiking for an hour in thick brush. Briars ripped at our gaiters. Limbs slapped my face, raising welts. *I hope we get a reward for all this effort*, I thought. I belly-crawled into a promising spot, but there was nothing. After another hour, with no sign of pot or trash, we headed back.

At the garden, the scene had changed drastically. Thousands of pot plants had been cut down

and stacked in neat piles throughout the grow. The three men looked like sugarcane-cutters harvesting a crop, machetes swinging high before slashing a stalk.

"Can we help?" we asked.

"Sure," Steve said, his shirt soaked with perspiration. "But be sure to cut the plants below the lowest leaf, or it will grow back."

We found pruning saws at one of the growers' camps and pitched in.

"Keep track of how many you cut," instructed the guy from the Army Reserve.

The task of felling the crop was hard, as real work always is. The THC resin got on everything; my gloves, pants, shirt, and saw soon were sticky from the clear tar. At

## RESEARCH STUDIES

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- 3) Not taking medications which may cause constipation

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one point, I had to leave the garden because the skunky bud stench made my pounding headache return. This cannabis garden was more than some coffeehouse hippie's dream grow: This was a pot-production factory.

By late afternoon, the last few marijuana plants were whacked and stacked.

"What happens now?" Bull asked, sawing at a final stubborn stalk.

"We'll call in a clean-up crew tomorrow," said

Steve. "They'll pull all this weed out from below the tall trees, then pile it onto cargo nets in the clearing. The choppers can lift it out from there."

I swilled a few last gulps of warm water. "How many plants, Steve?" I asked.

"Sixteen-thousand five-hundred eighty-two." Sweat dripped from under the do-rag and trickled down his cheeks, gathering in his bushy beard.

"Hey," said Shark, "what if the growers come

back tonight and take it all, bro?"

"We'll have a guard

**"So, Steve, heh-heh, what's our reward for this, bro?"**

here all night," said Steve. He had a don't-get-any-funny-ideas edge to his voice. "We're going to trace some of the doper

trails that lead off the back of the grow. This place is lousy with 'em."

Bull, Shark, and I were done with our long dope-day adventure and elected to leave the way we'd slogged in, not want-

ing to get tangled in more unknown brush as darkness fell. In 40 minutes, we arrived at the parking lot. Ten minutes later, we heard Steve and his posse crashing toward us from the woods.

Hard labor and a job well done are great equalizers among men. And so it was as we six leaned around the ground crews' trucks, savoring icy cold soft drinks from a cooler.

"So, Steve, heh-heh, what's our reward for this, bro?" Shark chuckled.

"Oh, we'll see if we can get you something," Steve said. "Give me your contact information, and I'll see what I can do."

It had to be worth something, 16,582 bud plants off the streets.

We drove toward Santa Ysabel and home, the Dodge's cab reeking of pot. Bull said, "I sure hope we don't get pulled over." He rolled down his window to air out the cab.

It was late when we parted. I undressed in my garage, dropping the

RESEARCH STUDIES

## Smoking too much pot?

**We want to help you stop!**

Researchers at the Scripps Research Institute are working to develop treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana.

This 12-week program involves medication.



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

## Struggling with Rheumatoid Arthritis?

**Clinical Research Opportunity**

**Studying the effects of rheumatoid arthritis treatment on cardiovascular disease**

If you have rheumatoid arthritis, over 50 years old and are at risk of developing a heart condition, you may be able to join the ENTRACTE clinical research study.

People with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are more likely to develop serious heart conditions, such as heart disease, heart attacks, and stroke. Some RA medications have been shown to reduce the chances of a patient developing a heart condition. The ENTRACTE clinical research study will compare the effects of two arthritis medications, tocilizumab and etanercept, on the occurrence of cardiovascular illness in people with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Arthritis Care & Research Center**

**Lynn Satore, Clinical Research Coordinator**



**For more information please call: 888-242-0807**

## SCHIZOPHRENIA CLINICAL TRIAL

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

Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

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

To learn more, call **(858) 836-8350**.



**SHARP** Mesa Vista Hospital  
Clinical Research Center





## Have High Blood Pressure?

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a leading cause of serious health issues.

eStudySite is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for patients diagnosed with high blood pressure.

You may qualify for this study if you:

**Are 18 years or older • Have been diagnosed with hypertension**

If you qualify, you will receive study related care and study medication at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may be provided.

To learn more about this study, please call eStudySite Toll Free:

**1-877-500-3788**

Se Habla Español:

**1-619-955-5246 en Chula Vista**

**1-760-631-3056 en Oceanside**



## Does Chronic Constipation worry you?

Digestive Disease Associates is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for chronic constipation

Potential study candidates:

- Are at least 18 years old
- Have been diagnosed with chronic constipation
- Have fewer than 3 bowel movements a week (without the help of laxatives)
- Are willing to take study medication or a placebo

**You Could Earn up to \$250 over 5 visits to our facility**

For more information, or to schedule a screening, contact us at:

Digestive Disease Associates  
292 Euclid Avenue, Suite 115  
San Diego, CA 92114  
619-266-3332

# ConstiPAINtion From Prescription Pain Medication?

We're conducting a clinical research study evaluating an investigational drug designed to specifically target and block the effects of opioids at the opioid receptors in the bowel responsible for causing constipation. Utilizing an intensive approval that does not require any changes to your current pain medication, this research study aims to determine the safety and effectiveness of the investigational drug to see if it provides relief for constipation caused by prescription pain medication.

### **ALL STUDY PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE AT NO COSTS:**

- An intensive and in-depth review of their condition conducted by dedicated research professionals.
- A confidential setting to discuss their health-related concerns.
- Study drugs (either the investigational drug or a placebo).
- Compensation for time and travel.



To learn more about this clinical research study, and to see if you may be eligible to participate contact:

3998 Vista Way, Suite 100, Oceanside, CA 92056

**760.758.2222**



## Skin Infection?

### Are you suffering from a possible skin infection?

#### Do you have:

- pain
- swelling
- warmth
- tenderness and/or
- pus or oozing?

#### Associated with:

- an abscess
- needle stick
- spider bite
- cellulitis or
- infected cuts or surgical wounds?

**There is no cost for participation**

**Study participants receive study-related medical care**

**Compensation for time and travel may be available**

**No insurance is required**

To learn more about available research study opportunities,

**Call eStudySite toll free:**

**1-877-500-eSTUDY**

**1-877-500-3788**

Se Habla Español:

**619-567-1550 en San Diego**

**760-631-3056 en North County**

eStudySite may have a research study that is right for you.



## Are you one of the 5 million<sup>1</sup> individuals living with lupus?

If you are one of these individuals, we invite you to consider participating in the ILLUMINATE Research Study Program. The ILLUMINATE Program is evaluating a new investigational medication for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), the most common form of lupus. We are one of many sites across the country taking part in this research.

If you or someone you know:

- is 18 years of age or older and
- has been diagnosed with SLE

then participation in this clinical research program could be an option for you. To determine if you may qualify to take part, our doctors and nurses will perform additional tests and health assessments.

Individuals who qualify will receive study medication and all study-related care at no charge. Reimbursement for study-related travel and time will be provided. Some standard lupus medications will also be permitted during study participation.

**TriWest**  
Research Associates

**888-582-9626**

Contacting us does not mean that you have to participate in this clinical research program and participation is completely voluntary.

<sup>1</sup>Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. (2010). Statistics on Lupus. Retrieved from [http://www.lupus.org/webmodules/webarticlesnet/templates/new\\_newsroomreporters.aspx?articleid=247&zoid=60](http://www.lupus.org/webmodules/webarticlesnet/templates/new_newsroomreporters.aspx?articleid=247&zoid=60)



resin-soaked clothing on a piece of cardboard. A deer tick crawled along my stomach.

Several days later, the big Cuyamaca drug bust burst to the top of the local news. The story showed choppers hauling out bulging cargo nets of pot plants. Several officers stood around a clean-shaven Steve Reed, who was touting the big haul to the media which had gathered to glean the details.

"Hey, honey, we're on!" I shouted, proud that Bull, Shark, and I had initiated this bust. Steve briefly mentioned something about how "hikers found pot," but beyond that it was his bust. *Oh*

*well, I thought, surely the reward will be coming.* A couple hundred bucks, a confiscated dooper's car, something.

We hashed and rehashed the adventure in detail for a few days, working ourselves into a frenzy of what-ifs.

Shark said, "Steve won't forget us, bro! It says on the Drug Enforcement website that there's rewards. Frick! Bro bro. Where there's one [grow], there's two, and where there's two, there's three!"

"Yeah, let's get stompin'!" Bull said. "I've got a topo map of the whole park. Where the water is, the dope is." Visions of big booty from

the pot-park detectives danced in our heads.

Bull thought up an acronym for our group: LINC — Locate Investigative Narcotics Contact. We knew it wasn't a game, but Cuyamaca was being thrashed. The Drug Enforcement Agency was stretched thin. If we could do some of the boots-on-the-ground work, maybe we could free just this one park from the pot pigs.

By the next Saturday, we were head high in brush, brambles, and manzanita before the sun rose. We followed an obscure park trail on the south side, several ridges over from our previous find. A dry stream bed

## RESEARCH STUDIES

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## Uncontrolled DIABETES & HEART DISEASE are a tricky combination.

**Special medical attention is important when it comes to uncontrolled type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Learn more about this medical research study for adults struggling with both of these medical issues.**

Managing type 2 diabetes, along with heart disease, can be challenging. Watching what you eat, monitoring your blood sugar, getting some exercise, and taking your medication are all important. But for some people, these aren't enough to effectively control their diabetes, which can place them at a greater risk for a heart disease-related episode, like a heart attack or stroke.

Local doctors are currently conducting the CAROLINA research study for individuals diagnosed with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes, who have also had, or are at risk for, a heart disease-related episode. They want to compare an investigational type 2 diabetes medication to another anti-diabetic medication.

If you have uncontrolled type 2 diabetes, plus a history of heart disease, we hope that you will consider learning more about this study.

### TYPE 2 DIABETES MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY

Local doctors are looking for individuals to help evaluate an investigational type 2 diabetes medication.

**To pre-qualify for the CAROLINA trial, you must:**

- Be between 40 and 85 years of age
- Have a medical diagnosis of type 2 diabetes
- Be unable to control blood sugar levels, even if you are taking an anti-diabetic medication
- Have experienced, or are at risk for, a heart disease-related episode, such as a heart attack or stroke

**San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center**  
**619-229-3909**



crossed under the trail.

"No water, no pot," I said, dejected that we'd come so far for nothing.

Bull stomped down the dry creek bed, crashing and then disappearing into a chaotic network of brambles.

"Bingo!" he shouted. "We got water!"

The faint flow increased as we followed the stream. With the growers' confiscated walkie-talkie, we listened in on a voiceless communication code of clicks and clacks, unable to decipher the code. With our own walkie-talkies, we communicated in whispers. After 50 yards, we had a running creek. At 200 yards, Shark keyed his mic with our agreed-upon code word, "Bingo!" He was looking at a small segment of black irrigation

hose in the creek bed, well hidden except for a one-foot section.

We traced the one-inch-diameter hose into a thick maze of lilac and burnt pines, tracking it under fallen trees, through briar patches, and into seemingly impenetrable thickets. We surged past each other in spurts, eager to find a new field, each man wanting to be the first one there. Twenty minutes of effort paid off as we stumbled exhausted into a zone that was underbrush-free. We huddled together to listen. Not hearing anyone, we began to survey a sapling forest that had been cleared by human hands.

We warily explored the acre-plus prepped zone and came to the conclusion that this was a fallow field waiting to be planted at a later date. It

was nearly void of trash, a sure sign that no growers were around. Only a few hundred plastic starter cups in an open clearing and some green-handled shovels gave away the area's intended purpose.

After thoroughly checking the immediate vicinity, we pushed farther down the ever-widening valley. We named it "la Drang Valley" and the elusive Mexican growers we called "Charlie." Just like in the Vietnam War, these enemy combatants were stealthy and bush-savvy. Signs of Charlie's presence were everywhere — burnt-up hoses from previous grows, old rusty shovels, empty food cans.

Long shadows grew even longer across the gorge as ebony fingers reached out from carbonized tree trunks. We

were tired and knew that to retrace our steps uphill would be exhausting and

## I had been wrong a half dozen times that day with my ethereal I-can-feel-it vibe.

difficult in the dark, so we continued down, knowing we would eventually hit the main road.

The profuse brush along the stream bed became impassable, forcing us to rise above it. We followed a worn deer trail a hundred feet up on the north slope, rock-hopping as the sun ebbed in intensity. It was slow

going. Three wrinkled \$20 bills at the Barona Casino couldn't be more

trees is Charlie's. It's a north-facing slope with a stream next to it." I had been wrong a half dozen times that day with my ethereal I-can-feel-it vibe.

Shark and Bull were decidedly *not* feeling it. They took off their packs to rest. "I'm going over to that grove," I said. "That's gotta be Charlie's."

An unstable, sketchy descent down a rock face, followed by a briar-filled stomp brought me to a brush-choked stream that bubbled just out of sight. I approached cautiously, unsure where my next step would fall and acutely aware that I was solo. Teetering across the stream on rocks covered by weeds, I tripped, falling face-first into the far bank. Sprawled prone, I was vulnerable to snakes and bolted up from fear.

### RESEARCH STUDIES

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You may be eligible to participate if you:

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- Are experiencing sexual side effects thought to be caused by your antidepressant medication

At the first study visit we will also review your medical history and other criteria to see if you are eligible for participation. All study-related office visits, medical examinations, psychological assessments and study medications will be provided at no cost to qualified participants. You may also receive compensation for your time and travel.

Call today for more information:  
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**866-478-8391**

AdultDepressionTrial.com



# Depressed?

**Are you currently feeling sad or fatigued?  
Do you have feelings of worthlessness and guilt?**

If so, you may be suffering from Depression and may qualify for a local research study evaluating an investigational medication for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

**To qualify, you must be:**

- 18-75 years old;
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode

Qualified participants will receive study medication, study-related medical exams, and lab tests.

Financial compensation for time and travel may also be available. Health insurance is not needed.

Call **1-877-607-7920**  
or visit **StudyForDepression.com**

At eye level, three feet away, stood a lone pot plant. The danger level jumped exponentially.

"Bingo! We have a Bingo situation," I whispered into the walkie-talkie clipped to my shoulder strap.

"What ya got, bro? Over," Shark said.

"Pot plant. Over."

We were all physically out of gas, so Bull and Shark weren't about to motor across the valley for another old shovel or burnt irrigation tube. However, motivated by my answer, they crossed la Drang in less than five minutes. I stayed put, not wanting to advance into Charlie's garden alone.

We advanced single file. Shark, a loaded .45 in hand, took the lead.

After awhile we spread out.

"Hey, I got a hooch," Bull radioed.

"There's a bunch of military camo clothes over here," Shark said.

Like Charlie's other camp, this one was well hidden among the dead incense cedar, Coulter pines, and ubiquitous lilac bushes. It revealed



**The growers used the shotgun shells for hunting and protection. The bong was used to smoke the abundant buds.**

its secrets slowly. We'd become smarter about the evasive Mexi pot farmers, and began to piece together the clues from their abandoned camp.

The intact pot plants were few, but hundreds of cut stalk stumps dotted the weeds extending beyond the camp. Either Charlie had harvested the weed

or Steve Reed's team had. We surmised it was the latter, possibly as part of the bust we'd read about in the *Union-Tribune* prior to Steve's call. As at our earlier bust, this deserted camp was trashy, with discarded green military camouflage clothes in heaps, garbage piles, rotting food, chemicals, and

## Have you had a heart attack or unstable angina AND also have Type 2 diabetes?

If you are at least 30 years of age, you may qualify to participate in a research study of an investigational anti-diabetes medication to see if lowering blood sugar can prevent future cardiovascular events.

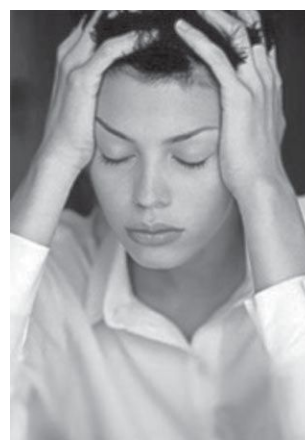
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### RESEARCH STUDIES



## Are you anxious? Always worrying? You may qualify for free psychological treatment.

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**.

Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and **not** currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply.



Please call **858-534-6445**  
for more information and to see if you qualify.



open fertilizer bags scattered about with no regard for the running stream. Charlie was not a member of the Sierra Club.

We took what little spoils and trinkets we wanted, a flashlight, a folded military shovel, a battery charger, a small pick — trophies of war. Charlie was being outmaneuvered in la Drang Valley. And seeing what little regard he had for one of San Diego's premier parks, he had to go.

Over the next month, we repeatedly scoured Cuyamaca state park, arriving early and leaving past dark. We made a dozen missions in total, all focused on finding Char-

lie's hidden operations. Using our ever-accumulating intel on the enemy, we tracked his special shoe prints in the trail dust. The dotted sole pattern was between a size six and a size eight. Then the prints abruptly ended next to an ever-so-faint track that led into the brush. Hunting animals is easy; hunting humans is hard. The dopers made what we called slip trails — just wide enough for a human to slip through by tearing off face-high branches. These trails were almost imperceptible at first, but once on them, Charlie grew sloppy, leaving bits of trash, a Corona beer bottle, scraps of toilet paper, a green wool glove.

These clues were not from stay-on-the-trail weekend gringo hikers who lived by the pack-it-in/pack-it-out mantra.

On one recon mission, we started out together as usual, but soon dispersed into our habit of following individual hunches. We stayed in contact via radio.

"Bingo! I've got lots of trash. Over," Bull said. I could hear the hope of a big find in his voice.

Immediately, in the distance, I heard branches snapping as Shark plowed toward Bull's last known location. I, on the other hand, was trapped in mountain lilac thickets so prolific that going directly

## DO YOU SUFFER FROM HEMORRHOIDS?

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Millions of Americans suffer from this uncomfortable, and at times, embarrassing, condition. If you are looking for options, local physicians are exploring an investigational medication for hemorrhoids to see if it may help with the associated **bleeding, pain and itching.**

You may qualify to participate if you are:

- 18 to 75 years old
- Currently experiencing bleeding, pain, or itching from hemorrhoids

If you qualify and participate you will receive study related care at no charge.



**Medical Associates Research Group**  
(858) 277-5678

### RESEARCH STUDIES

## African American Women's Health Study

Female volunteers needed to participate in a research study on women's sexual health.

### Volunteers must

- Be female
- Be between the ages of 18 and 44
- Be African American or Black
- Sexually active
- Unwanted sexual experience(s) since the age of 18

### What's required

A one-time face-to-face interview and possible invitation to participate in a one-time focus group.

Interviews will take place at our office in the Hillcrest neighborhood in San Diego (close to bus lines 1, 3, 10, 11 & 120 off 5th St. and Upas St. or 5th St. and University Ave.) Compensation will be provided for participation.



All calls are confidential. For more details please call: **(619) 543-0457**

This research is conducted under the direction of  
**Dr. Jamila K. Stockman from the UCSD School of Medicine.**

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through the bushes was the path of least resistance.

“Goat, where are you? Over.”

“I’m still brambled up. Over.”

Communications continued for several minutes, but the dense thicket of lilac had won. Immobilized, I panted, exhausted and out of options as to how to penetrate the impenetrable. I felt trapped and defenseless. This was Cuyamaca; a cougar had killed a woman here. We’d seen several deer carcasses, obvious cougar kills.

I was now imprisoned in this sapling snare, so entangled in branches, I was unable to get to my gun or knife. My energy was nearly expended. If a cougar wanted me, I was human jerky. Fear overwhelmed me. In despera-

tion, I mentally aborted meeting up with my camo comrades. I cinched

## This was Cuyamaca; a cougar had killed a woman here.

down my bush hat, and with lowered head, goat-rammed the thicket. Branches fought back, whipping and welting my face as I advanced a single yard. Again. Another yard gained. I was grunting like a lowland gorilla. Slowly, I head-butted through the green maze. Fifteen minutes later, the stubborn bush ejected me out onto a wide dirt trail. I was exhausted yet elated to be free.

Shark was concerned with my whereabouts. “Bro bro, hey, Goat, what’s

your 20, bro? Over.”

“My 20 is I’m not coming into that damn green death trap again. What did you find? Over.”

“Frickin’! Bro, we’ve got a frickin’ camp with sleeping bags, cooking stove, food, clothes, trash. Looks like Charlie’s been here a long time, bro. We’re goin’ to check out some more trails. Over and out.”

I walked the dirt trail looking for doper signs.

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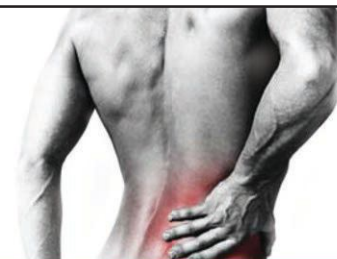
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The slightest whisper of a potential slip trail beckoned now. Rested and newly curious, I followed it back into the thickets. *Was it just a deer trail?* I wondered. Deeper in, a lone, cleanly cut branch at eye level said otherwise. Finally, the slip trail gave up its mysteries, revealing black plastic trash bags, green tarps, and green canvas duffel bags. A clearing contained mounds of pot plant stalks and human trash. A heap of withered cannabis leaves gave off the heady smell of reefer.

"Bingo!" I whispered into the radio before slipping back to the safer dirt trail. Bull and Shark had to retrace their paths out of the bush, then hike on groomed park trails to reach me. It took them about 30 minutes. It lifted my spirits to see the rest of the LINC team members arrive.

We investigated Charlie's hideout and concluded that it was a processing center. The weed was trimmed here, as evidenced by half a dozen petite scissors hanging from a branch. The finished product was put into black plastic garbage bags, then stuffed into olive-green military duffel bags before being packed out, probably at night along the nearby park trail.

The slip trail exited the rear of the processing area, leading directly to the growers' campsite that Bull and Shark had just discovered. We followed numerous other trails, looking for the actual grow site, but sundown put a halt to the quest. As LINC hiked out, it became as clear as the star-studded night sky that Charlie had his own park inside Cuyamaca park. Over years, they'd built an extensive labyrinth of trails, grow fields, processing centers, and sleeping zones, complete

with packed coolers and food-preparation areas. Ten sleeping bags meant ten growers, all living and working for years under the noses of the park rangers.

How had they stayed hidden so long? Were some or even one of the rangers in on it? "Look the other way, and we'll give you, say, \$100,000 a year." How much money

does a park ranger make? "Okay, ranger boy, make it \$200,000. Just let us know when it's safe to transport and when the DEA starts snooping around." We didn't rule out this hypo-

thetical scenario.

One day, we got a late start. After gearing up in the main parking lot, two rangers on duty, one male and one female, approached us.

"Who do you guys work for?" the male ranger asked after seeing our camo attire.

"We can't tell you, bro," Shark answered firmly.

## HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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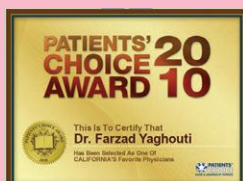
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“No, really,” the ranger insisted. “Are you with the DEA or the sheriff’s drug task force?”

“We’re not allowed to say, bro,” Shark said.

“Are you here to recover that load of pot that the helicopter dropped awhile back?” the female ranger asked.

“Can’t answer that, ma’am,” Shark persisted, cool as a mountain stream.

“Well, we’ve seen your red truck in here a lot lately, and we need to know who you work for.”

Noting their shiny, black Glocks, I offered a compromise. “Sir, Ma’am, I can assure you that we’re on your side. There’ve been a lot of pot growers using this park, and we’re here to help with the eradication effort.”

“Not in this park! I’d know if they were grow-

ing any more here,” the male ranger assured us. His green shirt was neatly creased; his matching pleated shorts revealed perfectly tanned legs without a scratch on them. This was a park ranger who monitored the groomed trails for hikers with picnic baskets. Yogi and Boo Boo would have felt right at home. But Charlie’s park existed in a different dimension. It occupied the same ground yet was separate, like the body from the spirit.

Satisfied with my conciliatory answer, the rangers let us go.

After that tense close call, we decided that our cover was suspect, and this was probably LINC’s last mission in Cuyamaca, especially since we’d never heard back from the DEA about a reward. We had

thoroughly searched along every flowing stream and learned plenty about illegal pot-growing on public lands. We had morphed into hiking hybrids — part Jerry Schadt, part Rambo.

On the twilight drive home, we discussed the day’s gathered intel. We hadn’t given up hope of receiving compensation for our efforts. Shark suggested a remote part of Cuyamaca for the next hike.

“Naw, Cuyamaca’s been searched thoroughly,” Bull said.

“What about Laguna?” I offered. “It has running streams.”

“Yeah, and there’s still Mount Palomar. Charlie will be all over that one,” bellowed Bull, excited about the prospect.

The three of us leaned into a sharp, hairpin turn. ■

— Chuck Harper

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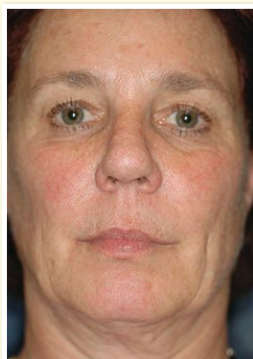
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## CITY LIGHTS

### Under the radar

*continued from page 2*

assemblywoman **Toni Atkins** on December 22. Meanwhile Orange County's Irvine Company, owned by Republican billionaire **Donald Bren**, stepson of the late Oscar-winning movie star **Claire Trevor**, gave big to two San Diego business causes last year, according to his recently filed major donor statement. The firm, which owns substantial real estate in the county, including several downtown office towers, gave \$25,000 to the San Diego Lodging Industry Political Action Committee and \$5000 on October 17 to the San Diego Jobs PAC.

— Matt Potter

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## CITY LIGHTS

### Fed probes

*continued from page 2*

try game-changers. The biggest tech story of this year will be "the implosion of the H-1B visa-centric business model" of major corporations, he proclaims in his column. "Company after company [will be] forced to halt... abuse of the visa system for fear of suffering the consequences that Infosys will have suffered."

Professor Norm Matloff of the University of California Davis, who has written extensively on the H-1B program, points out that the original purpose was to bring in "the best and the brightest from around the world," but that is not happening. "The vast majority are ordinary people doing ordinary work." It's all about low-priced

## CITY LIGHTS

labor, he says. "The use of foreign workers for cheap labor pervades the entire tech industry, including the large, mainstream U.S. firms, and including the foreign workers hired from U.S. universities."

The victims are really the best and brightest American engineers "being squeezed out of the market once they accumulate 10 years or so of experience," Matloff says on his website. And H-1B discourages United States college students from pursuing tech. "H-1B is causing an internal brain drain of American talents."

Conroy of Bright Future Jobs deplors statements such as an infamous one by the chief executive of HCL Technologies, another Indian body shop, that American tech grads are "unemployable." Conroy says that the body shops

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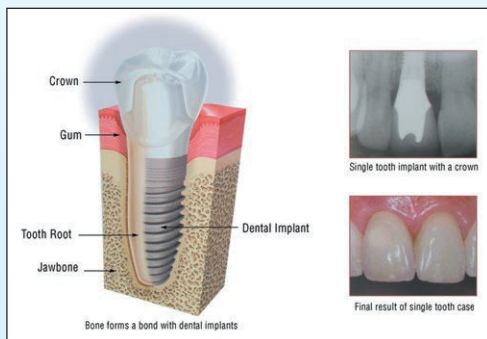
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### CITY LIGHTS

and America's own tech chief executives "truly believe in the inferiority of Americans. [They believe] Americans are fat, lazy, and stupid."

On January 30, President Obama was asked by a woman why America keeps bringing in H-1Bs when her engineer husband can't get a job despite more than ten years of experience. A stunned Obama said, "Industry...tells me that they don't have enough highly skilled engineers." He promised to send the husband's résumé to American companies.

In 2007 and 2009, senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Charles Grassley of Iowa introduced bills that would rein in H-1B and L-1 abuses. But neither bill got to the floor. Conroy concedes any bill is "dead right now" but thinks the time is right to put one in the hopper again.

### CITY LIGHTS

"The [H-1B] program is plagued with fraud and abuse," says Durbin — a view that many share, hoping that the crackdown on Infosys will frighten some companies.

Two years ago, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, part of Homeland Security, put out a memo that is also proving helpful in curbing abuses. An employer seeking to hire an H-1B worker must establish an employer-employee relationship. Basically, the employer must have a sufficient level of supervisory control over the employee — having the ability to hire and fire the worker and to control his or her work product. Some hoped the memo would be the death of the body shops that recruit in India and retain some control over hires in the United States. Maybe the Infosys probes will do the job.

### CITY LIGHTS

Qualcomm says that 60 percent of its new grads and interns in the United States are foreign nationals. Last year, chief executive Paul Jacobs said in a speech that one of the most important jobs of government was to reform laws so more of the "best and the brightest" can come in from abroad. Why? Jacobs didn't say it, but last year the president of Cornell University told a Senate committee that in 2006 foreign-born inventors were behind 72 percent of Qualcomm patents.

According to the American Association of Engineering Societies, foreign-born students get 42 percent of engineering master's degrees and 53 percent of engineering PhDs at American institutions. So Qualcomm and its fellow big companies have an argument, too. ■

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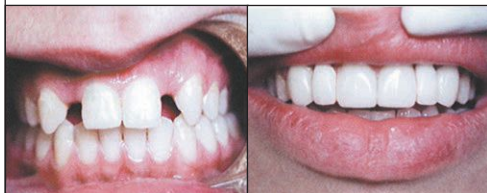
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Before

After



## CITY LIGHTS

### Good advice?

*continued from page 3*

enumerated in the report, but the district attorney took no action.)

The investigation was at the center of a 2009 wrongful termination suit filed by Scott Kessler, a former deputy director of the City's Economic Development Division. Before the City settled the lawsuit in November for \$200,000, the relationship between Li Mandri and powerful forces in Mayor Sanders's office had been exposed, including the relationship between Li Mandri and Sanders's chief of staff in 2008, Kris Michell.

Kessler's lawsuit states that Michell was unhappy that Kessler was working with investigators. Kessler's supervisor "Assistant Deputy Chief Murray informed

## CITY LIGHTS

[Kessler] that his cooperation...into the investigation of Li Mandri, combined with his cooperation with the Ethics Commission, angered Chief of Staff Michell," says the lawsuit.

The connection between Li Mandri and Michell doesn't end there. In February 2011, two months before Li Mandri started work for the downtown district, Michell took over as president of the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

Even more interesting was the process of approving Li Mandri's contract.

At its March 29 board meeting, the directors of the Downtown San Diego Partnership recommended going forward on "contract agreements" with Li Mandri, and on April 26 the board approved the contract. However, the improvement district's advisory board was not

## CITY LIGHTS

informed of the contract until their monthly meeting on May 10.

The minutes from that meeting read: "According to Kris Michell, due to the need for Mr. Li Mandri's input and the short timeline to complete the [request for proposal] process, the consultant contract for Marco Li Mandri went out of sequence and was taken to and approved by the [Downtown Partnership] Board first."

Li Mandri's contract with the Downtown Partnership was a sole-source contract, meaning no other consultants were asked to submit bids. The one-year contract was signed on June 17, 2011, and commenced on July 1.

In May, Li Mandri submitted his first bill for \$10,000. During that month, Li Mandri completed 12 tasks, includ-

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# FACE BODY BREAST

ing a conference call with staff, "prep and attend" the May 10 advisory committee meeting, general administrative work, and attending a Downtown San Diego Partnership meeting with staff.

In October, Li Mandri completed nine tasks for his \$10,000 monthly fee. His tasks that month included putting together an outline for a PowerPoint presentation to the advisory committee; attending the advisory committee meeting; meeting with staff on "2005 Management District Plan, its services, adherence to the plan and using Chinatown LA as an example of a plan that provides greater detail," and touring homeless encampments.

Ryan Loofbourrow, executive director of Clean and Safe since August, says Li Mandri has been an asset to the team.

"During the month of May 2011, [Li Mandri] was hired to assist the Clean and Safe Program with managing the annual contractor request for proposal process," says Loofbourrow. "During that time, he helped negotiate contracts for such services as pressure washing, safety patrols, and landscaping. As a result, Clean and Safe saved more than \$200,000."

Loofbourrow says Li Mandri will evaluate the current practices and develop new strategies for administering services, including developing a district map of all properties, street furniture, trees, trash receptacles, newspaper stands, and lighting, and offering a strategy for managing the "downtown urban forest."

By having Li Mandri execute those tasks, Loofbourrow says he is free to focus his energy on homelessness in downtown and to oversee other district contracts.

Neither Kris Michell nor Marco Li Mandri responded to requests for comment. ■

## NEWS TICKER

*continued from page 3*

**San Onofre — Precautionary shutdown operations began last night at San Onofre**

**Nuclear Generating Station's Unit 3 reactor due to "a possible leak in one of the unit's steam generator tubes," says a release from plant operator Southern California Edison.**

**The generators siphon heat from a reactor's core and convert it into steam, which in turn spins turbines and produces power. The failure occurred despite a recent**

**multimillion-dollar project to replace the generators on both reactors.**

**"We detected a slight increase in radioactivity, but it's still within acceptable**

**levels," said plant spokesman Gil Alexander, noting that the shutdown was not mandatory under Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules.**

**Author and former nuclear**

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plant investigator Greg Palast told the *Reader* last November, however, that safety procedures at nuclear facilities across the country, including at San Onofre, still leave much to be desired.

By Dave Rice  
Wednesday, February 1

### Suspicious Had Substance

Election Tampering in Sweetwater Union High School District Board?

*Chula Vista* — At the January 30 Sweetwater Union High School District board meeting, the Vega report was released. Parents, teachers, and students have been demanding the report for months. It appears their suspicions had substance.

Attorney Greg Vega was commissioned by the board in May of 2011 to look into work done by public relations professional Scott Alevy, who had been hired by the district's former counsel — Garcia, Calderon, and Ruiz — to assist with union relations. However, a *Union-Tribune* investigation of the invoice submitted to the district by Alevy suggested that some of the meetings billed by him did not take place.

A more serious part of the investigation pertained to the allegation of election tampering. Many of Alevy's meetings occurred shortly before the November 2010 election, when Jim Cartmill and Arlie Ricasa were reelected and John McCann was first elected

to the Sweetwater board.

A cursory read of the report shows that former attorneys hired, for the district, a public consultant to consolidate and promote favored candidates, among other things. It also appears that only some board members were aware of the nature of Alevy's work; some may not have known that the district hired him.

By Susan Luzzaro  
Tuesday, January 31

### Chickens, Goats, and Bees

Council in Favor of Urban Agriculture Amendments  
*San Diego* — Today was a landmark day for urban agriculturalists, as the city council voted unanimously in favor of amendments to municipal code

that simplify the process for approving farmers' markets on private property, make minor adjustments to community-garden regulations, and ease restrictions for keeping chickens, goats, and bees.

The amendments follow a \$50,000 grant awarded to the City of San Diego in March to pursue municipal code and general plan amendments supporting urban agriculture with the goal of stunting obesity rates by planning communities in ways that support increased physical activity and access to healthy foods.

"Healthy living depends on access to healthy food," said District 1 councilwoman Sherri Lightner. "That is why the urban agriculture movement continues to grow in

popularity and why the City actually sought out this grant to encourage urban agriculture.... [It's] a great way to make fresh fruits and vegetables available at reasonable prices to neighborhoods who do not now have access to them, and it helps to build a sense of community where none existed before."

By Chad Deal  
Tuesday, January 31

### Federal Offense

Did Coker's Endorsement Violate the Hatch Act?

*San Diego* — Local resident and homeless advocate Kathryn Rhodes filed a formal complaint to the Office of the Special Counsel on January 25 over the endorsement of district attorney Bonnie Dumanis

by County of San Diego public defender Henry Coker.

The complaint alleges that Coker's endorsement violates the Hatch Act, which prohibits state and local employees from using their authority to "influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office" as well as "coercing, attempting to coerce, commanding, or advising a State or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.

"Citizen Coker can endorse anyone he wants. However, County of San Diego Public Defender Coker is banned from political speech and endorse-

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**CITY LIGHTS**

ments. In theory the Federal Hatch Act requires the County of San Diego to fire violators, or pay back Federal funds as a form of punishment," reads an email from Rhodes.

*By Dorian Hargrove  
Monday, January 30*

**Sports vs. Shipping**

Port Commissioner Blasts Bayfront Stadium

San Diego — Port commissioner Bob Nelson appeared at the Economic Development and Strategies Committee's first meeting on Monday to offer ideas on boosting the region's foundering economy. Nelson also took the opportunity to shoot down any proposals to build a new stadium near the Tenth Avenue terminal, like the one described in a January 22 U-T editorial.

"The Port District opposes incompatible land uses, including a stadium or sports arena that would limit the

**CITY LIGHTS**

growth of maritime shipping. This industry helps drive a vibrant high-paying standard of living for workers and financial incentives for their employees; incompatible land uses, such as the stadium, undermine more than 50 years of public investment.

"We need to encourage more business investment in plant equipment and employment, and threats of disruption at Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal erode confidence among the local maritime business community and will degrade...our region's competitiveness."

*By Dorian Hargrove  
Monday, January 30*

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## LETTERS

continued from page 4

### Poetry

**Published February 1**  
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could the READER have that much metaphysical mojo???

kudos!!!!

By nan 7:17 a.m., Feb 2, 2012

### City Lights, by Don Bauder

**Published February 1**  
 I wish someone would ask Mitt how many jobs he has created with his \$21M/yr income while being unemployed. If low tax rates for income earned from dividends, carried interest, etc., are supposed to allow the job creators to create jobs, then he should have created quite a few since he quit his last job.

The focus on short-term profits over long-term growth is killing this country.

By Dennis 4:21 p.m., Feb 1, 2012

### Cover

#### Published February 1

The errors, misinformation and poor context displayed in your cover story, (Dr. Bill and GT Surf Hwy 101, Feb. 2, 2012) begins with the cover art that places the SRF in South O instead of south Encinitas where it is actually located. The story goes downhill from there. His transport, the GT LTS 3 is actually a GT LTS 3000 with a 1998 MSRP of \$999.00 not the \$4000+ he claimed. The GT LTS XC is the model that sells for \$4295 and the fact that it was purchased at a yard sale for \$60 means that it was probably stolen. I'm unsure of the author's objective but quality writing and useful information were obviously tossed aside in favor of poor humor, mixed up and confusing information concerning the features and businesses located along his journey. His route in Oceanside from his starting point at Canyon and Mission to Hwy. 101

was confusing at best and impossible at worst. His comments about the businesses were superficial and ill informed. His comments about the Oceanside "barrio" and its "brown skinned" inhabitants were racist, his comments about Jr. Seau were rude and pointless. His evaluation of the local beach culture and restaurants were tasteless and ignorant. Getting free service and cheap food seemed to be his goal. He is arrogant and insulting. His patronage is not worth having. If he does weigh 220 lbs. as stated by his GT, he probably couldn't muster the 20 push-ups or 40 sit-ups he claims and his huffing and puffing is understandable. The Leucadia Bar is actually The Bar Leucadian. His longing for the BAFE and the Cinnamon Roll with extra butter explain his 220 lbs. His comments about the cheap food and drink show his lack of class and his lack of appreciation for the quality affordable fare available

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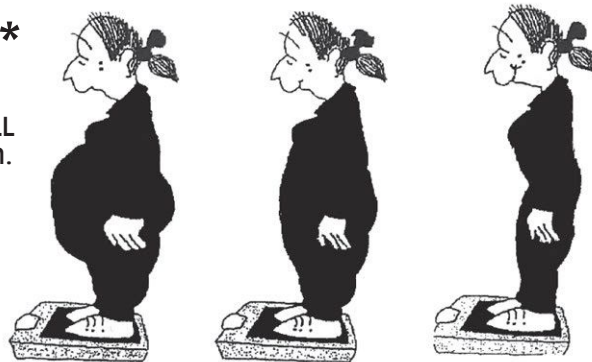


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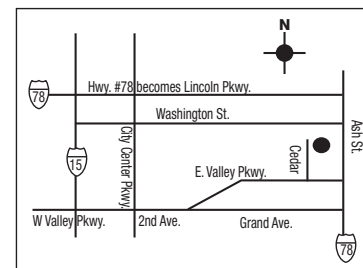
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## LETTERS

at the establishments that he passes by without mention, but he'll stop at the Berry Happy Frozen Yogurt spot for a \$3.50 dose of ecstasy Fro-Yo and cross the street to the Seven-Eleven for a "big Gulp and a Dog". As the sugar goes straight to his head he surges forward avoiding the "pedophiles" (?), the "most dangerous part of our ride". His final verbal offering describing Yogananda as a "rotund brown man in an orange robe" caps his insulting tirade after which he thanks us for joining him and suggests we see him on his next adventure. Thanks but no thanks. I've already had enough. I ask the San Diego Reader, what were you thinking?

By *iwaddle* 9:09 p.m., Feb 2, 2012

Other than that, Mr. Waddle, one can only assume

that you had no other issues with this piece (sorry, I couldn't resist, you put so much effort into your reply, it's a quite impressive critique). I read it a bit differently. The bike ride (and even the bikes) are merely vehicles to move the interesting tidbits of local history from one point to the next, and the dialogue seems to serve as a catalyst to hold the end of one of those pauses to the next. Otherwise, wouldn't it be a bit dry and textbookish to simply write a dozen paragraphs concerning different locations in respect to local history?

By *refriedgringo* 2:09 a.m., Feb 3, 2012

It's true, the cover story was so bad, there were several other items that deserved serious critique but as you mentioned I only had so much time to devote to the effort. The story, regardless of how you see it, was of very poor quality and not worth the position

accredited it. If you are so enamored with local history perhaps you should address the removal of SRF to Oceanside by the cover artist And, (anonymous), Mr. Refritos, I'm aware of your well documented flatulent record of comments in the Reader which puts you in a dubious position to comment on mine. Do us all a favor, stop by your local market and pick up a vial of Beano.

By *iwaddle* 8:59 a.m., Feb 3, 2012

Awesome story! What makes you assume the author drew the cover art? If you look closely at the cover, the artist's signature can be found under the rear tire in the grass. By READING the story it's clear the author knows where the SRF is located. Besides, it's a freaking cartoon caricature. If you're using it for a map, you have issues. I found Dr. Bill's evaluation of Cali surf culture to be humorous and unfortunately quite

accurate. Not every surfer fits into this cookie cutter category, but an alarming number do (referring to the tattoos and designer shades). As for suggesting there is racism in this writing is just ignorant. Brown faces is a racist comment? Sounds like the person who is pointing his finger may have some prejudice issues he needs to deal with. Dr. Bill sounds like he is quite at home with Mexican American culture. On a side note I would defend the beach break cafe. It is trendy and crowded, but for a good reason. The scramble is amazing and you can help yourself to coffee while you wait for a table to open up! On a second side note, 220lbs isn't that big of a guy. I'm 215 myself and can do more than 20 pushups. Let's face it, those without talent will always be overly critical of those with talent.

By *Surfinmurs* 8:38 a.m., Feb 4, 2012

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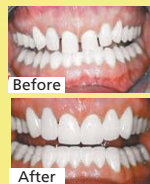
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# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

## Thursday | 9

### APHRODISIACS

Set the right mood for your sweetheart this Valentine's Day! Learn about some not-so-commonly known aphrodisiacs such as watermelon, arugula, saffron, and pine nuts and how to add them to your cooking and baking repertoire during this class featuring Logan Mitchell and Gary McIntire of Cellar Door.



**WHEN:** 6 to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Cups Lounge and Culinary, 7857 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-2877; [cupslj.com](http://cupslj.com)

## Saturday | 11

### THE BACKYARD FLOCK: RAISING URBAN CHICKENS

Now that San Diego has made backyard chickens, goats, and bees legal, it's time to get your hands dirty with some urban agriculture. Laurie Furry divulges everything you need to know to start "enjoying fresh eggs while keeping your new flock happy and healthy." Get the scoop on a variety of chicken-raising topics.

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

**WHERE:** Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, Rancho San Diego. 619-660-0614; [thegarden.org](http://thegarden.org)

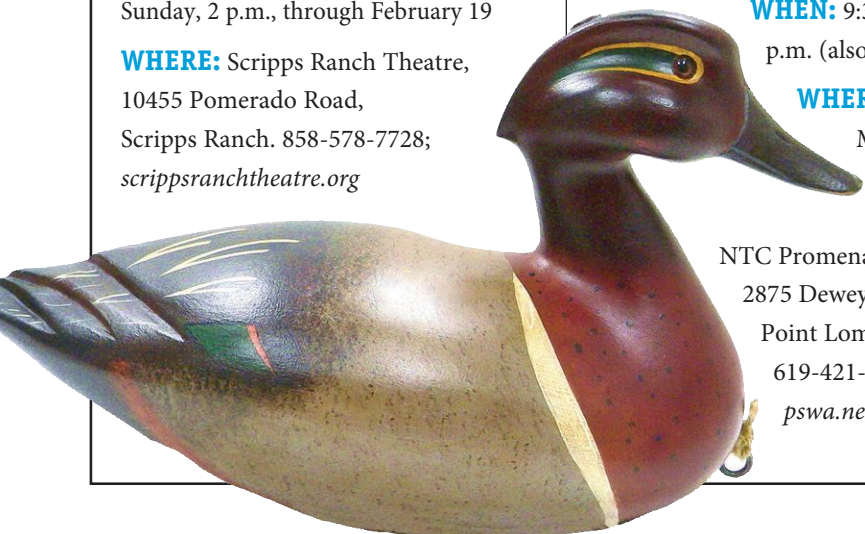
## Friday | 10

### BROOKLYN BOY

The Scripps Ranch Theatre stages this "inspirational comedy-drama about going home again," written by Donald Margulies. Eric Weiss's dream has come true: he's got the 11th best-selling novel in the country. Our Jeff Smith writes, "What grabs, in the script and production, is how the play becomes funnier the deeper Eric falls."

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Also Saturday 8 p.m. and Sunday, 2 p.m., through February 19

**WHERE:** Scripps Ranch Theatre, 10455 Pomerado Road, Scripps Ranch. 858-578-7728; [scrippsranchtheatre.org](http://scrippsranchtheatre.org)



## Sunday | 12

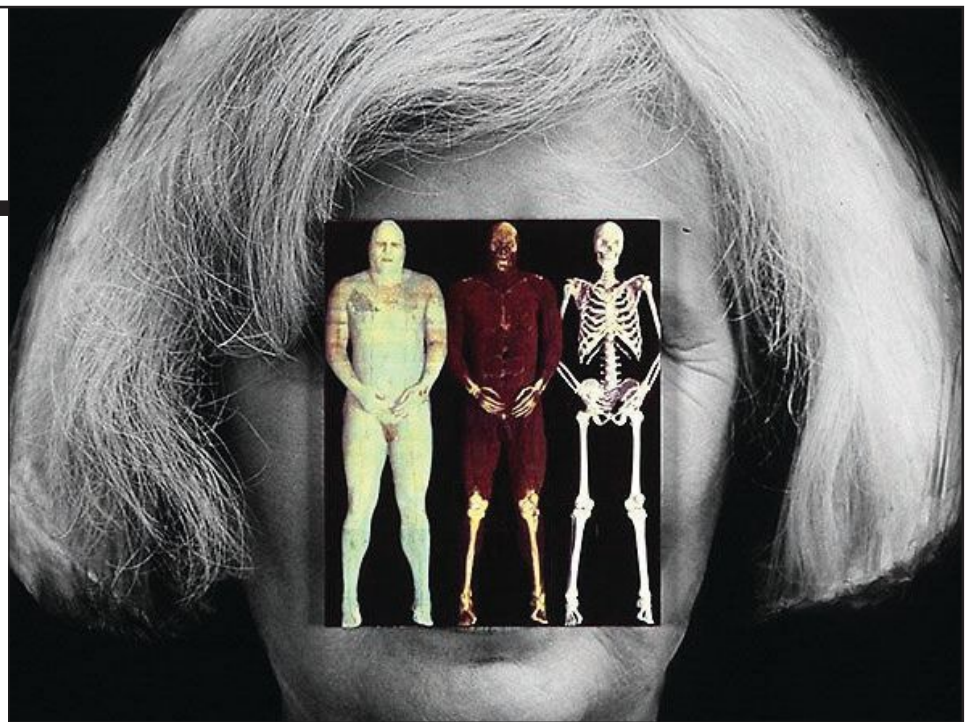
### CALIFORNIA OPEN-WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL

More than 150 wildfowl and fish artists and carvers will take part in this year's festival competition presented by Pacific Southwest Wildlife Art. View fine-art exhibits and enjoy a carving competition, antique decoys, or have work appraised. Watercolor artist Ron Dotson of Jamul is the featured artist.

**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (also Saturday)

**WHERE:** Corky McMillin Event Center at

NTC Promenade, 2875 Dewey Road, Point Loma. 619-421-1034; [pswa.net](http://pswa.net)



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15: A SENSE OF STORY, OR WHAT NARRATIVE MEDICINE BRINGS TO THE SICK

## Monday | 13

### WWE RAW SUPERSHOW!

World Wrestling Entertainment brings its Raw Supershow back to San Diego. Catch Raw and Smackdown Superstars in action at the double main event featuring Dolph Ziggler challenging CM Punk for the WWE Championship and Kane and John Cena facing off in a Raw Challenge Match. Also, many special appearances, including Chris Jericho.

**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Midway District. 800-745-3000; [valleyviewcasinocenter.com](http://valleyviewcasinocenter.com)

## Tuesday | 14

### A VICTORIAN VALENTINE SHOW

"Before television and motion pictures, magic lanterns entertained and educated by projecting colorful and fantastic images on walls." American Magic-Lantern Theater members will use antique magic lanterns to proj-



ect Valentine stories, animated comedy, and songs.

**WHEN:** 10 to 11:30 a.m.; 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Malcolm A. Love Library at SDSU, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6728; [library.sdsu.edu/events](http://library.sdsu.edu/events)

## Wednesday | 15

### A SENSE OF STORY, OR WHAT NARRATIVE MEDICINE BRINGS TO THE SICK

Physician and literary scholar Rita Charon will speak at UCSD's Arts and Medicine Lecture Series "Narrative medicine fuses narrative skills with clinical practice, providing training to help caregivers absorb and interpret stories of illness and improve effectiveness of care."

**WHEN:** 5 to 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. 858-534-2230; [meded-portal.ucsd.edu](http://meded-portal.ucsd.edu)

# Travel & Getaways

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## Gather No Moss

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



The temples at Ayutthaya reveal a smorgasbord of Buddhas.

### Ayutthaya, Thailand: City of Buddhas

By Derek Ray

The ancient Thai capital of Ayutthaya, about 80 kilometers north of Bangkok, is a worthwhile day trip if you're staying in Bangkok.

To really appreciate Ayutthaya, it helps to know a little about its history. Following Sukhothai, it was the capital of Thailand for 417 years, from 1350 to 1767. With a population of about 1 million, it was the largest city in the world in 1700. It became an important trading center and won the admiration of Western visitors, who compared it

favorably to the European capitals. In 1767 it reached a sudden demise when the Burmese destroyed the city.

Ayutthaya has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1991, but only remnants of its former grandeur remain. It sustained further damage from the floods that recently inundated Thailand.

The ruins at Ayutthaya do not quite equal Cambodia's Angkor Wat in their scale and impressiveness, largely due to the extent of the Burmese sacking. They are, nevertheless, quite interesting and impressive. As at Angkor Wat, the buildings that remain are temples and palaces, as these were the only buildings constructed of stone.

The most striking, memorable elements of the temples are the Buddhas that remain. The various temples at Ayutthaya reveal an astonishing smorgasbord of Buddhas: there's a huge golden Buddha, reclining Buddhas clad in saffron robes, mesmerizing rows of Buddhas, rings of Buddhas surrounding temples, bronze-cast Buddhas, and even a Buddha carved into the trunk of a Banyan tree. (There are also several headless Buddhas that provide evidence of the ferocity of the Burmese sacking.)

Unfortunately, the Ayutthaya area was particularly affected by recent floods. The entire historic area was underwater for over a month, and damage at the temple complex is estimated to be in the area of \$20 million. Now that the waters have receded, UNESCO experts are assessing the damage. Historic murals are particularly at risk from salt stains and fungi.

Most of the temples have been reopened to the public. Wat Chai Watthanaram, one of the most visited temples, was especially damaged and remains closed. It is this temple that appears on the cover of the official Ayutthaya pamphlet. Several pagodas surround a central *chedi* (a Thai-style stupa) at this temple that one can climb for a magnificent view of the area. There is no timetable for its reopening.

Wat Phra Sri Sanphet is the larg-

est temple at Ayutthaya. The location of the former royal palace, Wat Phra Sri Sanphet features an impressive row of Buddha *chedis*. Other notable temples include Wat Yai Chai Mongkol, with its large reclining Buddha, and Wat Mahathat, with the famous Buddha head in a tree.

You can get to Ayutthaya from Bangkok via train, bus, boat, or minivan. The latter is the quickest and charges 65 *baht* (about \$2). Most of the tours that leave from the major hotels along the Chao Praya River involve river cruises to Ayutthaya that are substantially more expensive.

I set out for Ayutthaya in a mini-van from Victory Monument Square in Bangkok. After the hour ride, I hired a *tuk tuk* to take me around to my selected

*continued on page 58.*

### Other Adventures



**misshottie45:** The singing of the National Anthem at an L.A. Kings game at the Staples Center in Los Angeles



**Irches:** Barcelona neighborhood festival



**rvd5star:** Fountain at Disneyland



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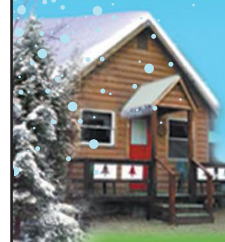


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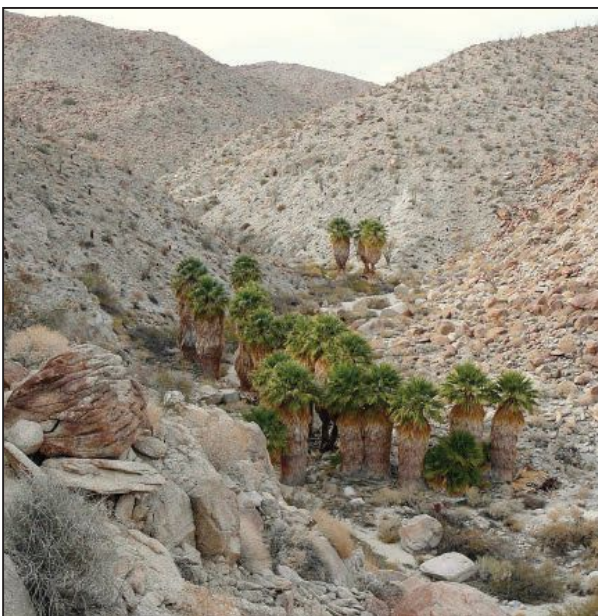
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

### MOUNTAIN PALM SPRINGS

Multiple palm groves offer hikers lots of shade

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** Allow 2 hours' driving time. (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8, exit on S2 at Ocotillo. Go northwest on S2 for about 15 miles to the signed Mountain Palm Springs Campground entrance and follow a short dirt road to the campground. From North County, drive to Julian and follow S78 west about 12 miles to the junction with S2. Turn south and drive 30 miles to the entrance of Mountain Palm Springs. Facilities available at the campground.

**Hiking length:** 2.5 miles loop. Add a mile to include a hike to Torote Bowl and/or a mile to include North Grove and Mary's Grove. • **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate; Elevation change up to 500 feet.



First view of Surprise Grove from Southwest Grove

The best place to visit accessible desert palm groves in the southern Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is Mountain Palm Springs, found at the foot of the Tierra Blanca Mountains. Six oases with well-established trees provide shade for hikers and a nice respite for wildlife with intermittent streams of water. The palms are remnants from a time before there was a desert, when the climate could accommodate more tropical plants.

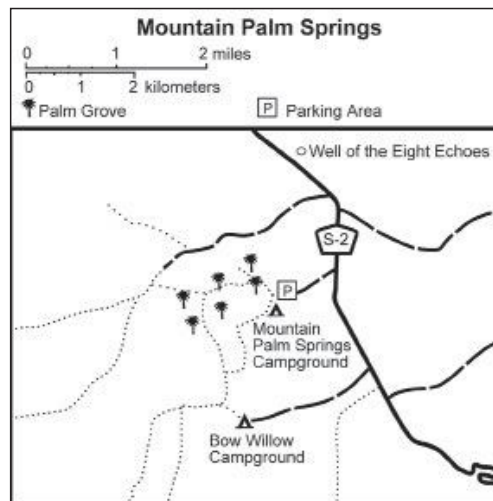
With a large leaf surface exposed to the sun and a short root system, the native Washington fan palm is an unlikely desert plant with its rapid rate of water evaporation and its dependence on water. However, an underground water source close to the surface allows the roots to sit in water while the thick palm frond shag coat provides insulation to keep the tree cool in the hot sun. The shag is also perfect for nest-

ing verdin and owls. The groves provided a sheltered home for the early Kumeyaay Indians who collected palm fruit and used palm leaves for construction material and fiber to make baskets. Several grinding areas are near the groves.

The approach to the trailhead from S-2 is up a well-drained alluvial fan with a rich desert scrub community consisting of several varieties of cactus, ocotillo, creosote, burro bush, and desert holly. Honey mesquite is in the canyon drainage.

The most popular hike is a loop of almost 2.5 miles that visits four groves, starting from an interpretive panel at the trailhead. Shortly after starting the hike is Pygmy Grove, on the north side of the trail with almost 40 trees, many with burned skirts and trunks from a fire but very much alive with new seedlings in the grove. The surrounding hillsides are covered with tall barrel cactus and occasional milkweed. Encelia and krameria are found along the trail.

The trail curves to the left and then back to the right, following a ridge west that leads to Southwest Grove with well over 100 trees. This grove is about half-a-mile from



the beginning trailhead. If hikers want to extend this loop hike by a mile, they can follow the well-marked trail up the steep ridge to the south another half-mile to Torote Bowl, where several elephant trees are found.

Across from the Torote Bowl trail sign is a narrow and rather obscure trail that climbs a ridge on the north side next to a tagged elephant tree. This is the Surprise Grove trail, which drops into the next canyon after a little more than a half-mile hike. Surprise Grove has over 30 trees. Up-canyon less than a half-mile from Surprise Grove is Palm Bowl, tucked into a large mesquite-filled bowl with well over 50 trees.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at [SDReader.com/roam](http://SDReader.com/roam)

Retrace your way back to Surprise Grove and follow the canyon down another half-mile to the junction with a canyon leading north to North Grove and Mary's Grove. The 2.5-mile loop hike turns right and heads back to the parking area and trailhead that is clearly visible.

By turning to the left or north at the junction of Surprise Canyon, another mile is added to the hike. North Grove is visible from the junction and from the trailhead. The wind has knocked down many of the palm

fronds that can be slick to walk on, so use caution. There are about 20 trees strewn in this narrow canyon. The climb becomes steep and rocky as one continues on to Mary's Grove, where there are over 30 trees in scattered groupings. Hike back down-canyon to return to your vehicle.

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/education/naturalists-of-all-ages/canyoneer-hikes/>

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Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.

## OUTDOORS

**Bird-Watching Walk** San Diego Field Ornithologists lead bird walk in Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, February 11, 8am; **free**. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

**Fun Family Fitness** Learn about plants, critters, ecosystems of wild San Diego with naturalist guide during walk. Expect "trail tales and fun facts." Saturday, February 11, 8:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Garden Along the River** Help "care for Mission Valley's only public garden," a five-acre site located in Mission Valley East, filled with native and water-wise plants, trees, cacti. Tools, supplies provided. 619-297-7380. Sunday, February 12, 8am; **free**. San Diego

River Garden, 3334 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Guided Nature Walk** Learn about area birds and plants. Meet near restroom; bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. Sunday, February 12, 9:30am; **free**. Marian Bear Memorial Park west entrance, 5250 Regents Road. (CLAIREMONT)

**Help Restore a Canyon** Volunteers beckoned to help restore a canyon now owned by Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Bring gloves, water, sun protection. 858-342-8856 or [mkelly1@san.rr.com](mailto:mkelly1@san.rr.com) Saturday, February 11, 9am; **free**. Friends of Peñasquitos habitat restoration site #2, 13162 Dufresne Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**Vernal Pools and Wildflowers** Tour this nature preserve with Diana Gordon, learn about rare Southern maritime chaparral, vernal pool lifecycles. Look for wildflowers. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 11, 9am; **free**. Carmel Mountain trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way. (CARMEL VALLEY)

**View Nature's Valentines** Trail guide leads search for early blooms of forget-me-not, heart-leaved penstemon, everlasting, sweet peas. Hear "tale of kissing bug" on walk through chaparral to riverfront. Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Wildlife Tracking Walk** San Diego Tracking Team hosts easy, introductory tracking walk for everyone. Learn about art of tracking; look for tracks, scat, other evidence of coyotes, bobcats, raccoon, deer. Rain cancels. Saturday, February 11, 8am; **free**. Los Peñasquitos

Ranch Adobe, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Vintage Valentine Hanging Mobiles** Create a vintage hanging mobile for Valentine's Day with Marta. Supplies provided. Advance reservations required. Thursday, February 9, 3:30pm; **free**. 8 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

**"Retro Romance"** Hell on Heels Burlesque Revue plans Valentine's show featuring Lady Buffet, guest performer Ruby Champagne. Saturday, February 11, 9pm; \$12-\$15. 21 and up. Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue. (LINDA VISTA)

**"The Love Show"** Technomania Circus explores the theme of love through music, puppetry, blacklight, and more. Saturday, February 11, 8pm; \$10. Victory Theater, 2558 Imperial Avenue. (GRANT HILL)

**"The Mixed Blood Project"** Born in Kingston, Jamaica, and educated at Williams College and Columbia University, Claudine Rankine is author of four collections of award-winning poetry. Rankine plans multimedia poetry performance in Markstein Hall 125. 760-750-8889. Thursday, February 9, 6:30pm; **free**. CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

**"Valentines"** The annual Valentine-themed show boasts art by local tattoo artists Micah Caudle, Sergio Hernandez, Honkeykong, Rob Benavides. Live silkscreen printing by the Roots Factory. Friday, February 10, 8pm; **free**. 18

and up. Flying Panther Tattoo and Gallery, 2323 Broadway, Suite 101. (GOLDEN HILL)

**Afro-Cuban Dance and Drumming** Celebrate Black History month with a performance by WorldBeat Cultural Center troupe. Enjoy dance, drumming, stories about history of this art. 619-475-4642. Saturday, February 11, 2pm; **free**. Bonita-Sunnyside Library, 4375 Bonita Road. (BONITA)

**California Open Wildlife Art Festival** More than 150 wildfowl and fish artists and carvers take part in festival competition, including fine art exhibits, carving competition, vendors, antique decoys, appraisals. Featured artist: Ron Dotson of Jamul. 619-421-1034. Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, 9:30am; **free**-\$5. NTC Promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

**Collaged Valentine** Assemble beautiful papers, stickers, ribbon, hearts, doilies, lace with images and words from magazines, books, love letters, to create a Valentine message for a loved one. Registration: 619-223-0058. Sunday, February 12, 9am; \$43-\$49. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Rd., Studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

**Consider Recent Human Evolution** San Diego Great Books group gathers to discuss Nicholas Wade's *Before the Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors*. Newcomers welcome. 619-440-5625. Sunday, February

12, 2pm; **free**. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Craft Greeting Cards** Crafter Chizuko Sieving plans workshop divulging "how to create beautiful and original greeting cards." Materials provided (though there is a suggested supplies list). Registration: 858-573-1396. Friday, February 10, 3pm; **free**. 16 and up. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

**Government Regulation versus Personal Responsibility** Civilized Conversation Club convenes for discussion. 858-231-6209. Thursday, February 9, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Museum Month!** During February, pick up a Museum Month pass at Macy's, enjoy half-off admission at 40 San Diego County museums. Guests with a pass may bring up to three people with them to participating museums to receive half off. 619-276-0101. Thursdays; Fridays; Saturdays; Sundays; through Wednesday, February 29, San Diego County.

**San Diegans for 9/11 Truth will host:** "UNITED 93: A tale of Two Planes?" A presentation by Dwain Deets, a retired NASA scientist. The "Let's Roll" legend of flight 93, made official by *The 9/11 Commission Report* and popularized by movies and numerous books, is a classic American tale of courage and noble sacrifice. Evidence revealed through the FOIA responses, however, paints

a confusing and perhaps impossible scenario. But, when the facts are considered in the context of a two-plane theory, everything suddenly snaps into focus. Q&A follows. Info: [www.SD911Truth.org](http://www.SD911Truth.org) or call 619-222-2120. Free, donations accepted. Across from Trader Joe's in the Uptown Shopping Center. Sunday, February 12, 6:30pm; Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

**Sketch Jam** Bring your sketch materials, enjoy live music, refreshments. Open to all artists. 760-479-1848. Friday, February 10, 7pm; **free**. Studio 2nd St., 528 2nd Street. (ENCINITAS)

**The Backyard Flock: Raising Urban Chickens** Laurie Furry divulges "everything you need to know to start enjoying fresh eggs while keeping your new flock happy and healthy." Legally allowed to keep a flock in your community? Chicks or laying hens? Get the scoop on a variety of chicken-raising topics. Saturday, February 11, 10:30am; \$15-\$20. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

**The Stars? Winter-Growing Cactus!** San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society hosts winter show and sale in room 101, with specimens of cactus and other succulents from around world. Experts on hand to answer questions concerning culture of these plants. 858-270-5544. Saturday, February 11, 10am; **free**. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

## Thailand continued from page 56.

temples for a flat \$20 for the day. You can also rent a bicycle or motorbike. Most of the temples are close enough to each other that they can be accessed by

bicycle, but it helps to have a good map.

I was able to get a third-class train ticket back to Bangkok for about \$3. I had to stand for about the first 15 minutes but had a comfortable ride the rest of the way.

**Win \$25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to [SDReader.com/travel](http://SDReader.com/travel) for more information.**

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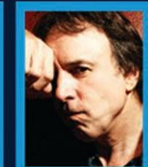
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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Valentine's "Sweetheart Ball"

**Ages 40+** Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more, presents this dance/mixer with music by Mar Del Boys, prizes, chocolate tasting, "sexy" word game, free appetizers (7:30 till gone), free parking, "dresy" dress. \$30 online or credit card/cash at door. Sign up at [www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com](http://www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com) or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, February 11, 7:30pm; DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego, 14455 Penasquitos Dr. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

### Whale Watching Adventures

Hornblower Cruises leads 3.5-hour outings in search of migrating gray whales, with captains and naturalists from San Diego Natural History Museum on hand to help spot tails and teach guests more about the marine wildlife offshore. Reservations: 619-686-8715 or [hornblower.com/whales](http://hornblower.com/whales). Sundays, 9:30am; through Sunday, April 15, free-\$40. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

### Tribal Cabaret

Featuring Tribal Baroque, A Once in a lifetime experience! Fused classical violin, foot bells and chimes with tribal choreography, interpretive dance, and otherworldly voices. Belly dancing performance by Rosie Velez and Elena Quintana, two of the hottest performers in San Diego! For more information: 619-255-5147, [www.queenbeessd.com/qbcabaret/](http://www.queenbeessd.com/qbcabaret/). Friday, February 24, doors open at 8pm, starts at 9:30pm. Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street. (NORTH PARK)

### Kneeling Day February 29

All Christians are invited to give this extra Leap Day to the Lord. One person invites friends to meet at a certain public place and time and on the Cue all kneel and pray to Jesus. After this Spiritual Flash Gathering is completed, all stand

and share the peace of Christ with those in the area. Do this every Leap Year. Put your efforts on the Internet! Holy Spirit Parish San Diego, California. [www.holyspirit.org](http://www.holyspirit.org). Wednesday, February 29. (SAN DIEGO)

## ART MUSEUMS

### "John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective"

National City native John Baldessari, who has been making art for decades, is one of the most influential artists working today. This retrospective including more than 100 works made between 1973 and 2010 in media as diverse as lithography, etching, photogravure, aquatint, photo intaglio, embossing, silkscreen, and more, is drawn from the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his family foundation. View this exhibition, representing "the largest offering of Baldessari's graphic oeuvre ever assembled," through Sunday, May 13.

Spencer Finch's "light-based installations bridge an actual locale with a recalled memory." *Rome (Pantheon, noon, June 14, 2011)*, on view through Wednesday, May 30, "evokes the moment and mood of a place by controlling the quality of light, color, or other sensory information." **Free**-\$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

### "Unusual Suspects"

Exhibition of paintings and photographs by Holly Roberts "invites viewers to explore new approaches and expression in photography" through innovative work combining painting and collage. View the pieces, in which perception "of the photographic medium is challenged," through Sunday, May 6.

"Eyes of a Nation: A Century of American Photography," opening Saturday, February 11, is drawn from museum's permanent collection, offering a look at "rich history of American photography by artists working in the 1870s-1970s." Exhibit explores "groundbreaking

## Rhyme & Verse

### Ready to Kill

A poem by Carl Sandburg

Ten minutes now I have been looking at this. I have gone by here before and wondered about it. This is a bronze memorial of a famous general Riding horseback with a flag and a sword and a revolver on him. I want to smash the whole thing into a pile of junk to be hauled away to the

crap yard.  
I put it straight to you,  
After the farmer, the miner, the shop man, the factory hand, the fireman  
and the teamster,

Have all been remembered with bronze memorials,  
Shaping them on the job of getting all of us  
Something to eat and something to wear,  
When they stack a few silhouettes

Against the sky  
Here in the park,  
And show the real huskies that are doing the work of the world, and  
feeding people instead of butchering them,  
Then maybe I will stand here  
And look easy at this general of the army holding a flag in the air,  
And riding like hell on horseback  
Ready to kill anybody that gets in his way,  
Ready to run the red blood and slush the bowels of men all over  
the sweet new grass of the prairie.



Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) was the son of poor Swedish immigrants who settled in Illinois. After serving in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War, he entered Lombard College where, in 1904, with encouragement

and financial help from professor Philip Green Wright, he self-published his first collection of poetry, *Reckless Ecstasy*. After college he married Lillian Steichen, the sister of the photographer Edward Steichen, and began working for the Social-Democrat Party in Wisconsin. After moving to Chicago, Sandburg became an editorial writer for the *Chicago Daily News*. With his first full collection, *Chicago Poems*, he began establishing his reputation as a plain-spoken but powerful American poet deeply concerned about social justice. In the 1920s, Sandburg wrote and published his monumental six-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln as well as his first collection of American folk ballads, *The American Songbag*. On periodic trips around the country, Sandburg would play his banjo and guitar, sing folk songs, and recite his poetry. He won a Pulitzer Prize for Abraham Lincoln: *The War Years* (1939) and another Pulitzer for his *Collected Poems* in 1950.

Find more poetry online at [SDreader.com/poetry](http://SDreader.com/poetry)

movements and photographers who helped shape photography at an important time in the development of our country." Through Sunday, May 13. **Free**-\$6. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Alaska!** Bush pilot, photographer, author Mark Stadskev presents slide show, signs *Alaskan Air: Nature's Artwork on the Alaskan Landscape*. Saturday, February 11, 12:30pm; **free**. University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

**Romance Writers Tell All!** Local romance writers Georgie Lee, Toni Noel, Lisa Kessler, Terry Blain on hand for panel discussion, book signing. Chocolate treats will be served. Friday, February 10, 11am; **free**. Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**"A Celebration of Love"** Celebrate with your Valentine when Redlands Symphony performs Verdi's "Overture to *Nabucco*," arias from *Aida*, *La Traviata*, *La forza del destino*; Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture," waltz

from *Eugene Onegin*; Pucini arias from *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*. 760-451-8644. Sunday, February 12, 3pm; \$10-\$38. Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts, 2400 South Stagecoach Drive. (FALLBROOK)

### "Avila: Musicians and Mystics of 16th-Century Spain"

Amy White and Dominic Schaner perform music from Spain's golden age (for vihuela and voice) and poetry by Spanish mystics John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila for "Old Masters of Music and Art" series. Included in museum admission (\$12 general). Sunday, February 12, 2pm; San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

### "Favorite Opera Moments"

"Experience some of the most unforgettable moments of opera"

performed by professional opera singers and Orchestra Nova. Complemented by video, this sampling of hits is for opera novices and established opera lovers. 858-350-0290. Saturday, February 11, 7:30pm; \$26-\$66. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

### "Music from the St. Thomas Boys Choir Library"

Founded by former members of St. Thomas Boys Choir in Leipzig, amarcord "has become one of the world's leading vocal ensembles." San Diego Early Music Society hosts concert with repertoire from chant through Lassus and Walter to Stefanini and Heinrich Schütz. 619-291-8246. Sunday, February 12, 7pm; \$18-\$25. St. James-by-the-

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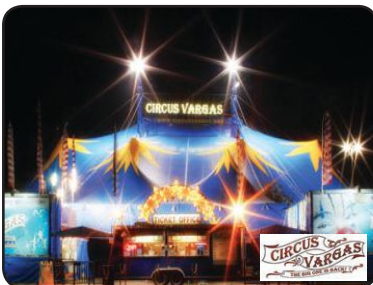
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Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

**"Sights and Sounds of Northern Germany"** Resident organist Janice Fehér performs historic and modern organ compositions by Lubeck, Boehm, Buxtehude, Brahms, Telemann, Gade on 101-rank Casavant Frères organ, accompanied by Béla Fehér's photographs. Concert: 7pm; preview additional photographs: 6:30pm. 619-232-7513. Friday, February 10, 6:30pm; free. 18 and up. First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN)

**"The Harp and Alexandra Tibbitts"** FanFaire Foundation presents concert by Tibbitts with selections by Zabel, Debussy, Piazzolla, Cabezon, Palero, others. 760-666-1810 or 760-839-4839. Saturday, February 11, 3pm; free. Escondido Library, 239 S. Kalmia Street. (ESCONDIDO)

**"The Harp and Alexandra Tibbitts," Redux** FanFaire Foundation hosts concert with Tibbitts performing selections by Zabel, Debussy, Piazzolla, Cabezon, Palero, others. 760-666-1810. Sunday, February 12, 2pm; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**"The Populist"** La Jolla Symphony and Chorus continues "Stravinsky Circus" themed season with "program of stark — and very beautiful — drama." Listen for Verdi's "Overture to La Forza del Destino," "still getting rid of" by Nicholas Deyoe, "The Wound Dresser" by John Adams, and the Brahms "Symphony No. 1 in C Minor." 858-534-4637. Saturday, February 11, 7:30pm; Sunday, February 12, 2pm; \$15-\$29. Mandeville

Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Rising Star** Concert by performer, composer Thomas Mellan, who "has already earned praise beyond his" 17 years. 858-487-0811 x288 or [awazny@rbpc.org](mailto:awazny@rbpc.org) Sunday, February 12, 2pm; free. Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, 17010 Pomerado Road. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**St. Lawrence String Quartet** Ensemble dazzles with selections by Haydn, Osvaldo Golijov, Dvorak for ArtPower concert. 858-534-8497. Friday, February 10, 8pm; \$10-\$50. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

## COMEDY

**"My Funny Valentines"** Lauren O'Brien ("The Mikey Show") and Lamont Ferguson (Comedy Central) plan Valentine-themed stand-up comedy show. 951-929-3586. Saturday, February 11, 8pm; \$25-\$20. 18 and up. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2822 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

**Valentine's Comedy** Comedian Karen Rontowski and Lamont Ferguson perform for Valentine's Day comedy show. Required reservations: 760-929-1396. Friday, February 10, 8:30pm; \$15. 18 and up. Joey's Smokin' B-B-Q, 6955 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

**Valentine's Weekend Comedy** LEC Production hosts comedy by Gina Manning, Kurt Swann, headliner Keith Ellis. 714-388-8552. Saturday, February 11, 8pm; free. 21 and up. Kelly's Public House, 15817

Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

## DANCE

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** San Diego Ballet presents this piece and *Mixed Bill* as part of the "Romance" series. 619-544-1000. Friday, February 10, 8pm; Saturday, February 11, 8pm; \$35-\$45. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

**"Romance — Romeo et Juliet"** San Diego Ballet presents mixed program bringing "romantic highlights of past seasons together for a night of passion and romance," directed and choreographed by Javier Velasco. Reservations: 619-544-1000. Sunday, February 12, 2:30pm; \$35-\$45. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

**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 514-726-5567. Monday, February 13, 7pm, and Wednesday, February 15, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

## FOOD & DRINK

**"Aphrodisiacs"** Spice up Valentine's Day! Learn about "aphrodisiacs like oysters, watermelon, arugula, pine nuts, kabocha squash, saffron, and champagne," how to add them to your cooking and baking repertoire during class with Logan Mitchell and Gary McIntire of Cellar Door. Thursday, February 9, 6pm; \$65. Cups Lounge and Culinary, 7857 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Brewbies Festival** Third annual "beer festival for boobies" promises local and regional beers; proceeds benefit Keep a Breast Foundation. Tickets include four six-ounce tastes, collector's glass, bracelet, raffle ticket; additional tasters: \$1 apiece. 760-720-7007. Saturday, February 11, 12pm; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Pizza Port, 571 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

**For the Love of Chocolate and SweetArt Festival** Bring your sweetheart or just your sweet tooth to third annual festival with vendors, entertainment by Jimmy Patton and Enrique, carriage rides, more. Admission to Sweet Street: free. Pay \$20 for ten beer- or wine-and-chocolate pairings. Saturday, February 11, 1pm; Downtown Escondido, Grand Avenue at Centre City. (ESCONDIDO)

**Get to Know Cheese!** "Learn anything and everything you ever wanted to learn about cheese" during signature "cheese 101" class. Nibble "all the best cheese," sip complimentary wine. Thursday, February 9, 6:30pm; \$50. 21 and up. Venissimo Cheese, 871 G Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Viva Goa!** India's smallest state, Goa, was once a Portuguese colony (until annexed by India in 1961). Chef Arleen Lloyd leads discovery of foods of Goa, including Goan pork vindaloo, prawn curry. Friday, February 10, 6pm; \$65. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

## FOR KIDS

**Family Open Studios Plus!** Art-making workshops offered in conjunction with "2012 Cannon Art Gallery Invitational" exhibition. Contemporary dance performance by Carlsbad choreographer Heather Dale Wentworth and Opus Mixtus ensemble (11:45am). 760-434-2904. Saturday, February 11, 11am; free. City of Carlsbad Dove Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

**Play Kumeyaay Games** Learn to play "ancient Native American children's games" and make a dice game to take home. Saturday, February 11, 10am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

## GALLERIES

**"Black and White"** Reception for league's current exhibit and featured artist, watercolorist Frank Glendenning. Closes Sunday, February 26. 760-434-8497. Sunday, February 12, 3pm; free. Carlsbad Oceanside Art League's COAL Gallery, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive #101. (CARLSBAD)

**"Dualism of Love/Dualismo del Amor"** Reception for exhibit of new works by Miguel Angel Godoy and Sonia Lopez-Chavez, who "embrace their thoughts and emotions in a tone of abstract expressionism." Through Sunday, March 4. Saturday, February 11, 5pm; free. Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline St., Suite #104. (LA JOLLA)

**"EVOLVE: A New Look at Love"** Opening for exhibit of works by artists from San Diego to Las Vegas. 619-534-8120. Saturday, February 11, 6pm; free. Edge-ware Gallery, 4186 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON)

**"Layering Time and Place: An African Memoir"** Artist Atara-

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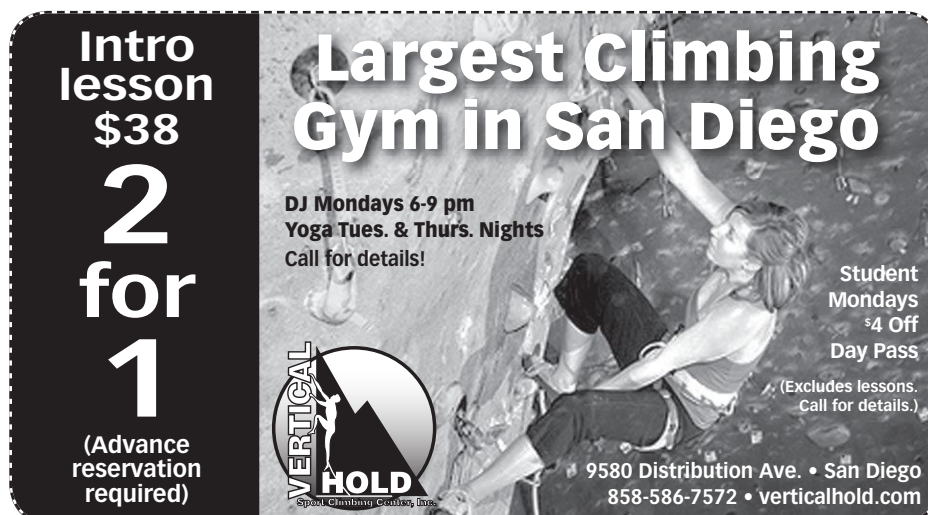
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### MUSIC

#### The Peter Sprague Beatles Project

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### THEATRE

#### Henry IV Part 1

March 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 • 7:30 p.m.

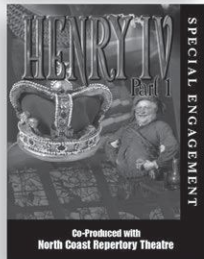
March 4, 11, 17, 18 • 2 p.m.

Preview performance, March 1 • 7:30 p.m.

By William Shakespeare; Directed by David Ellenstein. Henry faces rebellion from the noblemen who helped him seize the crown. Meanwhile, his son, Prince Hal, the heir to the throne, is a fifteenth century wild child who carouses with the rascal Sir John Falstaff.

Theatre, Bldg. 2000, Oceanside Campus

Prices vary; call or go online for details. **Tickets:** 760.795.6815 or [www.miracosta.edu/buytix](http://www.miracosta.edu/buytix)



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**Saturday  
February  
25th  
7:00 pm**

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## All Christians Are Invited To Give This Extra Leap Day To The Lord

One Person invites friends to meet at a certain public place and time and on Cue all Kneel and Pray to Jesus. After this Spiritual Flash Gathering is completed, all stand and share the Peace of Christ with those in the area.

**Do this every Leap Year.**

Put your efforts on the Internet! Remember the Words of Saint Paul to the Philippians 2:10

**"... that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth."**

Holy Spirit Parish San Diego, California  
[www.holyspiritsd.org](http://www.holyspiritsd.org)

Baker lived in South Africa for ten years. Attend opening reception for exhibition of her paintings and sculptures "reminiscent of (and inspired by) the African masks and other crafted objects that she encountered." Artist lecture at 7pm. Exhibit closes on Thursday, March 1. 619-388-2829. Thursday, February 9, 5pm; **free**. Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

**"The Black Market Method"** Opening reception for exhibition by Gabe Leonard dealing "with the underground/underbelly in the history of our country from bank robbers to organized crime from the Prohibition era." Closes Saturday, March 3. 760-781-5779. Saturday,

February 11, 6pm; **free**. ArtHatch, 317 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**"The Red Event"** View collection of red-themed artworks in a variety of media (just in time for Valentine's Day). Nothing says "I love you" like art! Saturday, February 11, 2pm; **free**. Del Mar Art Center Gallery, 1555 Camino Del Mar Suite 112. (DEL MAR)

**Arty in Escondido** Escondido Arts Partnership hosts "Art Connection" with chances to make Valentine cards and decorations (1-3pm). The "Member's Exhibition" opens with reception for the artists (5:30-8:30pm). Saturday, February 11, 1pm and 5:30pm; **free**. Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Colorful Brushstrokes, Romantic Cubism** Reception for exhibit of paintings by Stephanie Clair, on view through March. Thursday, February 9, 6pm; **free**. Pimento Fine Art at Olive PR Solutions, 350 West Ash Street #103. (LITTLE ITALY)

## LECTURES

**"Art and the Crossover Phenomena"** Suzanne Lacy (installation and performance artist, writer), Helen and Newton Harrison (ecological artists), Victoria Vesna (media artist, author, UCLA Arts/Sci Center director) speak for "Dialogues in Art and Architecture" series. 858-454-5872.

Thursday, February 9, 7:30pm; **free**. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

**"Fall in Love with Bees"** Bee advocate Geoff Kipps-Bolton of [bees-on-the-net.com](http://bees-on-the-net.com) divulges "secret lives of bees" to "get you excited about the bees visiting your garden." Gain introduction to beekeeping, learn why bees swarm, what to do if a swarm lands on your property. Walk through garden, find bees in action. Sunday, February 12, 10:30am; \$10-\$15. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

**"New for You: Anton Raphael Mengs"** Museum has acquired "an important oil painting by Anton Raphael Mengs, a portrait of Don Luis de Borbón." European art curator John Marciari explains the importance of Mengs to the rise of neo-classical art, why the work is a valuable addition to the collection. Tickets: \$5 after museum admission (\$12 general). Saturday, February 11, 10:30am; San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**"Rough-Hewn Land"** How have geologic forces shaped the human history of the West? MiraCosta College geology and oceanography professor Keith Meldahl shares "A Geologic Journey from California to the Rocky Mountains" for Learning is for Everyone (LIFE) program in room 201. 760-944-4449 x782. Friday, February 10, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

**"Sorting African Art"** Ever looked at a piece of African art and wondered what it is and where it came from? Art historian Barbara Blackmun offers clues to help answer this sort of question during talk hosted by African Arts Council. Sunday, February 12, 3pm; **free**-\$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**"The Point of View" Art Talk** Artist William Glen Crooks and guest curator Scott White plan "Walk and Talk" through the Crooks exhibition. Included in museum admission. 760-435-3720. Saturday, February 11, 2pm; **free**-\$8. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

**End Time Mondays** Is the world coming to an end? What is the Mark of the Beast? Will there be a Rapture? Discover what the Bible says about Last Day Events at our ongoing Bible Prophecy Seminar every Monday! Questions? Call 760-723-7733. Monday, February 13, 7pm to 8:30pm. Fallbrook Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1200 Rainbow Valley Road. (FALLBROOK)

**Salary Negotiations** Learn "strategies for leveraging yourself while negotiating your salary, and discover effective answers to difficult questions" when San Diego Metro Career Center hosts workshop. Determining prevailing wages for your skills, level of expertise in current job market. Friday, February 10, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)



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# Game Day at the Opera

*“We train with as much intensity, dedication, and focus as a professional athlete has.”*

The following are classical music entries from the *Reader's* “Jam Session” music blog. Click to [sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/jam-session](http://sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/jam-session) for more.

## SAN DIEGO OPERA'S SALOME: NUDITY, ATHLETICISM, BEEF

We're continuing with our discussion about San Diego Opera's *Salome* with bass-baritone Greer Grimsley and soprano Lise Lindstrom. The topic: nudity.

Lise: “I don't really want to be naked. It's not mandatory. It's certainly up for discussion. The level of nakedness is an issue.”

Greer: “I've always said that nudity in opera is redundant. You've basically opened yourself up. It's not just this mechanism [gesturing to his throat]. When you sing, it's connected to your soul. It's connected to everything you are. In that sense we're sharing more than what our physical bodies are.”

Lise: “I always find nudity to be more information than I want in the seductive category. When I see a naked body onstage, I think, *Nah*. What I do like is not seeing it and having the suggestion of it — the perception of it but not the full thing. Bodies are not all that interesting when they're naked. When you put stuff around them and package them, then I find bodies to be quite tantalizing.”

*SDReader*: “The nudity in *Salome* isn't like the Rheinmaidens being naked at the end of *Götterdämmerung*. That is obviously a representation of a pure and natural state. *Salome* is a different story.”

Lise: “It is, and you need to have that conversation. How much is the nudity used as a tool to get what she wants? It's all about checks and balances in this opera — and power asser-

tion. How far does she have to go to get what she wants?”

Greer: “‘The Dance of the Seven Veils’ isn't about nudity. It's about anticipation. It usually doesn't end in nudity, but that's become the traditional take on it.”

*SDReader*: Talk about the athleticism associated with world-class opera singing...

Lise: “I am so glad you brought up the link to athletes. It is completely fair. We train with as much intensity, dedication, and focus as a professional athlete has. We have a ‘game day’ routine before performances and we have the pressure to perform in front of a critical audience. It's not just the day of the performance but the days before and after. We need to listen to our bodies and hear what the body is telling us.”

Greer: “It's true, except our success rate has to be much higher than an athlete. We can't bat .350 and call that a success. We have to hit the ball out of the park 99.9 percent of the time.”

*SDReader*: “So you can't miss half your free-throws like Shaq?”

Lise: “In singing opera, that's called ‘retired.’”

During the interview, one of the opera staff poked her head in and asked Greer what he wanted for dinner before the shows: beef, veggie, or fish?

Greer: “Beef. This is definitely a beef show.”

## SAN DIEGO OPERA'S SALOME: “THE VOICE”

In her first two productions with San Diego Opera, Lise Lindstrom has portrayed princesses with a thing for beheadings. As Turandot, she beheaded the Prince of Persia, and as Salome,

## IMMORTAL BEAUTY

GARRETT HARRIS



Greer Grimsley plays Jokanaan in the San Diego Opera's *Salome*. His stagemates call him “the Voice.”

Jokanaan.

Turandot and Salome have striking similarities. Both are motivated by revenge and obsession. Both are young and in power. Both have never experienced love in any form and react violently to its first expressions.

Turandot is the ice princess, Salome is the temptress, and Lise Lindstrom is phenomenal. We watched Lindstrom transform Salome from a pouting, petulant, teenager into a resolved and obsessed adult. Her singing also matched the development of the character. Lindstrom started *Salome* with a lighter tone and gradually colored it as the character's obsession grew.

I didn't notice a great singer or actor, I noticed a character. I saw Salome on the stage. During her adoration of the head, I heard a patron exclaim, “Whoa!” That was an involuntary response to an authentic situation.

The other principals were equally matched to Lindstrom. Hopefully some of the applause from opening night was directed toward general and artistic director Ian Campbell for assembling the principal quartet of *Salome* (Lise Lind-

strom), Jokanaan (Greer Grimsley), Herod (Allan Glassman), and Herodias (Irina Mishura).

Irina Mishura was making her company debut as Herodias, and I hope we see her again — soon. She boozed her way around the stage with the confidence of an overripe beauty who has given up seduction for sarcasm. There were moments when Mishura's voice threatened to swallow the entire Civic Theater in one glorious gulp.

Allan Glassman, returning to San Diego as Herod, played a despotic politician yet also gave us glimpses of the Herod that ruled Galilee for 42 years under three different Caesars. The temptation would be to play Herod as a fool, but Glassman gave us flesh and blood instead of a one-dimensional caricature.

This brings us to Greer Grimsley as Jokanaan. What can I say? Greer Grimsley is a treasure. I've watched him sing at San Diego Opera during the past 12 years, and I never cease to be amazed.

Lise Lindstrom admitted, “We call Greer ‘the Voice.’” ■

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# Gregorian Chant Mass



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Our Father who art is heaven, hallowed be thine name, Thy kingdom



4 pm on the second Sunday of every month

▪ Sunday, February 12, 4:00 pm.

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Our Lady of the Rosary Church

State and Date Streets (Little Italy), Downtown San Diego

# Fries Included

At the eatin'-contest table, a gang of guys and gals chants, "Eat! Eat! Eat! Eat!"

"What's that guy eating?" yells Carla. "It looks ginormous!" "Say what?" "I said..."

We're shouting at each other at the new Nicky Rottens place in Coronado. Carla wanted to meet here at the bay end of Orange Avenue after her hair appointment, so we could see the lights across the water.

But inside, *thumpa, thumpa, thumpa*. The music's in charge.

Still, view-wise, here, right at the corner of First Street, you get pretty much that panorama of everything across the bay that Carla wanted: illuminated downtown high-rises, the red-and-green navigation lights of water taxis.

Nicky's newest place (he started off in the Gaslamp) is full. Lotsa shouting about the next deployment, housing allowances, Navy life.

At one table, they got some kind of eating contest going on.

"Hi, folks," this gal Jessica says to us. "Drinks? Eats?"

Me, I'm starting off lite. I get a large lemonade, one with the true taste I've grown to appreciate — actual lemons. Carla has her new crush, ginger ale. They're \$2 each.

We've agreed it's gonna be burger or bust, because these guys have an awesome reputation. Not cheap, but, unlike Burger Lounge, at least fries are included in the price.

Two burgers cruise past. I swear, each is as tall from bun to bun as my outstretched hand, pinky to thumb. Back and forth I go, tryin' to decide between a Rottens Bacavo burger and the Maui Wowi. ("Whata da minkya isa

Bacavo?" asks the menu. Then it tells you: bacon, avo, burger, cheese, \$10.95.)

For the same price, they have the Maui

Wowi, with a pineapple ring and teriyaki. Hmm...have a little craving for sweetness...

Carla almost falls for her other obsession, hotdogs. 'Specially the "Tijuana Style. Home Wrecker" (\$9.95). They're wrapped in bacon, and you get

chopped jalapeños with them. They use Hebrew National beef frankfurters. "Best flavor, bar none," Carla says. But she ends up going for a Rottens Stinky Burger (\$10.95, Bacon, blue cheese), because of the blue cheese. And, yes, I have the Maui Wowi. I know pineapple in a burger's probably as cool as asking for pineapple on your pizza in New York City.

But the Food Fashion Police will never make it back here.

*Whew*. A moment to look around. Our table, for starters, looks expensive. Glossy burl walnut, Carla says. And Jessica says the bar's backboard and overhang are solid mahogany. Right above us, a 6-by-10-foot screen has guys kicking footballs almost into our drinks.

"They really went to a lot of trouble," Jessica says. "They spent a lot."

"You've been here before, right?" Carla asks me, like I've been holding out on her.

I have. I remember it exactly. September 30...spectacular. They were brand new then, Rottens owner Nick Tomasello having just taken over the Island Sports Bar, and also the corner Laundromat. The result: big new Rotten bar on the island. The locals were thrilled.

It was rockin' that night. Sunset.



Each burger is as tall from bun to bun as my outstretched hand.



Nicky Rottens owner Nick Tomasello poses with server Jessica.

Outside, the green-flash crowd. (I know, you need to face west for that, and this bar faces pretty much east across the bay, but the sun was giving a show anyway, daubing the mainland waterfront hotels with a slow, golden paintbrush.)

But the real action was inside. Happy hour. I'd ordered a Ballast Point Yellowtail Pale Ale (\$3) and a plate of fried zucchini slices (four bucks, half the usual price). So then this guy named Shawn Burkholder, the manager, comes up and pours my Yellowtail, and starts...jug-gling. Not beer coasters, but bottles. Champagne, beer bottles, full. Things that could go crash in the night.

Up, around, and behind him. Man was crazy-perfect.

"That's nothing," he said to an open-jawed Scottish couple. "Let me offer you a drink."

Right there, he started assembling one, two, eight large metal beakers. Turned some upside down. Placed five champagne glasses around the base, poured raspberry vodka, lemon juice, triple sec, cranberry juice, and Sprite, then scooped them together so each sat partly inside the one behind it...Then he held all five up horizontally over his head like a concertina — and started pouring.

Lawdy!

He filled all five glasses simultaneously, in long streams. Not a drop spilled.

But, tonight, there's no sign of Shawn. No tricks going down at the bar.

At the eatin'-contest table, a gang of guys and gals chants, "Eat! Eat! Eat! Eat!"

One guy has his fangs into an obscenely big burger. I see on the menu, "Da Ultimate Challenge" burger, 2½ pounds of meat, plus fixins. Costs \$19.95, or free if you eat it in half an hour. Finish within the hour, you still have to pay but get your name engraved on

a hall-of-eating-fame plaque. But they have a strict "no going out and upchucking on the sidewalk halfway through" rule. You leave your seat before finishing, you've lost.

Jessica comes with our burgers. Man, oh, man. These are half-pounders, humungous in their way.

I'm getting decadent whiffs of Carla's blue cheese burger. And the sounds as she squishes into her first bite! Have to stop myself from asking if she wants to share. The glint in her eye tells me, "Don't even go there."

Besides, whatever Gothamites may think, that sweet-savory flavor in the Maui Wowi is glorious to my jangling taste buds. Teriyaki talks back to the pineapple. Just like Filipino people, I love combos of sweet and savory.

The garlicky fries are great, too.

I'm just about to lunge into my second bite when a roar goes up from the contest table.

"Yeah! You da man! Don't throw up! He did it! Over here!"

Looks like the guy got his 2½ pounds down in time.

Here's hoping he can hold it. ■

**The Place:** Nicky Rottens, 104 Orange Avenue (on the corner of Orange and First), Coronado, 619-537-0280

**Type of Food:** Burgers plus

**Prices:** Plate of fried zucchini slices, \$8.95 (\$4.48 happy hour); Rottens Bacavo burger (bacon, avo, cheese), \$10.95; Maui Wowi burger (with pineapple ring, teriyaki), \$10.95; Stinky burger (with bacon, blue cheese), \$10.95; "Tijuana Style" hot dog (Hebrew National, with bacon, chopped jalapeño), \$9.95

**Restaurant Hours:** 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m., Sunday–Thursday; till 11:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday

**Buses:** 904, 901

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**Ferry:** Hourly on the half hour at Ferry Landing

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## Tijuana: Dogs de la Calle

Shout-out to the real thing!

The past couple of times coming back from TJ I've ended up on the street, looking for one last dog. This time it's around ten at night, corner of Avenida de la Amistad ("Friendship Avenue") and the stalls leading back to the border.

José Ismael is here with his cart. "Exquisitos Hot Dogs" and "Hamburguesas Deliciosas y Calientitas." You can see it from a distance. He's standing in the flaring light of his cart's gaslamp, dressed in about four layers under a white apron, rubbing his hands in the cold. He's an island in the dark.

I ask him for a *chico* hotdog and a coffee: \$1.20 for the dog (the *grande* is \$2), \$1 for the coffee... instant crystals poured into a cup of hot water.

Meanwhile José works at the dog. The bun, the mayo, the wiener wrapped with bacon, *cebollas asadas* (grilled onions), chunky salsa, tomato chunks, mustard. He delivers the final long squirt of ketchup with a flourish.

His friend José García trundles out of the dark with his *elote* (corn) cart (\$1 each for a small ear; \$1.50 to \$2 for larger ones). We stand here in the biting chill, walking on the spot from one foot to the other.

Oh, yes. This, out here, is the real thing. My face is a mess from first bite.

"I've been working here 12 years," says José Ismael, "5 p.m. to midnight. It used to be a good spot. Still is okay on Friday nights. But these days I sell maybe 30, 40 in a night. Before, I'd be selling

250. And I have to pay for the cart and the food and the gas. I have a wife and two kids to feed. It's difficult."

José García and I nod. At the same time, I'm enjoying the crunchy heat of the *salchicha* — the wiener — with the spicy heat of the salsa.

Yes, I've had more magnificent dogs, but chewing and chatting out here in the last few feet of Latin America, three guys shivering in the late-night gaslamp, this you can't buy.

BTW: U.S.-bound border crossing pedestrians are being diverted through the 1936 customs building while they upgrade the main one. For the next two years. Allow extra time.

Posted Jan. 24 by Ed Bedford

## FEAST!

### Specialty of the House: Quality Social

Quality Social isn't screwing around. They invited me — a person who once filled out an evaluation card for the place and thus got on their email list — to eat free. Free? The email:

"Hello again. You may have noticed we've been closed the past few days, as mentioned in this morning's *Union-Tribune* article. Fresh faces, new attitude, an innovative organic wine program by renowned Sommelier Jason Wagner, and our award-winning culinary program led by nationally recognized Executive Chef Jared Van Camp has been completely revamped."

Apparently, they were still screwing around a little bit. That second sentence would read a lot better like this: "We're featuring fresh faces, a new attitude, and an innovative organic wine program designed by renowned Sommelier Jason Wagner.



José works at the dog: the mayo, the wiener wrapped with bacon, grilled onions, chunky salsa, tomato chunks, mustard.



All the elements of your favorite chain eatery with crazy crap on the walls.

Plus, our award-winning culinary program — led by nationally recognized Executive Chef Jared Van Camp — has been completely revamped." But good PR work is hard to come by, so we won't quibble further.

The email continued: "We'd love to offer you dinner this weekend ON US! Email us at [info@qualitysocial.com](mailto:info@qualitysocial.com) for confirmation details and to make your reservation for dinner on Friday or Saturday."

Well, now: Papa likes free food. I called right up and made as late a reservation as I could for the three of us (me, the wife, Sophia). Turns out that was 8 p.m., and with good reason. (More on that later.)

Quality Social bills itself as "A Bar. With Food." and promises "All the elements of your favorite neighborhood bar. Elevated." The restaurant — er, bar with food — sits at the corner of Sixth and F Street downtown, and the signage on the two fronts is indicative of the place's bifurcated spirit: "Food & Drink" is not on the same sign or even on the same side of the building.

Inside, the story was the same. On one side of the space is the bar (albeit with banquettes lining one wall) and on the other side, a bunch of high marble tables and backless stools (with a bar lining one wall).

The bar in the "dining room" side of things was closed when we arrived, which made our side of the room much quieter and more restau-

rant-y. I know it made things quieter because it opened shortly before we departed and was immediately filled with the sort of people who fill downtown bars on a Friday night (read: young, eager, carefully dressed, and, in the case of the men, even more carefully unshaven). It also immediately became much louder. I'm guessing this is why 8 p.m. was the latest possible dinner reservation. At a certain point, the bar-culture side of things takes over.

We started on the bar side while we waited for our table. I checked out the lighted alcoves in the curving, textured wall while the wife ordered a Manhattan on the dry side.

She was delighted by the "attentive, cheerful, genuinely friendly" service she received. "Within 90 seconds of sitting down, three different people asked if I'd been helped," she marveled. "And the bartender told me to let her know if it wasn't just right." She had to marvel pretty loudly to be heard, however: my first note on the place was *thump thump*.

"If no one is dancing, do you need this much bass?" I asked. "It's kind of clubbed up in here."

"I think it's more 'garage,'" countered Sophia. I took her point but insisted on noting the ungarage finery of the light fixtures. Plus, how many garage-style restaurants serve a \$23 beer (Jolly Pumpkin Bam Noire Farmhouse)?

Alexandria, our sweet and enthusiastic waitress, explained that we had been invited to dine for free because Quality Social is "trying to get people to pay attention to the second half of the menu." That is, beyond the fancy fries and the charcuterie/cheese goodness.

The wife and I could each pick one app or salad, plus one entrée or sandwich. (Sophia was there to observe and imbibe.) I asked Alexandria for her suggestions, per Specialty of the House's specs.

"For appetizers, the duck wings [\$11]. And the smoked duroc pork Cubano sandwich [\$11]

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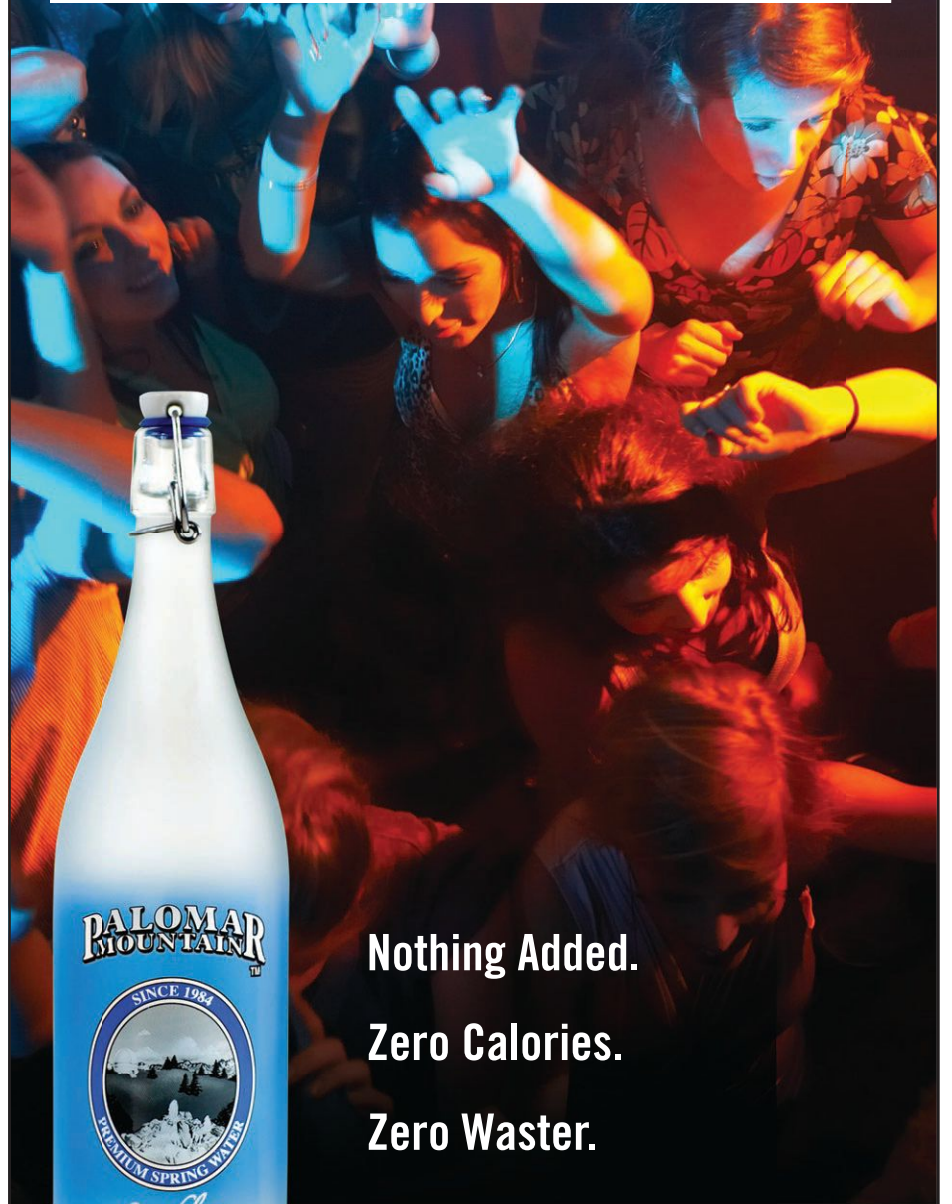
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# Calendar RESTAURANT

is really good. For entrées, actually, the grilled organic salmon with pumpkin seed pesto [\$17].”

The wife ordered the spicy Mexican shrimp ceviche (\$9) to round things out, and we were off. Oh, except for drinks. Was there a house cocktail? “The H,” said Alexandria. Very good, then. We ordered, and settled in for what turned out to be a very long wait.

The wife could not help but contrast the delay with her experience at the bar. “We’re left high and dry here. We don’t even have drinks, and when people don’t have drinks, they get cranky.”

Alexandria thanked us for our patience when she did bring the drinks, and the apps followed in short order. But then the entrées followed in short order after the apps, well before we were ready for them.

So, the specialties. First, the good news. If you like cucumber, the H cocktail is gorgeous. Served in a highball with a

slice of cucumber, it’s made from cucumber-infused vodka that’s spiked with St. Germain Elderflower, lime juice, and a touch of cracked pepper. Every sparkly sip radiates cucumber, but depending on what you’ve just put in your mouth, various other elements shine forth: the rich floral of the Elderflower, the tart of the lime, the slight heat of the pepper. Hooray! All the elements of your favorite Pimm’s cup, elevated. “It’s an afternoon tea cocktail!” proclaimed Sophia.

Also great was the pulled pork Cubano sandwich, which was all the elements of your favorite Montecristo. Elevated. “This is a great bar sandwich,” said the wife. Meaning “hot and heavy duty.”

“The bread is cooked to a perfect brown, the pork is a little chewy, but still tender and moist, and then you’ve got the ham and the melted Swiss cheese...” She paused to swoon. “And the tang of the mustard. And I love the crunch of the pickle” — sliced long and not overly briny.

Less great but still good was the salmon. It was clearly a fine

piece of fish, rich to the point of decadence and perfectly cooked. And if you closed your eyes and concentrated, you could pick out the pumpkin seed flavor in the pesto. But the accompanying roasted spaghetti squash lacked that roasty intensity of flavor, and nothing on the plate had a chance of standing up to the bed of bitter braised greens. “Every element’s fine,” said the wife. “But it doesn’t make a whole.”

Duck wings are duck wings: greasier, thicker skinned, and more delicious than chicken wings. (Chicken wings you eat for the coating. Here, you didn’t even need the cucumber-mint raita, though it was tasty.) Maybe eat three or four and share the rest. Otherwise, they can drag you down.

Disappointing: the ceviche. Sweet tomato provided the biggest flavors, beating out both the shrimp and the spice on the shrimp and blotting out any hint of citrus acidity.

By this point, the bar on our side had opened. As we filled out our surveys on the place — the price of our free meal — the crowd surged around us and

the wife concluded, “I just don’t think you can be a bar and a restaurant. I think you have to decide which you want to be. I’m sitting at a bar stool, eating salmon with pumpkin seed pesto, and I can’t see my food because it’s so dark. They’re trying to put together too many elements.”

With that, we headed out the door and across the street to watch people ride the mechanical bull at the Double Deuce.

Cheers!

Posted Jan. 24  
by Matthew Lickona

## Superior Buttercream at Cupcakes Squared

The cupcake craze of the recent past is gone, but the cupcake shops remain. It’s likely that most of them will be around for a while, since no real alternative pastry fashion has risen. Pie was supposed to be the next big thing, but the lack of hip pie boutiques springing up all over the place indicates otherwise. Regardless, cupcakes are still fun.

Cupcakes Squared, crammed

into a Point Loma mini-mall, has ample parking. Despite the fall of the cupcake from high fashionability, business seems to still be fairly brisk on a weekend, which inspires confidence.

The bakery doesn’t do much more than cupcakes. They’ve recently added some cookie bars to the menu, but the business remains cupcake dependent after four years. This might make Cupcakes Squared look like a one-trick-pony, but there’s an advantage to having a narrow inventory. Namely, that everything is likely to be fresh. It’s also very cool and European to display just a few items in a display case.

Does anybody not know by now that this company bakes square cupcakes? Giving credit where credit’s due, Cupcakes Squared did pioneer the idea, but it’s nothing amazing once it’s become easy to do at home. There’s something geometrically satisfying about a square cake in a square box, however.

Anyway, the point of taking a fresh look at an established spot is this: Cupcakes Squared may have the nicest buttercream around. Velvety and light, the

icing on top of their signature square cakes is a cut above the rest.

Since the icing is about a third of the average cupcake by volume, it’s important for it to be delicious. Unfortunately, frosting is where so many pastries fall short. Too heavy, too sweet, too grainy. All these problems commonly send cakes to the territory of the underwhelming.

The cake beneath the frosting is...well...cake. It’s more of a vessel for the great frosting than anything else. Their lilikoi cupcake, for example, is plain vanilla cake. Perfectly nice in its own right, but what takes it to the next level is the passionfruit buttercream that is spot-on in terms of sweetness and flavor to accent the plain cake beneath.

The “graham cracker” cake that forms the base of the s’mores cupcake deserves special mention for being chewy and substantial but not too heavy. It’s novel as cake goes and ends up tasting much like its namesake campfire treat when topped with chocolate buttercream.

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# Calendar RESTAURANT

a dozen, Cupcakes Squared's little square cakes are pricey. Of course, cupcakes are pricey everywhere, which is a big reason so many bakeries leapt onto the cupcake bandwagon when it started out. In practical terms, cupcakes are essentially frosted muffins for dessert — they aren't much more difficult or costly to make than breakfast pastries, and they're usually smaller.

Still, Cupcakes Squared makes really good buttercream.

Cupcakes Squared, 3772 Voltaire Street.

Posted Jan. 23 by Ian Pike

## Gastronomic Girl Power on the 101

Last year, Encinitas' St. Germain's Bistro & Cafe brought aboard Kaitlin Ramos to fill their executive chef vacancy. This move seems fairly pedestrian, but Ramos's gender makes her hiring stand out.

While home kitchens the world over are primarily commanded by women, profes-

sional kitchens are largely dominated by men. This is especially true where higher-up positions are concerned. Despite an abundance of testosterone in the restaurant industry, chefs such as Ramos rise to the top to make their mark on the culinary scene. Over the course of this year, St. Germain's will be celebrating such individuals with their Lady Chef series.

Beginning on February 1 and continuing on a quarterly basis, Ramos will invite female chefs from around the county to create dinner menus she will prepare in place of her own menu for an entire month.

The first guest will be Isabel Cruz. Well known throughout San Diego for her eateries — Isabel's Cantina, Barrio Star, Seaside Cantina and Coffee Cup — as well as her 2007 cookbook, *Isabel's Cantina: Bold Latin Flavors from the New California Kitchen* — she'll reach into her bag of Latin-inspired tricks to craft food that's far outside the bistro's French and Mediterranean wheelhouse. She'll also be putting together a one-night-only menu for Valentine's Day as well as a lineup of Mexican street food for taco Tuesdays, which will be

offered every Tuesday throughout February.

Future Lady Chef participants will include executive chefs Dawn Parks from the Wild Thyme Company (May), the Food Farm Truck's Kari Rich (August), and Alvanette Kauwalu (November), a personal chef specializing in Hawaiian and Asian fare.

In October, all five chefs will collaborate to produce a special menu in the name of breast-cancer awareness. Lady Chef menus will be offered during the restaurant's dinner hours, 5 to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

St. Germain's Bistro & Cafe, 1010 South Coast Highway.

Posted Jan. 23

by Brandon Hernández

## Las Gorditas Restaurant

Gorditas ("little fatties") are a taco-alternative that aren't as widely available as burritos or quesadillas.

Made from masa dough that's about halfway between the filling for a tamal and a corn tortilla, the little pockets are stuffed with various fillings. They're not impossible to find,

but discovering gorditas can take a little extra nosing around.

Surrounded by perfume outlets in an industrial-retail district of Chula Vista, Las Gorditas Restaurant specializes in frying, stuffing, and serving up gorditas. Even with a few other items on the menu, the gorditas are the star of the show.

The restaurant is larger than expected, with booths and tables tucked behind dividers and around corners. The decor is mostly pink and tan and surprisingly pleasant, considering the industrial feel of the surrounding neighborhood. English signage is delightfully hard to come by, though there is a small, supplemental menu in English tacked on the wall behind the counter.

The gorditas themselves are scrumptious and generously stuffed with all manner of fillings. Two of them should be enough food for most people, and they only cost \$2.35 each.

*Chicharrones* (pork skin) in salsa verde is indulgent, and maybe a little odd for some people, but executed well. *Rajas* (sautéed green chilies) with potatoes and sour cream is spicy and satisfying for a meatless alternative. *Las gorditas al*

*pastor* had a good, deep flavor, but the meat was a little on the dry side.

Other selections include bean and cheese, cactus, carne asada, and chicken mole.

Everything in the gorditas is on the soft side, from the braised meats to the chewy masa dough, so adding some shredded cabbage from the condiment bar is a great way to mix things up, texturally. The hot salsa is hot, not just labeled as hot, which is a pleasant find for people who like their food *muy picosa*.

Las Gorditas, 1187 Broadway, Chula Vista.

Posted Jan. 22 by Ian Pike

## Nice Happy Hour Find at — Gasp! — a Chain

Having recently relocated from the land of cheap, multi-culti eateries (City Heights) to the kingdom of chain restaurants (Eastlake), I feared that my options for I'm-not-cooking-tonight-but-don't-want-to-spend-a-lot would be limited to Chick-fil-A and Pick Up Stix (neither of which I've ever entered).

I am delighted to report

that the happy-hour fare and the faux-Italian atmosphere at Macaroni Grill in the Otay Ranch Town Center mall are more than tolerable. My favorite atmosphere-enhancers are the lights strung overhead in the main dining room (the easier to fantasize al fresco dining on an Italian plaza) and the Italian lessons playing on speakers in the bathrooms.

From 5 to 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close every night, happy hour offers \$5 pizzas (pepperoni, Italian sausage, or Margherita), \$3 house wine, \$5 cocktails, and \$3 domestic beer.

These prices are for in-bar only, and the bar's not huge: three two-seater tables, one four-top, three seats at the high bar, and two seats at the low bar. First come, first serve.

Although the restaurant offers no beer on tap, and James the slow-poke, cherub-faced bartender has to use his smartphone to look up drink recipes, I appreciate the fact that he knows I like lime in my Corona (\$5.49).

Tonight, I have the little one in tow. We sit at the low bar. Knicks and Dolphins on the screen over James's head. James brings my beer and lemonade,

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crayons, and paper for Mini Me. I go for the pepperoni, which has fresh mozzarella and a nice bite. The fancy-pants macaroni and cheese (\$5) turns out not to be Kraft enough for the little one. She eats my pizza instead. Total bill: \$16.70.

Posted Jan. 28  
 by Elizabeth Salaam

**Burn, Baby, Burn:  
 Bahn Thai Not  
 Scared of Spice**

There's a guy in tears at one of the three small tables inside Banh Thai. There are three more tables outside, and that is all the seating available.

"They make it way spicy here!" he says. "They don't play around!" He's not a wimp, either. I'm tougher than most *güeros* when it comes to spicy foods, and I order my plates "hot" at this little University Heights shop. "Extra hot" would probably be too fiery to be enjoyable. I'd have to be in the mood for punishment. In that rare case, the tearful customer assures me that the kitchen at Banh Thai will make dishes as spicy as the guests want, even to the point of agonizing, eye-watering, mouth-scorching overkill.

The food presentation isn't fanciful. Everything comes on a styrofoam plate (or in a take-out container), and the water's in a self-serve bubbler in the corner. But the service is friendly, the tables are clean, the food's well above average, and the prices are low. The main dishes are priced at \$7.95 for chicken, beef, pork, tofu, or vegetables and \$8.95 for the executive option, shrimp.

Bahn Thai's drunken noodles are quite good — spicy, plentiful, and generous with the fried basil. An entrée is enough food to fill most diners without an appetizer, and the tom yum soup (\$3.95) or a shredded papaya salad (\$5.95) will get the job done in a heartbeat. The red curry plate is milder than the drunken noodles and much richer. It's equally filling, however, as it comes with an enormous amount of rice.

Banh Thai, 4646 Park Boulevard.

Posted Jan. 27 by Ian Pike

**Coming Attractions:  
 Towne Bakery**

Del Mar Highlands Town Center is quickly becoming a well-rounded nosh zone. Burlap provides upscale yet accessible eats

for the Highlander scenester sect, The Counter provides a good build-your-own-burger option, Urban Plates makes Souplantationers weak in the knees, and Cinepolis has dinner, a movie, and then some. This all-purpose eating development is about to get even more appealing with the addition of Towne Bakery.

Billed as a vintage American bakery, the spot will offer a variety of items made from scratch. Decadence will be a common theme. Butter, sugar, and other such Paula Deenian indulgences will be used without the timid handling so prominent in this health-conscious part of town.

Some of the more interesting bait the bakery will use to lure Del Mar kids of all ages will include pie pockets (pie filling encased in flaky crust) and whoopie pies. A variety of puddings, cheesecakes, cookies, and other more standard bakery fare will also be available along with java from Stumptown Coffee Roasters, a popular Portland-based company offering farm-direct, small-batch beans.

The 1200-square-foot space will feature an interior design combining elements of the 1940s such as schoolhouse light fixtures, black-and-white checkerboard floors, and walls covered in cornflower-blue subway tiles.

Towne Bakery is scheduled to open in early March and at 12925 El Camino Real.

Posted Jan. 27  
 by Brandon Hernández

**Local Chef Awarded  
 Top French Title**

Chef Patrick Ponsaty, chef de cuisine at the Loew's Coronado Bay restaurant Mistral, has been awarded the title of Maitre Cuisinier de France. The prestigious organization has only 200 or so members, including Eric Ripert of Le Bernardin, Michel Richard of Citronelle, and Bernard Guillas of the Marine Room.

Chef Ponsaty, who has been awarded an impressive 13 Michelin stars, has also been recognized as Best Hotel Chef by the James Beard Association.

The organization's motto is "to preserve and spread the French culinary arts, encourage training in cuisine, and assist professional development." Members serve on juries for official competitions.

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# Calendar RESTAURANT

France in March to accept his appointment.

Posted Jan. 27  
by Mary Beth Abate

## Harry's Coffee Shop

Harry's Coffee Shop in La Jolla opened in 1960, and, judging from the wall of fame in the back of the place, it has sponsored every sports league in the city since. That's how it is at Harry's. It's family owned and family oriented.

I sat at the counter so I could watch the action and chat with the servers. I don't think a single person sat down the entire time I was there who didn't get greeted by name. Not just by their server, either. By

every server. Top marks for the friendly vibe.

I ordered coffee (\$2) and a fried-egg sandwich (\$8.99). There're several bread choices, including bagels or biscuits. Well, biscuits it is. With bacon and cheddar. Hash browns on the side.

Nice sandwiches. There's a fried egg, two pieces of crisp bacon, and melted cheddar on each piping-hot biscuit. It's really good. The hash browns were good, too, not greasy or mushy. Bits of crunchy brown throughout.

Another nice touch is the coffee. You get your own little thermal pot, to refill your cup whenever you like.

Harry's Coffee Shop, 7545 Girard Avenue.

Posted Jan. 26  
by Mary Beth Abate

## Industrial Grind Coffee: Hard to Find Caffeine

Normally I don't go for mid-afternoon coffee, even though it's my favorite time of day to drink the stuff. I go to bed early, and a caffeine buzz will trash my sleep cycle.

But today is different. Today I have a lot of writing to do,

and I need something to kick the brain into high gear. The deadline on a short-story contest is fast approaching, and my production thus far has been nil. So, off to Industrial Grind Coffee.

Just north of University Avenue on Park Boulevard and set back across a broad sidewalk, Industrial Grind is easy to miss. But in this corner of Hillcrest/University Heights, the coffee-shop quotient is underrepresented and Industrial Grind deserves a better look from passersby. Because I live nearby, the shops up the hill near Park and Adams are a bit far for walking with baggage. Filter is always overcrowded, and Starbucks is, well, Starbucks.

The barista pours a double shot of espresso and makes a hot chocolate to go, which had better get my creative juices flowing. She responds to my overburdened writer's tale of woe with the tidbit that she's an active writer, too, and directs me to her blog.

The espresso is on the longer side but has enough crema and is on par with the competition's. I'll order it ristretto next time, since that's more my style. Still, this was a better shot of coffee than I've had at lots of places

in town.

The list of specialty lattes is extensive, and there are some novel items that I haven't seen on other menus. A "salted caramel latte" piques my curiosity, but I had to go with plain espresso to get an unadulterated feel for the coffee at Industrial Grind. Right now there's a "3 at 3" special: all 16 oz. lattes are \$3 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The shop looks minuscule from the outside, but it runs deep and there is a lot of seating. Wi-Fi is available, and the inside/outside design (sort of like Jungle Java in O.B. but much cozier) will be killer for sitting and writing on a warm afternoon.

Industrial Grind is a bit of a hidden gem at this point, due to the camouflaged location, but I think I'll make a return trip next time I need to get some work done and I want to avoid the crowds at the more mainstream shops.

Industrial Grind, 3922-1/2 Park Boulevard.

Posted Jan. 26 by Ian Pike

## Girls at Gossip Grill

Hillcrest can sometimes seem like a Boys' Town. If my many friends are any indication, men of the LGBT variety are more likely to party and frequent clubs, whereas the ladies enjoy holing up at home.

Case in point, many of the restaurants and bars in the area cater to men on their "men"us,

such as Baja Betty's (don't let the lady's name fool you). With the addition of Gossip Grill, the girls finally have a home-base in Hillcrest (although men and all the colors of the rainbow between the two are welcome with open arms).

They must have had a lot of fun coming up with names for the cocktail menu. Among the many creative libations (averaging \$8) are the Prowling Puma, Strap-On Margarita, Cherry Black G-String, Camel Toe Mojito, and Bloody Bitch.

David and I shared the grilled asparagus, a light yet flavorful dish with just the right amount of char, oil, and salt. One of the appetizers, two small Chicago-style hotdogs, caught David's attention and he ordered it as his entrée. Melted cheddar, fresh onions, pepperoncini, and tomatoes were the crunchy, complementary toppings to the tasty dogs.

Because it was suggested by our server and people at neighboring tables, I got the Italian Stallion flatbread. The delightfully chewy dough was covered in a fresh pepper sauce, sweet sausage, and provolone cheese.

The food was enjoyable, but what struck me about the place was the relaxed atmosphere. The outdoor seating area is cozy, the staff is friendly and helpful, and the prices are as palatable as the provocatively named beverages. Next time I go, I think I'll try the Coochie Crawler.

Posted Jan. 26 by Barbarella

## Taco Tuesdays at Bravo's in Ocean Beach

In a city where burritos and Tecate are our bread and wine, Taco Tuesdays are the Holy Sabbath, and there's no better place to elude the prospect of toil than Bravo's Mexican Restaurant y Cantina in Ocean Beach.

Along the sage-scented sidewalks of Newport Avenue, Bravo's observes this day of rest with two-dollar fried-tilapia tacos, schwag tequila shots, and pints of Pacifico, Dos Equis, and Bud Light.

The salsa bar includes fresh pico de gallo, a mild tomatillo (plain, but good), smoky (almost burnt) chipotle, a couple chunky reds, onions, cilantro, lemons, jalapeños, and crisp spicy carrots.

During the week they have Margarita Mondays (second margs are 99 cents), Thirsty Thursdays (\$2 shots and drafts), and Feel Good Fridays, which tout \$14.99 margarita pitchers to wash away your transgressions.

5001 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach.

Posted Jan. 25 by Chad Deal

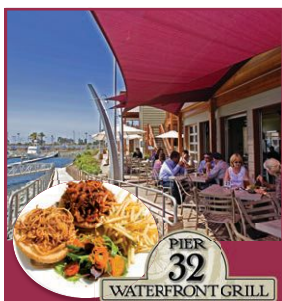
## Vista Beer Tour: Mother Earth Brew Co.

Brewhouses are opening at an astounding rate around San Diego County, but no region has experienced as much growth over the past year and a half as the city of Vista.

Once home to just two breweries — Green Flash Brewing Company (which moved to Mira Mesa last year) and Lamppost Pizza's alter-ego brewpub, Back Street Brewery — there are now six brewing operations calling the North County municipality home. Last weekend I visited five of them, taking time to catch up with the brewers.

My third stop was at Mother Earth Brew Co., a combination brewery, tasting room, and homebrew supply store. When I first visited Mother Earth in June of 2010, their equipment setup looked more like a soup kitchen, with several large metal pots stacked atop portable burners. It's a common setup for a nanobrewery, the term applied to the lowest production class of commercial brewing operations.

Back then they brewed three batches of beer a day, producing a rotating assortment of beers



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## Calendar RESTAURANT

covering dozens of styles from around the world. That variety made each trip to their tasting bar different and kept a great many locals coming back.

Mother Earth owner and head brewer, Dan Love, now has a more substantial ten-barrel brewhouse that's poised to pump out 700 barrels of beer in 2012. He's also purchased additional fermenters, an external brite tank, and a bottling line. 22-ounce bombers will be available starting in May or June.

Now that their current location is built up, they are looking to open a second space in Vista's Old Town area that will house a taproom and another homebrew store. They plan on installing a second brewhouse there so they can transition their current digs into a production brewery. This hefty project is set to kick off in March.

Posted Feb. 1  
by Brandon Hernández

## Great Coffee and a Strangely Dense Pastry at Urban Grind

It's 9:30 a.m. My next meeting's not until 10, and it's only a quick five-minute drive from here, which means I have 25 minutes to spare. I wander into Urban Grind and spy an

almond croissant piled high with powdered sugar. Why the hell not? Every now and again, a girl's gotta indulge.

Holy powdered sugar, Batman!

Smiling Johnny informs me it'll take a few minutes for the medium roast to brew, and because I want to make the most of my 25 minutes, I tell him I'll take the darker roast. And I'm glad I do. It's really good, a fine accompaniment to the sweet and strangely dense croissant. By the time I give up on the unexpectedly-akey-on-the-inside pastry, my jeans are spotted with sugar, and I'm sure my face is, too.

New (as of September 1) owner Sam says things are about to change. In March the place will close for remodeling, and the cold, stark will be replaced with "comfortable and cozy." Though he won't reveal specifics, he does say he's planning "warmer colors, going towards rust."

Some menu items will change, but fear not, the pistachio pancakes aren't going anywhere. The popular special, Argentina steak scramble, will be added to the menu, along with ten local draft beers.

The date's not set, but expect the reopening (with a new name) sometime in April.

Total bill: \$5.98.

Posted Feb. 1  
by Elizabeth Salaam

## Kebab King

Kebab shops seem to be springing up all over the place, which is a nice trend. One of the most recent arrivals to the Middle Eastern take-out scene, Kebab King on University Avenue, is in the building recently vacated by Jack's BBQ. For whatever reason, the "BBQ" insignia survived the remodel, thus creating a sort of culinary palimpsest that suggests a Greco-Memphis fusion that will probably never come to be in this world.

The decor is cheerful, orange, and bright. Everything is still shiny and new and polished. The place has been put together to be more welcoming than the big, square, concrete-and-tile building might suggest.

The kebabs are a bit unusual. Available with lamb or chicken that's been cooked on a spit and sliced off to order, the namesake sandwiches can come on the expected pita bread or — and here's where things get odd — on a grilled flour tortilla.

The tortilla option might seem a little awkward at first, but it proves to be a clever variation on the theme. A Rohdes Kebab (\$5.49) arrives dressed with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, and feta cheese. It includes a spiced tomato sauce that's strange on a kebab such as this. The sauce has a richly concentrated tomato flavor that resembles pizza sauce. This detail is bothersome, as it doesn't fit the flavor of the meat and fresh greenery. On a positive note, the sandwich is enormous and makes a filling meal.

Kebab King offers burgers and shawarma sandwiches as well, all of which can be augmented as combos for an additional \$2. This adds fries and a fountain drink and pushes the calorie content into borderline dangerous. The man behind the counter was kind enough to substitute a small order of the shiraz salad for the fries. It was delightful, featuring tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, and parsley in a piquant marinade.

Big plus: Kebab King sells beer! They have Karl on draft (\$3.99/glass or \$8.99 for a 49 oz. pitcher) and a bunch of stuff in bottles. Sitting around sipping on a Mythos Lager and chewing on a kebab might be a welcome respite from burritos and Coronas.

Kebab King, 1290 E. University Avenue, Hillcrest.

Posted Jan. 31 by Ian Pike

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**91NEXT!** The man who helped 91X regain its mojo, Garrett Capone, is leaving the station to work in artist development with the New York-based Crush Management company, which handles acts such as Train, Wavves, Gym Class Heroes, Fall Out Boy, Panic at the Disco, Co-

had on music and culture locally in the '80s and '90s, he brought back DJs Oz Medina (mornings) and Robin Roth (midday) and Mike Halloran and Steve West (weekends), who were part of 91X's golden era, when it was known as the "cutting edge of rock." Capone also refocused on

very aware of the corporatism versus local. 91X means more to San Diego than any other station means to any other city."

The tarnished Clear Channel/corporate image surrounding 91X prompted FM94/9 to switch to modern rock in 2004. Capone countered 94/9's playlist by giving significant airplay to up-and-coming national artists such as M83, the Naked and Famous, and Florence + the Machine and local artists Deadfeather Moon and Transfer. "Every month we give a local artist as much airplay as we give a national artist," says Capone. "When we started playing [local band] Little Hurricane, they went from two kids [originally] from Bakersfield to where they now have management, a lawyer, an agent, are getting radio airplay in other cities, and they are actively being pursued by labels."

Capone feels he was slandered on FM94/9 last October when he put on two days of commercial-free radio against a 48-hour all-talk "Mikeythron" on 94/9, which was anchored by morning host Mike Esparza. "They said on air that I hate kids and that I am against charity and for autism. They said I was the bully who beats up special-needs kids in the classroom. They said the yellow and black of the 91X logo represents hate."

So, why no lawsuit? "I know who I am. I know our listeners know how to tell truth from lies."

I ask if the outburst could be tied to a frustration that the

*Mikey Show* is getting trounced in the ratings by 91X?

"Yes, I imagine getting beat like that could cause some frustration, but I don't know what's going on in Mike's head."

Capone leaves at the end of February. His successor has not been named.

— Ken Leighton

**Classically Hip.** "It's almost impossible to make a living playing original music in San Diego, but there are other ways a player can make money," says bassist Grant Clarkson. "Look at all the musical theater and opera that goes on around town."

Over the past year, Clarkson has landed gigs in a half-dozen theater productions, including *I Love a Piano*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Forever Plaid*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and *Little Women*, which opens at the Avo Playhouse in Vista on February 18. "I play acoustic string bass in the orchestra, and the music is incredibly hip, very 19th-century classical. I did this show last year at the Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, and we had full orchestration. It will be interesting for me to play this music with a smaller string section this time. This classical style is definitely my growing edge, and my playing will be more exposed when we don't have the cello or viola."

Clarkson's latest full-length, *Dearly Beloved*, was recorded in a single session at Flight 19 Studios (which at one time recorded Ed-

die Vedder's San Diego band Bad Radio). "The album is basically acoustic jazz standards. Richard Sellers [drummer], Sky Ladd [piano], and I had done a lot of

whose taste I trust tell me, with real sincerity and conviction, that my paintings are good. I even had my first [artwork] sale last year.



Bassist Clarkson lugs his moneymaker through theaters, to the opera.

gigs together as a trio and had talked about recording. I pulled it together in part to test acoustic recording of the upright bass."

The busy bassist also landed two weekly residencies, playing Fridays at the Wine Encounter with the Mark Augustin Trio and Sundays at Spaghetteria with the KSDS House Band, as well as playing over a hundred local jazz gigs in 2011. However, his aspirations have included several careers even less likely to earn income than playing music. "I have a master's in philosophy from SDSU, which has never led to any professional or career opportunities. I do have several volumes of poetry and topical essays, which I think I'm ready to put into a more organized form, though I'm not a blogger."

"I've also done about 30 paintings over the years. Even though I think I suck, people

"It's amazing how much you can accomplish when you lay off the pot smoking."

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Basshenge.** Burning Man is all about building rad things in the middle of nowhere, Nevada, partying in them for a week, and then dismantling or incinerating them at the end of the festival. It's in this spirit that a local group is building a life-size (150-foot-diameter) Stonehenge replica, which will be powered by 100,000 watts of sound, over 120 LEDs, pyrotechnics, interactive art, and circus performances on the 2000-person capacity dance floor.

"2012 is a mystical time for the world, so we wanted to build one of the wonders of the world," says Cosmic Family promoter Christophe Lobe, a project

(continued on page 78)

# blurt

the inside track

bra Starship, and Foxy Shazam. Capone will be based in Los Angeles and flying cross-country to try to get airplay for the artists in his management stable.

Capone, 31, came to 91X



A Capone-driven 91X ratcheted up in the ratings.

in May 2007 from a station in Albany, New York. Hired as afternoon DJ and music director, he moved up to program director about three years ago. Recognizing the huge impact that 91X

artists he says that 91X should have never backed away from, "like the Cure, U2, Depeche Mode, and Oingo." Capone also tossed out its all-talk morning show and started playing music during the morning drive time.

About a year and a half ago, a Capone-driven 91X started showing a significant increase in ratings. It currently shows a 3.0 ratings share among all listeners; its closest competitor, FM94/9, has about half that (1.6), according to Arbitron.

Capone says that 91X had some rehabilitation to do. "When Noble ran it [1983-'96], it was a tremendously well-run station. When Jacor/Clear Channel came in, they killed it. They did seemingly irreparable damage to the brand. When [Clear Channel] sold it and it was relaunched as an independent station, it started to come back. People in San Diego were

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Thursday, February 9

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Saturday, February 11

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Friday, February 10  
Frank & Sulo's Birthday Bash  
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METATONIC • HELSOTT • DJ METAL V

Friday, February 17  
"Kids 4 Hope" Benefit  
UNSET • LONDON FALLING  
BURDEN OF TRUTH • FUTURE FALLS

Sunday, February 19, Afton presents  
PIRF • GOD'S WEAPON  
OF KING & PEASANTS  
SHAKY LEG & THE TEARDROPS  
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BLUE FIRE

Friday, February 24  
RAYMOND RAYE  
HERETIC • OBSCURE AS ENOCH

Saturday, February 25  
"RUGBY RUCK & ROLL"  
Benefit for youth rugby

3/16 Derrick Morgan 3/17 Tristan Palma 4/7 Flight 93 Benefit

Thursday, March 1

FANTAZZMO

Friday, March 2  
THE ARISTOCRATS  
w/ Guthrie Govan & Mike Keneally  
SCIENCE FICTION

Saturday, March 3  
ADEMA • SUFFER IN BLACK

Thursday, March 8  
NAUTIKAL

Friday, March 9  
THE REMOTES • KILO HUES

Saturday, March 10  
LONGFELLOW

Sunday, March 11  
ACOUSTIC ALLIANCE

Tuesday, March 13  
JULIA MASSEY & THE FIVE FINGER  
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Friday, April 6  
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Saturday, February 18

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Sunday, February 26



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manager behind the Basshenge sound camp.

"Somebody built a 'henge in '04 and burnt it afterward, but we're going to take this on tour around the country. Our goal is to supply jobs and to be of service to local and cross-continental promoters," says Lobe.

To fund the project, which will be fabricated in Chula Vista by volunteers from across the country, Lobe and project partner Persepsion have initiated a Kickstarter account to raise

\$5000 by February 17, an Indie Go-Go fund to raise \$10,000 by April 17, and a series of fund-raiser parties over the course of the next few months.

Anyone interested in hopping on the Basshenge bandwagon,



The Ohm Guru sound system will turn up for the cause.

can catch up on Saturday, February 25, at the World Beat Center, where Treavor, Dela, and Brad MoonTribes will join Ni-kroma Aragon, Rose Kennedy, and Michael Be playing through San

Diego's popular Turbosound set-up, the Ohm Guru sound system. And on Friday, March 30, Ruby Room will host DJ Swamp, Tryxx & Jinx, MK Ultra, Rebellion, Genevieve, and MC's

## daily blogs

### A Breath of Fresh Air Hits the O.B. Scene

By Gail Powell — Feb. 6, 11:14 a.m.

### Beaters Record Release — Fishage

By Bobby Bray — Feb. 5, 2:55 a.m.

### Michael Vlatkovich Ensemblo: an autobiography of a pronoun

By Robert Bush — Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

### Trio M Astonishes Packed House In La Jolla

By Robert Bush — Feb. 3, 4:42 p.m.

### Local War of Words Over Don "Soul Train" Cornelius Apparent Suicide

By Jay Allen Sanford — Feb. 2, 9:46 p.m.

### Third Monthly Liquid Blue Occu-party at Soda Bar

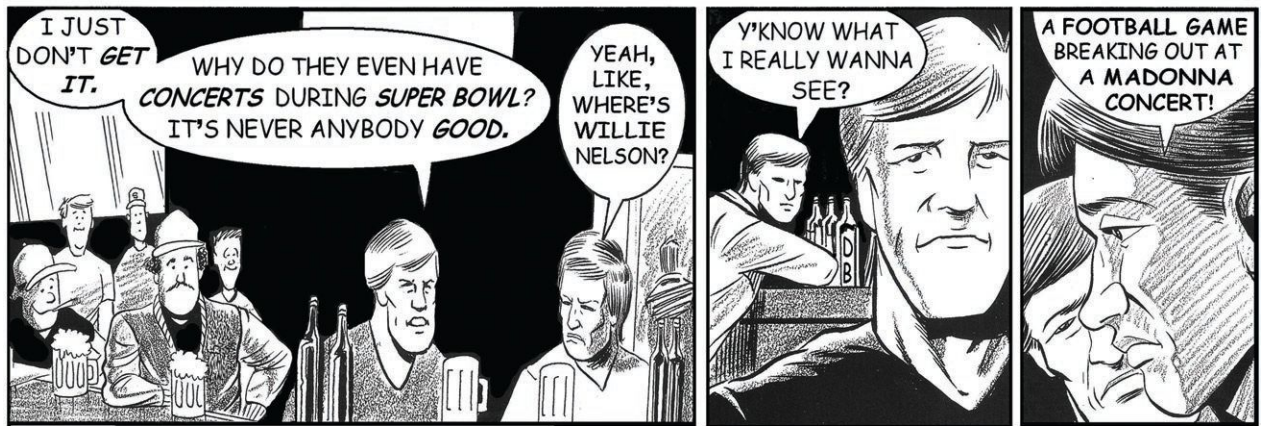
By Chad Deal — Feb. 2, 1:00 p.m.

### Kill Quanti's DJ Pound/eLan 10" Split Vinyl Release

By Chad Deal — Feb. 1, 6:36 p.m.

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at [SDReader.com/jam-session](http://SDReader.com/jam-session)

## OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: GALLAGHER'S SANFORD/McWEENEY



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Virtual participation starts at "Basshenge Kickstarter" and "Basshenge IndieGoGo," where you can volunteer or donate in return for incentives, including Basshenge dogtags, a DVD, clothing, and Burning Man care packages.

— Chad Deal

### Now You Know: Room E

Dan Harumi (aka Room E), a 26-year-old Bay Area native, recently released his debut full-length, *Penguin Child*, which makes use of live and electronic sounds in what he calls a "dilettante-style instrumentation" — a pastiche of turntables, drum samples, xylophone, pump organ, melodica, accordion, synth, electric bass, Ableton, and "random stuff around the house."

"Instead of a hi-hat, I made a recording of tapping on a water bottle with a pen and EQ-ed it to make it sound cool," Harumi says. "I also used a field recorder

to get doors slamming shut or a bike on the concrete and then put them into Ableton. Once you have the sound in front of you, you can use it as a drum or pitch it up and down to create a melody."

"The album continues on themes first presented in *Lanterns*, namely the use of an elegant, baroque tone within the context of contemporary beat music," Harumi writes on his website.



Dan Harumi of Room E does dilettante pop using found sounds.

In addition to found sound and household percussion, Harumi recorded jam sessions with drummer Mike Hams (A Scribe Amidst the Lions, V Drago, Brian Ellis Group) at Control Center for the Sun Studios, chopped up the recordings, and built songs around the beats.

The result is a mercurial aesthetic often rooted in post-Dilla instrumental hip-hop beats of the Flying Lotus, Nosaj Thing, Baths, and Gold Panda ilk.

While finding parallels with the L.A. beat crowd, Room E readily branches off on tangents of ambient pop, drum and bass,

afrobeat, IDM, jazz, and post-rock, alternately reminiscent of Squarepusher, the Brainfeeder roster, Boards of Canada, and the Cure.

Despite his kindred rhythm with the local and L.A. beat sounds, Harumi says he's mostly shared lineups with bands. "I'd like to see people and genres come together a little more."

Using Ableton as a tool to arrange live instruments rather than purely electronic sounds and performing with a live setup of turntables, MIDI keys, a Kaoss pad, and a laptop, Harumi says, "I didn't really aim to make an electronic album, so I don't really emphasize the electronic aspect as much. I try not to think in terms of genre when I'm making music."

— Chad Deal

Find Blurt online at [SDReader.com/blurt](http://SDReader.com/blurt)

### CONTRIBUTORS

Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**Gallagher's**

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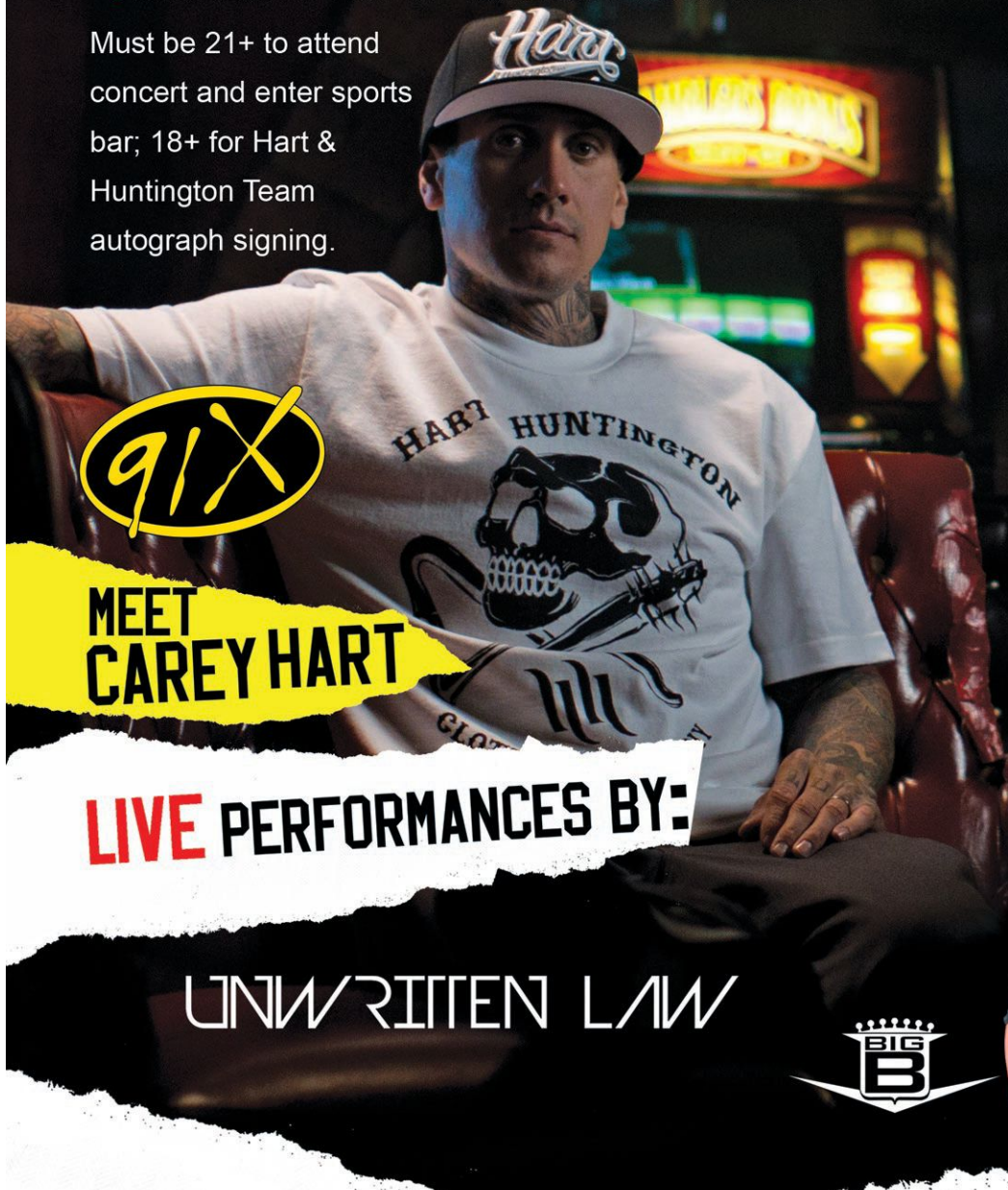
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# club crawler

This Week In Music



THEE SILVER MT. ZION MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA AT CASBAH

## Thursday 9

First things first: get your Valentine's Day datebook in order. Candy, flowers, dinner rezgies, whatever you do to woo, dude, lady dude, I suggest you get on it — Cupid's got a crossbow.... A'ight. Canada band and Godspeed! offshoot **Thee Silver Mt. Zion Memorial Orchestra** will cram that big band name onto Casbah's little chalkboard behind their latest, *Kollaps Tradixionales*, a chamber-punk string of suites that at one point orders us to "Dance, motherfuckers!" No, Efrim Menuck, Sophie Trudeau, Thierry Amar, et al. are decidedly not the orchestro folkies TSMZMO was started to be. Not as hostile as 2008's *13 Blues*, *Kollaps* balances the band's fury with strings and other delicacies. Fans of the Constellation brand, I'll see you at the show.... "If You Think This Song Is About You, It Probably Is." Craig Owens (Chiodos) and his new digs, **D.R.U.G.S.** (Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows), hit House of Blues behind their s/t debut, a heavy-rock 'n' pop affair that wowed 'em on the Warped Tour and has 'em dancing in the aisles at Hot Topic....

Man, it's gonna be Hallucination City downtown with D.R.U.G.S. at HoB and **Designer Drugs** at Voyeur. The DJ/production duo last year released *Hardcore! Softcore* to "rave" reviews at iTunes. Apparently, they do beat drops and industrial dance jams better than most: "It's next-level dance club shit that almost morphs into that '90s hardcore/punk vibe".... Else: with 30 years of touring and recording under their belts, the U.K.'s psychobilly **Surf Rats** drop in on Eleven after like-minded locals **Zombie Surf Camp**...and Atlanta straight-edgers **Foundation** will help save Ché Café with **Xibalba** and **Soul Search**.



WEEKEND AT THE LOFT

## Friday 10

South America's baddest disco-funk band **Los Amigos Invisibles** appear at 4th&B behind last year's *Not So Commercial* answer to 2009 crit-hit *Commercial*. Los Amigos' retro '70s groove and '80s camp is an intoxicating concoction of early Prince funk, Scissor Sister spunk, with a dash of Daft Punk. Dust off your skids, kids, these Latin-flavored dance jams are irresistible.... Little It's on the jazz tip Friday night, as Grammy-winning pianist **Eddie Palmieri** kicks off two nights at Anthology on India. Mr. P.'s *Salsa Brothers*, released last year with brother Charlie, is a keeper culled from Latin-jazz spice and Afro-Caribbean riddims...and the **Euphoria Brass Band** marches into 98 Bottles over on Kettner. This trad N'awlins band is simply San Diego's best party platter of fat brass and soulful harmony.... Bunch of fun stuff uptown, too, as blues punks the **Bloody Hollies** turn up at Eleven behind their new Alive Records record, *Yours Until the Bitter End*...Tower Bar gets country-punk'd **Behind the Wagon** with them '77 slapbacks the **Last Years**...and alt-rock vets **Napoleon Complex** pull into Whistle Stop with acoustic-pop singer-songer **Joanie Mendenhall**. DJ **Robin Roth** will be spinning the post-show dance discs and the Miho truck will be curbside for when them beer munchies hitcha.



LOS CAMPESINOS! AT CASBAH

## Saturday 11

SanFran noise-pop band **Weekend** plays the Loft Saturday night. Weekend's Slumberland debut *Sports* is a very recommendable set that shares the garage with hometown hits the Fresh & Onlys and fuzz-pop prowess of genre classics Jesus and Mary Chain and My Bloody Valentine. It's one of a handful of discs from 2010 that has not yet been shelved in the Monk house. In fact, I'm going to put it on right now — hang. Ahh, that's the static. With **Heavy Hawaii** balancing the bill, this'd be your gig to get to, psych-rock fan.... Uthawise: **Zappa** (Dweezil) **Plays Zappa** (Frank) at House of Blues...while right 'round the bend, that dapper rapper **Devin the Dude** rolls up on 4th&B...Casbah curates a ten-year anniversary t'do

for Loud & Clear Records, featuring L&C alum **Goodbye Blue Monday**, **Via Satellite**, and **Neon Thief**...and Bar Pink books them Blasphemous Guitars guys doing **Twelve**, a Spinal Tap tribute.

## Sunday 12

Eleven loves its early Sunday shows, and we do, too. This week, 4 bucks at 4 o'clock gets you all-girl tribute **Girl-illa Biscuits**, one-man band **White Stripe**, and a **Terrorist** from Manitoba.... Go easy, though, because after that it's **Los Campesinos!** at Casbah. The Welsh big band is out to tout last year's Arts & Crafts collection, *Hello Sadness*. Have not heard it, but by all accounts it's a fans-be-damned heartbreaker. I'm sure they'll play "You! Me! Dancing!" and a bunch of *We Are Beautiful*, *We Are Doomed*, cuz that's the stuff. **Parenthetical Girls** (set the stage).... Naughty by nature, Midway punk club the Shake-down stages Seattle shock-rockers the **Mentors** with **Pottymouth** and **Shit**. You should totally take your mom.... And the Loft at UCSD puts on **White Denim**. The Austin act expanded from a three-piece to four for last year's *D*, which, with its "warm acoustics, swirly psychedelics, and occasional flute solo," garnered solid *Bs* in rock-write world. *I hate* flute.

## Monday 13

**Asteroid Galaxy Tour** hits the Belly Up. The Danish indie-pop act lit'rally just released *Out of Frequency*. I got the press kit and right away hung up the picture of the singer because she's super hot and I'm a total tool. You should know that about me. I have not listened to the disc and apparently neither has anyone else because I can't find one review to plagiarize. We're all tools.... If I go out at all, there's a soul-jazz jam at Bar Pink most Mondays with the **Fire Eaters**. I'm all about soul-jazz...

## Tuesday 14

...which is why I'm recommending you take your date to the **Louis and Ella** tribute ("You say potato, I say poe-tahto") at 98 Bottles Valentine's night. This is a Dizzy's dealio, featuring vocalist **Leonard Patton** and trumpeter/vocalist **Teagan Taylor**, with **Ed Kornhauser** on piano, **Bob**



ASTEROID GALAXY TOUR AT BELLY UP

**Magnusson** on bass, and **Duncan Moore** at the traps. Super-tight talent all around, damn fine delectables and drinks, and there's two seatings, at 7 and 9p, for 15 bucks a pop. Can't beat it. Also, check it, there's nothing sexier than a lady playing a trumpet.... Best of the rest: for you Valentine's metal heads into leather and LOUD, House of Blues has Finnish death-metal dudes **Children of Bodom**...Soda Bar pops the top offa **Chan-tepleure**s (French for "one who sings and weeps at the same time"). That's the Mattson boys' Brit-pop joint, taking cues from the Smiths and Stone Roses. Ex-Hot Moon **Mohammed Qiang** goes first...and English twee-pop band **Bombay Bicycle Club** rolls into Casbah. I thought this Pitchslap was pretty funny: "[Bicycle Club] sound like they'd get their lunch money stolen by Kings of Convenience."

## Wednesday 15

Italian goth-pop predator **Dracula Lewis** will sink his teeth into the Tin Can. *Last.fm* tags the lad "space-psych-horror, lo-fi, aggressive electronics,



DRACULA LEWIS AT TIN CAN

with weird field recordings...done with a guitar, broken mixer, open mic, and some effects." Hit up "I (Probably) Put a Spell on You" for a taste of one of Europe's "best hidden deep dark secrets".... and the uke-shredding **Jake Shimabukuro** will sling his little thing in the Balboa Theatre...while SanFran's "classically soulful" band **Howlin Rain** hits Casbah with L.A.'s "electrified folkies" the **Allah-Las**.

— Barnaby Monk

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# Year of the Sax

“Back then, it was not unusual for me to play 29 times in 24 days. Now, it’s once or twice a week.”

By the end of last year, music journalists were tagging it the Year of the Sax. Why? Because Lady Gaga hired Clarence Clemons to play on “Born This Way.”

But that’s not all: Odd Future had a sexy moment, as did Deerhunter, Patrick Wolf, Janine Rostron, and a nutter on YouTube

named Sergio Flores who calls himself the Sexy Sax Man. He’s a shirtless guy with a mullet and an alto sax who bombs classrooms, fast-food lines, and football games with cheesy George Michael. His buffoonery has gone viral.

Was 2011 really the Year of the Sax? We check in with some local saxists:

## Todd Rewoldt, Swarmius

“Well, from the looks of it in Taiwan, it is definitely not the Year of the Sax, unless we are talking about saxophone manufacturing, which is really exploding here right now.

“Katy Perry and Lady Gaga recently featured sax solos, including every saxophonist’s favorite saxophonist to criticize, Kenny G. Actually, compared to what we had to listen to from Kenny in the 1990s, he has re-emerged as a mildly entertaining actor. Perhaps he missed his calling. However, since I am a saxophonist, it is always the Year of the Sax. So, how to continue the trend? Kanye West, do you need a saxophonist? Give me a call.”

## Johny Viau, eternal sideman

“You could have fooled me, saying it was the Year of the Sax. My datebook would tell you otherwise.

I had some good gigs in 2011 — I was in Europe for two months, and I had a good New Year’s gig — but compared to the ’80s and ’90s, it’s been getting worse and worse.

“Back then it was not unusual for me to play 29 times in 24 days. Now, it’s once or twice a week. It’s not just me, either. Everyone has been getting fewer gigs overall. I can’t wait for the Year of the Sax. I’ll be sure and let you know when one comes along.”

## Ian Tordella, independent saxist

“In 2011, glam-sax came back, with indie-rock bands clamoring for more saxophone at varying levels of irony. And with bass saxophonist Colin Stetson collaborating with Feist and Bon Iver, the saxophone’s street cred went way up. Also, check out Stetson’s *New History Warfare Vol. II* for some mind-boggling stuff.

“But, for me, 2011 just meant a lot more sexy-sax studio work for cheesy commercials such as Godiva chocolate and Red Lobster.”

## Dave Castel De Oro, Robin Henkel Band

“I’m not sure why 2011 was specifically targeted as the Year of the Sax, but it seems like the resurgence of the sax solo in the pop song was the main reason. Bon Iver and Lady Gaga with Clarence Clemons’s solo are two examples.

“I feel that the sax is one of the most versatile instruments in terms of its role in pop, jazz, and classical music. I grew up with music of the ’70s and ’80s, [and] Clarence Clemons’s work with



PHOTOGRAPH BY WILL TORDELLA

Ian Tordella: “For me, 2011 just meant a lot more sexy-sax studio work for cheesy commercials.”

Bruce Springsteen was seminal. More recent examples are Jeff Coffin’s work with Béla Fleck and the late LeRoi Moore from the Dave Matthews Band. I also really like Steve Berlin’s work with Los Lobos. And those are just some of the pop guys.”

## Johnny Ciampoli, West Coast Express, Cool Fever, Blues Invaders

“I find that sax seems to be popping up more, whether from the sexiness or the interest or the confusion of the horn itself. I think there was a lot more saxophone this year. But I don’t think it ever went away. There was a time not too long ago when I was checking around online, and I found there are a lot of young horn players out there, and they’re good.

“It’s a curious instrument. It’s got a lot of knobs. It looks like it’s hard to play, like something

people want to master. I certainly would like to.”

## David Jackson, Euphoria Brass Band

“2011 saw the inclusion of saxophone solos in a number of high-profile releases by artists whose music is dominated by coursing computerized rhythms. Danceable, and maybe even cool? Sure, why not? But packed with living, breathing emotion? Not so much.

“The saxophone has always been one of the more expressive musical instruments, with its similarity to the human voice. The saxophone can express the highs and lows of human emotion as few other instruments can. It can portray the delight of a three-ring circus or the horror of a flop-house hotel.” ■

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**TUESDAY 2/14 • 8PM**

SUNSET SESSIONS PRES KICK OFF WEEKEND AN EVENING OF MUSIC & STORY  
 W/ JIMMY CLIFF

**SOLD OUT!!!**

SPECIAL GUEST LUKAS NELSON  
**WEDNESDAY 2/15 • 8PM**

KOLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE  
 DAN HICKS AND THE HOT LICKS

SEATED SHOW  
 W/ NENA ANDERSON  
**THURSDAY 2/16 • 8PM**

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**TUESDAY 2/17 • 8:30PM**

A TRIBUTE TO EARLY VAN HALEN  
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W/MOTLEY INC.  
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STEVE POLTZ 3RD ANNUAL 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH FEATURING THE RUGBURNS,

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**THURSDAY 2/19**

SUNSET SESSIONS NEW MUSIC ADVENTURE WITH THE MAKEPEACE BROTHERS, THE BROTHERS OF BRAZIL, DAWN MITSCHLE, CLARK GRAHAM, THE EMPTY POCKETS  
**MONDAY 2/20 • 8PM**

THE QUINCEANERA TOUR  
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W/HEY ROSETTA!  
**TUESDAY 2/21 • 8PM**

**BOOMBOX**

W/ILL-ESHA AND CHRIS B  
**WEDNESDAY 2/22 • 8:30 PM**

**Just Added:** 3/4 - A Tribute to the Music of Gram Parsons feat Jack Tempchin • 3/7 - San Diego Coastkeepers Ocean Commotion 3/25 - Dazed and Confused's acoustic Led Zeppelin show • 4/1 - Laugh for Recovery Matinee with Kenny Kane 4/1 - Elite Elvis Tribute • 4/4 - Paper Diamond - on sale Friday! • 4/5 - Seedless, Reform 4/6 - Vokab Kompany • 5/11 - Wild Child

**Upcoming Shows:**

2/23 Ra Ra Riot w/ The Submarines and Papa	3/9 The Green - Polynesian Underground pres	3/29 Todd Snider
2/24 Tommy Castro	3/10 Who's Bad (Michael Jackson Trib)	3/30 Michael Rose
2/25 Bulky Jones Matinee	3/11 O2 for Life Event	3/31 Super Diamond
Johnny Cash B-Day Party feat Cash'd Out	3/14 Drive By Truckers	4/2 Heartless Bastards
2/26 America	3/15 Jungle DJ's feat Wildkats	4/7 Transfer
2/28 Los Lonely Boys Acoustic Show	3/16 & 17 English Beat	4/12 Dark Star Orchestra
2/29 An Evening with Boz Scaggs - SOLD OUT!	3/17 MONIQUE: Not Skinny, Not Blonde - Matinee	4/13 Steel Pulse
3/2 The Ultimate Stones, A Tribute to the Rolling Stones with Classic Cream featuring Kofi Baker	3/18 Sage Francis	4/14 Sara Petite Matinee
3/3 Jackie Greene	3/20 Lucero	4/14 Pine Mountain Logs
3/8 The Silent Comedy, Dead Feather Moon, The Howls	3/21 Cults	4/15 Taj Mahal
	3/22 Conspirator w/Marc and Aron from Disco Biscuits	4/16 M. Ward w/FIREHOSE
	3/26 Kathleen Edwards	4/17 The Hives
	3/28 Galactic feat Corey Glover of Living Colour and Corey Henry w/The Soul Rebels	4/18 Buzzcocks
		4/21 Cat Empire
		5/4 X
		5/14 Yann Tiersen
		5/20 Spiritualized
		5/21 Trampled By Turtles
		6/3 Mogwai

**Matinee**

2/11 - F-MS: A Rockin' Jazz and Blues Night for Breaa feat Alan Iglesia and Crossfire, Steph Johnson and DJ Joel • 2/12 - Candye Kane's Sweetheart Swing feat Karling Abbeygate 2/18 The Molly McInerney Celebration of Life Matinee, 3-7pm

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2/10 - Super Nacho  
 2/24 - Atomic Groove

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 FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> | 21+

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### ARIANA GRANDE

FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> | ALL AGES | MATINEE SHOW!

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WARBRINGER  
 FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> | ALL AGES

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 2/10 :: LOCAL BREW LOCAL GROOVES ALL ACCESS  | 3/2 :: EVENTVIBE & DISCO DONNIE PRESENTS: PLASMAPOOL FT. MORD FUSTANG | 3/24 :: THE MOTHER HIPPS   |
| 2/12 :: AMPLIFIED ACCESS & EVENTVIBE PRESENTS EXCISION THE X TOUR                          | 3/3 :: 91X PRESENTS ALKALINE TRIO                                     | 3/24 :: GROOVE INTERNATIONAL (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE)                      |
| 2/22 :: MARK CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE PRESENTS: A NIGHT OF COMEDY (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE)         | 3/9 :: LAGWAGON   | 3/27 :: CASBAH PRESENTS TYGA   |
| 2/23 :: HOT CHELLE RAE: 2012 BEAUTIFUL FREAKS TOUR   | 3/10 :: TRANSPARENT PRODUCTIONS AND HOUSE OF BLUES PRESENTS GUNGOR    | 3/28 :: THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE                                      |
| 2/24 :: EVENTVIBE PRESENTS: DILLON FRANCIS   | 3/11 :: SOJA  | 4/3 :: GWAR  |
| 2/24 :: ARMORY SURVIVAL GEAR & FREESTYLE SESSION PRESENT: THE BUG OUT (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE) | 3/16 :: BLACK MILK (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE)                               | 4/4 :: KSON PRESENTS HUNTER HAYES                                      |
| 2/28 :: BREAKTHRU ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS:  | 3/17 :: FAN HALEN   | 4/6 :: TIGER ARMY  |
| 2/29 :: THE KOOKS  | 3/20 :: ANI DIFRANCO  | 4/11 :: KATCHAFIRE   |
|  | 3/21 :: CTE PRESENTS HUSTLERZ AMBITION TOUR FT. YOUNG JEEZY           | 4/15 :: TECH N9NE: HOSTILE TAKEOVER 2012                               |
|  | 3/21 :: FRONT BOTTOMS (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE) (FREE SHOW)                | 4/18 :: FM 94/9 AND THE CASBAH PRESENTS ST. VINCENT AND THE TUNE-YARDS |
|  | 3/23 :: THE TING TINGS  | 4/28 :: INGRID MICHAELSON  |
|  |   | 5/2 :: SAY ANYTHING  |
|  |   | 5/22 :: KPRI PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH IMELDA MAY                       |



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Classical listings can be found in the *Classical Music Guide*. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com).

**HOW TO SUBMIT A MUSIC LISTING:** To send a weekly or monthly schedule, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. You may also submit information online at [SanDiegoReader.com/music/](http://SanDiegoReader.com/music/).

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**4th&B:** 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.

*Friday*, 8pm — Los Amigos Invisibles. Acid jazz/disco/funk.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Devin the Dude. Hip-hop.

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

*Friday*, 9pm — Ease Up and 80 Proof.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Dick Justice, Dave the Butcher, the Elephant Project.

**98 Bottles:** 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885.

*Friday*, 8pm — Euphoria. Jazz/big band. \$15.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — David Patrone. \$10.  
*Tuesday*, 7pm — Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and Louie Armstrong. Jazz. \$15.

**AMSDconcerts:** 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

*Friday*, 7:30pm — Chuck Pyle. Country/folk.

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

*Friday, Saturday*, 7:30pm — Eddie Palmieri and Brian Lynch. Latin jazz.  
*Wednesday* — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. Flamenco jazz.

**The Bailey Wood Pit**

**Barbecue:** 2307 Main St., Julian, 760-765-3757.

*Friday*, 8pm — Highway 79. Classic rock. Free.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Natural Selection. Alt rock. \$5.

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

*Tuesday*, 7:30pm — Tommy Emmanuel. Folk/rock/blues.  
*Wednesday* — Jake Shimabukuro. Ukulele blues/flamenco/rock.

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

*Friday*, 9pm — Semisi & Fulabula and Megan Combs. Free.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — B.E.B. Trio. Free.

**Bar Pink:** 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.

*Friday*, 9pm — Pocket.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Twelve. Blasphemous Guitars as Spinal Tap.  
*Monday*, 9pm — The Fire Eaters. Soul-jazz jam.  
*Wednesday*, 9pm — Stevie & the Hi-Stax.

**Beaumont's:** 5662 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-0474.

*Saturday*, 9pm — December's

# OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The first time I heard the Los Campesinos song "By Your Hand," I was shocked. I mean, this is a band with a reputation for being twee (all the members go by first names only, and they usually spell their band name with an exclamation point), but here their singer was going on about "Kissing for hours with her hand in my trousers." Had this young, sweet-tempered Welsh indie-pop band suddenly turned into a bunch of horn dogs — or, worse, into the kind of band that courts a frat-boy audience? I kept listening, and then main songwriter Gareth sang, "This is the crux/She vomits down my rental tux." Ah, that's

more like it.

One of Los Campesinos' first singles was called "The International Tweexcore Underground," and the lyrics consist of an argument in which a K Records fan and a Black Flag loyalist try to find common ground. It's filled to the brim with relatively esoteric references to '80s and '90s punk and indie rock (surprising, considering that all seven members of Los Campesinos appear to be in their mid 20s), but the song has such irresistible energy that it can easily appeal to young people whose knowledge of indie-rock history doesn't go back any further than Arcade Fire.

With all that energy, Los Campesinos have managed to win a growing following, despite their allegiance to the underground. They've even sold a song ("You! Me! Dancing") for a Budweiser ad. This is one of few indie-pop bands that can rock hard enough for a



LOS CAMPESINOS

Budweiser ad but will always be more Belle & Sebastian than Bachman-Turner Overdrive. Parenthetical Girls also perform.

**LOS CAMPESINOS: The Casbah, Sunday, February 12, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$16 advance; \$18 day of show.**

Find more Of Note columns online at [SDReader.com/note](http://SDReader.com/note)

Children. Rolling Stones covers. Free.

**Belly Up:** 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — Abbey Road. Beatles tribute. \$12-\$14.  
*Monday* — Asteroids Galaxy Tour. Psychedelic pop. \$13-\$15.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Evolve. Children of Nova. Blameshift. \$8.  
*Friday*, 8pm — Sabbath Judas Sabbath and Ultimate Sin. \$10.

*Saturday*, 8pm — Hell on Heels Burlesque Revue. \$12-\$15.

**Busalacchi's A Modo Mio:** 3703 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-298-0119.  
*Friday, Saturday*, 7pm — Willovealot. Smooth jazz/R&B/soul. Free.

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.  
*Thursday*, 8:30pm — Thee Silver Mt. Zion Memorial Orchestra. \$12.  
*Friday*, 8:30pm — Class Actress and Superhumanoids. \$10.

*Saturday*, 8:30pm — Goodbye Blue Monday and Via Satellite. \$10.

*Sunday*, 8:30pm — Los Camesinos and Parenthetical Girls. \$16-\$18.  
*Monday*, 8:30pm — Drag the River. \$12.  
*Tuesday*, 8:30pm — Bombay Bicycle Club and the Darcys. \$15.  
*Wednesday*, 8:30pm — Howlin' Rain and Allah Las. \$8-\$10.

**Ché Café:** 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311.

*Thursday* — Foundation, Xibalba, Soul Search.

**Copley Symphony Hall:** 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.  
*Friday, Saturday*, 8pm — "A Valentine's Romance." Winter Pops concert with Broadway singers Jennifer Holliday (*Dreamgirls*) and Hugh Panaro (*Phantom of the Opera*). Conductor Marvin Hamlisch.

**The Coyote Bar & Grill:** 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.  
*Friday*, 6pm — Bill Magee. Blues/

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All Male Revue  
**FEB 22**

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**DMX**  
**FEB 25**

**MICHAEL SCHENKER TEMPLE OF ROCK**  
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ROBIN McAULEY, with guests Viva Halen  
Symbolic  
**FEB 26**

**SOULFLY**  
feat. Max Cavalera  
the voice of SEPULTURA



Raise The Guns, Black Oil  
**MAR 22**

**KID FROST**



Chicano Pride Music Festival  
**MAR 24**

**MONSTERS OF SOUTHERN ROCK**



**APR 14**

**EY&TE**



Featuring Dave Meniketti  
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rock. **Free.**  
**Saturday, 6pm** — Friends & Enablers. **Free.**  
**Wednesday, 6pm** — The Brokers Band. **Free.**

**Croce's:** 802 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-4355.  
**Wednesday, 6:30pm** — Folk Uke. Cathy Guthrie and Amy Nelson.

**Dizzy's:** Second Avenue & J St., Downtown, 858-270-7467.  
**Sunday, 7pm** — Mike Garson. With Lori Bell flute and Bob Magnusson bass. \$15.

**Eleven:** 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.  
**Friday, 9pm** — The Bloody Hollies and Heavy Glow. \$6.

**Epicentre:** 8450 Mira Mesa Bl., Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.  
**Friday, 6pm** — Off Track. \$7-\$10.  
**Saturday, 6pm** — Terra Firma. \$7-\$10.

**Flying Elephant:** 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.  
**Friday, 8pm** — Creepy Creeps.  
**Saturday, 8pm** — Night Doctors.

**Gallagher's Pub & Grill:** 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.  
**Saturday, 9pm** — Dannicus Live. **Free.**

**The Griffin:** 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista.  
**Friday, 9pm** — Social Club, Privet, Tori Roze & the Hot Mess. \$7.  
**Saturday, 10pm** — Edstanley, Indians, Broken Fingers. \$5.

**House of Blues:** 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.  
**Thursday** — D.R.U.G.S. Post-

hardcore/alt rock.  
**Saturday, 7pm** — Dweezil Zappa Plays Zappa.  
**Tuesday** — Children of Bodom. Finnish heavy metal.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.  
**Thursday, 7pm** — Ruby & the Red Hots. Blues. \$5.  
**Friday, 9pm** — Detroit Underground. Motown/dance. \$12.  
**Saturday, 9pm** — Honey Island Swamp Band. New Orleans funk. \$12.

**Lacey J's Roadhouse Saloon & Grill:** 8861 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-448-8550.  
**Friday, 9pm** — Sundance Band. Country. **Free.**  
**Saturday, 8:30pm** — Hard Rock Allstars. Featuring Juan Croucier of Ratt and Jaime St. James of Warrant. \$10.  
**Sunday, 1pm** — The Down-Beat Big Band. \$5.

**Lestat's Coffee House:** 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.

**Friday, 9pm** — Gregory Page.  
**Saturday, 9pm** — Eleonor England. Jazz/blues/standards.

**The Loft:** 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.  
**Saturday, 8pm** — Weekend and Heavy Hawaii. \$10.  
**Sunday, 8pm** — White Denim and Finding Francis. \$14.  
**Wednesday, 9pm** — Milo Green and Lady Day. **Free.**

**Molly Malone's:** 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.  
**Friday, 9pm** — Safety Orange. **Free.**

# OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

**The Features are indie rockers from Sparta, Tennessee, an eighth-grade startup born of small-town boredom.** Coming of age in a cultural backwater of less than 5000 had its limitations, and a lot of the Features' songwriting focuses on what they want the most: a path out of lack and desperation. "They've given me a plastic hat, earphones, and a funny net for my hair/ I'm well prepared," sings Matthew Pelham. "Time comes when you have to choose/ an occupation you can use." Pelham gives his characters an Eric Burdon "We gotta get outta this place" youth-shout full of promise and idealism: "One day we're

gonna make a change/ We're gonna turn this mess around." You've heard this sentiment many times through the years, but what scraps are left for an indie rocker except to honor the past?

And honor it they do, but in ways that are not so new. The video for "Lions" has the Features performing on a rooftop, with Pelham using a blond Epiphone Casino guitar just like John Lennon played during the Fab Four's final gig on the rooftop of Apple Records. But Pelham's guitar sounds like chaos (perfect!), and the organ is all Farfisa stabs and jolts, preserving at least a semblance of indie-ness. Fellow Tennesseans Kings of Leon picked them out of the indie rabble to be the first group signed to their Snakes and Serpents label, and critics see big things ahead for the Features. Based on the frenetics of the band's live shows, these critics predict that the small-venue low-dollar gigs will



**THE FEATURES**

soon be a thing of the past. Minus a solid jolt of creative independence, I disagree.

The Beautiful View and Kevin Martin also perform.

**THE FEATURES: Soda Bar, Saturday, February 11, 8:30 p.m. \$10.**

Find more Of Note columns online at [SDReader.com/note](http://SDReader.com/note)

**Saturday, 9pm** — Skynyrd's Innyrds. Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute. **Free.**

**Museum of Making Music:** 5790 Armada Dr., Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.  
**Saturday, 7am** — "Roots of Reeds." A performance on reed instruments incorporating the East Mediterranean region and modern jazz. \$15-\$20.

**O'Sullivan's Irish Pub of Carlsbad:** 640 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-4072.  
**Friday, 9pm** — David Lally and

Patric Petrie. Celtic/folktronic. **Free.**

**Pala Casino:** 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.  
**Saturday, 8pm** — Queen Nation. Tribute to Queen. **Free.**

**Patrick's II:** 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.  
**Friday, 9pm** — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. **Free.**  
**Saturday, 9pm** — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. **Free.**

**Pechanga Resort & Casino:** 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 951-693-1819.  
**Saturday, 8pm** — Brian McKnight. R&B/pop.

**Poway Center for the Performing Arts:** 15498 Espola Rd., Poway, 858-748-0505.  
**Tuesday, 8pm** — Crystal Gayle. Country pop.

**Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:** 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.  
**Friday, 8pm** — Out Trio. Featuring Terry Bozzio.

**Ruby Room:** 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.  
**Friday, 8pm** — Abe West, High Rolling Loners, the Calico Kids. \$7.

**Seaport Village:** 849 West Harbor Dr., Downtown.  
**Sunday, 1pm** — Blue Rockit. Blues/rock. Weekly entertainment in the Gazebo. **Free.**

**Shakedown Bar:** 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.  
**Thursday, 9pm** — Bloody Mess & the Hollowbodies, Media Control,



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 LET'S  
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**Oddball.**  
**Friday, 10pm** — Carter Falco, Moosejaw, the Heroine.  
**Saturday, 10pm** — The Widows, Hell City Rockers, Shark Blood.

**Soda Bar:** 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.  
**Thursday, 8:30pm** — Nous Non Plus and Alpha Channel. \$8.  
**Friday, 8:30pm** — Bangladesh, Bella Novela, East of Sweden, Alligator Republic. \$5.  
**Saturday, 8:30pm** — The Features, the Beautiful View, Kevin Martin. \$10.  
**Tuesday, 8:30pm** — Chantepleures and Mohammed Qiang. \$5.

**Soma:** 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662.  
**Friday, 7pm** — Young the Giant. Alt rock. \$16.  
**Saturday, 6pm** — The Swellers and You Me at Six. Pop punk/hardcore. \$12.

**The Stage Rock Bar & Grill:** 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-696-9436.  
**Thursday, 7:30pm** — Van Roth. Van Halen tribute. Free.  
**Thursday, 10pm** — Seismic Dubstep.  
**Friday, 8pm** — 1Louder.

**Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre:** 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002.  
**Friday, 7:30pm** — Unwritten Law. Post-grunge/pop punk.  
**Saturday** — Terri Clark. Country.  
**Sunday** — Oak Ridge Boys. Country/Southern gospel.

**Til-Two:** 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington, 619-516-4746.

**Friday** — Taboo. Hip-hop/dancehall/neo soul. \$5.

**Tin Can Ale House:** 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.  
**Friday** — The Brian Ellis Group. \$5.  
**Saturday** — Little Fowl and the Spires. \$5.  
**Tuesday** — Thea Tochiyara and Carmen Caserta. \$5.  
**Wednesday** — Dracula Lewis.

**Tio Leo's:** 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.  
**Friday** — Whitney Shay, Robin Henkel, Billy Watson.  
**Saturday** — Los Fabulocos.

**Toma Sol Cafe:** 301 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-291-1159.  
**Thursday, 7pm** — Jeffrey Joe Morin. Americana. Free.

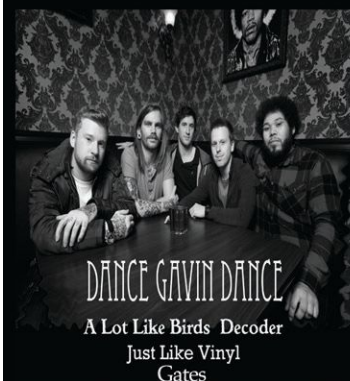
**The Tower Bar:** 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.  
**Friday** — Behind the Wagon.

**Typhoon Saloon:** 1165 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-373-3474.  
**Friday, 8pm** — Hi Roots and the Room Downstairs. Reggae. \$5.

**Voyeur:** 755 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-450-6655.  
**Thursday** — Designer Drugs. Electronic.

**Whistle Stop Bar:** 2236 Fern St., South Park, 619-284-6784.  
**Friday, 10pm** — Napoleon Complex and Joanie Medenhall.  
**Saturday, 10pm** — Booty Bassment.

**Winstons:** 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.  
**Thursday, 9pm** — Todo Mundo.



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 WALK THE MOON

**SAT. FEB 11**  
**YOU ME AT SIX**  
 THE SWELLERS  
 TWIN ATLANTIC • WE ARE THE OCEAN  
 THE SKANK AGENTS

**THURS. FEB 16**  
**FALLING IN REVERSE**  
 OH, SLEEPER • SKIP THE FOREPLAY  
 THE COST OF SALVATION

**FRI. FEB 17**  
**KILLING THE MESSENGER**  
 LION I AM  
 RUM FOR THE PIRATES  
 BEFORE THE FLOOD  
 AECHOES • AVARICE

**FRI. FEB 24**  
**JEREMIAH JOHNSON**  
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 THE I IN SELF

**SAT. FEB 25**  
**STEAL THE SCENERY**  
 THE GREATER HEIGHTS  
 BROOKLYN HALEY  
 AT THE PREMIER • PLANEWRECK

**SAT. MAR 3**  
**OH, GUARDIAN**  
 COLOSSAL • EYES LIKE THE SEA  
 A DISTANT CALM • THE WARNED  
 LORRAINE • AFTERGLOW

**WED MAR 7**  
**EVERY AVENUE**  
 WE ARE THE IN CROWD  
 PLUG IN STEREO • THE AUDITION  
 SIMPLE AS SURGERY

**THURS. MAR 8**  
**CHELSEA GRIN**  
 ATTILA • FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS  
 CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!  
 VANNA • VOLUMES

**FRI. MAR 9**  
**THE MATERIAL**  
 SILVER SNAKES  
 PAPER PLANET • LIMITS & LINES

**SAT. MAR 10**  
**ASKING ALEXANDRIA**  
 TRIVIUM • DIR EN GREY  
 MOTIONLESS IN WHITE  
 I SEE STARS  
 THE AMITY AFFLICTION

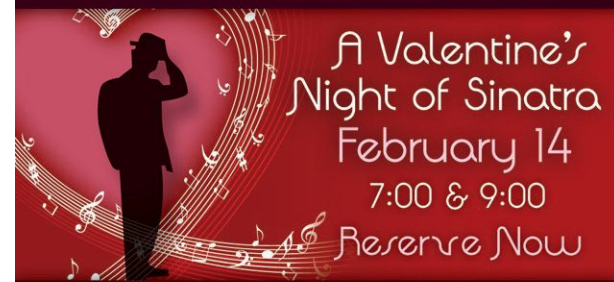
**FRI. MAR 16**  
**REHAB**  
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 STICK TO YOUR GUNS  
 MYCHILDREN MYBRIDE  
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## UPCOMING SHOWS

**4th&B:** 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.

February 25 — DMX.

February 26 — McAuley-Schenker Group.

March 3 — El Gran Baile de 2012.

March 22 — Soulfly.

March 24 — Kid Frost.

April 14 — The Monsters of Southern Rock.

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

February 17 — Chasing Claymores and New Addiction.

February 18 — 3 Tone and Keng Doja.

**98 Bottles:** 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885.

February 17 — Afrotruko.

February 18 — Joshua White Quintet.

**AMSDconcerts:** 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

February 18 — Cris Williamson.

March 3 — Blame Sally.

March 15 — Cheryl Wheeler.

March 21 — Ian Tyson.

March 29 — David Wilcox.

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

February 17 — Goapele.

February 18 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

## EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

### El Camino The Black Keys

By Brett Uddenberg

Beginning with 2008's *Attack & Release*, each Black Keys record has taken their sound a step further away from its garage-rock origins. While some purists may decry the Danger Mouse-influenced shift to a more polished tapestry, the band's evolution and constant experimentation yields gorgeous results on *El Camino*.

"Everyone knows that a broken heart is blind," Dan Auerbach wails on the slow-building behemoth

"Little Black Submarines." The mangled guitar crescendo on the track speaks to a tension bubbling just beneath the surface of every Black Keys composition that only occasionally rises into the atmosphere. You can argue that the group has lost some of its raw, amateur charm, but you can't say a thing about their ever-present grit on songs such as "Lonely Boy" and "Run Right Back."

Through 11 concise tracks, Auerbach sings of waiting for something that will never come, yet finds some sort of hazy nobility in the endeavor. His heart-on-sleeve lyrics on the Nashville-based duo's seventh album are peremptory jabs of toxic nostalgia and longing. Time and again, the Black Keys pine for lost love under bluesy, up-tempo swells and the stellar drumming of Patrick Carney, yet they always manage to keep things fresh.



Tensions bubble just beneath the surface.

## Music Reviews from Our Readers

### Chili Pepper Report

By Gail Powell

Fans of the Red Hot Chili Peppers awaiting their sold-out show scheduled for Wednesday, February 29, at the Valley View Casino Center will need to cool their heels until September 23.

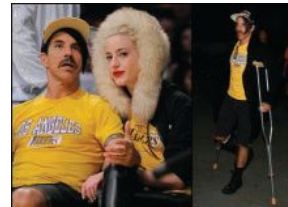
It was announced on January 11 that the band has postponed the start of its tour until late March. Lead singer Anthony Kiedis underwent surgery to repair a crushed sesamoid bone and

correct a detached flexor tendon in his foot. Kiedis is expected to make a full recovery.

The I'm with You tour was to begin January 20 in Sunrise, Florida, but is now scheduled to kick off on March 29 in Tampa. All tickets for the postponed dates will be honored at the rescheduled dates listed at [stadium-arcadium.com](http://stadium-arcadium.com).

Kiedis has had ongoing problems with his feet ever since the Stadium Arcadium Tour. In August of 2011, he wrote about the injury on the band's website and how it occurred: "I stayed out on tour with broken bones in my feet from jumping off the bass drum, which is kind of agonizing, and it led to me being in a bad state of mind."

Photo credit: [stadium-arcadium.com](http://stadium-arcadium.com)



On a bad foot and in a bad state of mind, Kiedis postpones tour.

Up to \$100 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at [SDReader.com/critic](http://SDReader.com/critic)

February 22 — Jon Anderson.  
February 23 — Mateo.  
February 24 — Arturo Sandoval.  
February 25 — Ladysmith Black Mambazo.  
February 29 — Trevor Davis.  
March 3 — Al Stewart.  
March 6, 7 — Brian Culbertson & David Benoit: Piano 2 Piano.  
March 8 — William Fitzsimmons.  
March 13, 14 — Béla Fleck & the

Flecktones.  
March 15 — Chuck Loeb.  
March 22 — Pat Martino Duo and Eldar.  
March 23, 24 — Mindi Abair.  
March 27 — The Anthology House Band.  
March 28 — Robben Ford.  
March 31 — The Jade Element.

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

February 26 — Lila Downs.  
March 1 — Merle Haggard.  
March 7 — Willie Nelson & Family.  
April 20 — Anoushka Shankar.

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

February 17 — Boom Culture.  
February 18 — Three Chord Justice.

**Bar Pink:** 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.  
February 16 — Joey Harris & the Mentals.  
February 17 — The Styletones.  
February 18 — Neon Beat.

**Beaumont's:** 5662 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-0474.  
February 18 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

**Belly Up:** 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.  
February 16 — Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks.  
February 18 — Atomic Punks.  
February 19 — Steve Poltz Third-Annual Birthday Bash.  
February 23 — Ra Ra Riot.  
February 25 — Cash'd Out.  
February 28 — Los Lonely Boys.  
March 3 — Jackie Greene.

## HUMPHREYS BACKSTAGE LIVE

Thursday, February 9

7pm • Rock & Blues

**Ruby and The Red Hots**



Friday, February 10

7pm • Flamenco Jazz

**NovaMenco**

9:30pm. Motown & Dance

**Detroit Underground**



Saturday, February 11

8pm • New Orleans Funk

**Honey Island Swamp Band with The Euphoria Brass Band**

[humphreysbackstage.com](http://humphreysbackstage.com)  
2241 Shelter Island Drive  
**619.224.3577**

Sunday, February 12

8pm • Smooth Jazz Guitarist

**Patrick Yandall**



Monday, February 13

7pm • Blues

**Stoney B Blues Band**

Tuesday, February 14

7pm • Classic Rock

**Rockola Valentine's Party**

Wednesday, February 15

7pm • Blues

**Whitney Shay & The Shakedown**

**Upcoming**

Friday, February 17

**The Steely Damned**

Sunday, February 26

**Marcus Anderson**

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SAN DIEGO

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Sarah Jane Nelson Millán

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Richard Montoya with friends.

Source: All photos by  
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Colleen Kollar Smith • photo by Nathan Peirson



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March 8 — Silent Comedy, Dead Feather Moon, the Howls.  
March 14 — The Drive-By Truckers.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.  
February 17 — Unset, London Falling, Burden of Truth, Future Falls.  
February 18 — Sprung Monkey.  
February 24 — Raymond Raye and Heretic.  
March 2 — The Aristocrats and Science Fiction.  
March 3 — The Local Weather.  
March 9 — Blind on Bourbon.

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.  
February 16 — ReTox and Domsday Student.  
February 17 — Matthew Good.

February 18 — Jesse LaMonaca & the Dime Novels and Blackout Party.  
February 20 — Get Back Loretta.  
February 21 — Buck 65.  
February 22 — Anya Marina.  
February 23 — Hyena.  
February 24 — The Soft Pack.

**The Coyote Bar & Grill:** 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.  
February 16 — Smokestaxx.  
February 17 — Not Katie.

**Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre:** 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.  
March 24 — Lady Antebellum, Darius Rucker, Thompson Square.

July 28 — Brad Paisley.  
August 9 — Toby Keith.

**Dirk's Niteclub:** 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344.  
February 17, 18 — Serious Guise.  
February 24, 25 — Nemesis.

**Dizzy's:** Ground floor of Harbor Club Towers on Second Avenue & J St., Downtown, 858-270-7467.  
February 19 — Mundell Lowe, Gary Scott, Bob Magnusson.  
February 23 — Gilbert Castellanos & the Hammond B-3 Trio.

**Eleven:** 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.  
February 17, 18, 19 — International Pop Overthrow Festival.

**Epicentre:** 8450 Mira Mesa Bl., Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.  
February 17 — The Take Off Movement.  
February 18 — Breakdown.  
February 26 — English Dogs, the Casualties, Toxic Holocaust.

**Gallagher's Pub & Grill:** 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.  
February 17 — Euphoria Brass Band.  
February 18 — Todo Mundo.

**House of Blues:** 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.  
February 16 — The Fray.  
February 17 — The Expendables.  
February 22 — Iced Earth and Symphony X.  
February 23 — Hot Chelle Rae.  
February 25 — Mat Kearney.

February 29 — The Kooks.  
March 3 — Alkaline Trio.  
March 6 — Flogging Molly.  
March 9 — Lagwagon.  
March 10 — Gungor.  
March 11 — SOJA.  
March 17 — Fan Halen.  
March 20 — Ani DiFranco.  
March 21 — Young Jeezy.  
March 23 — The Ting Tings.  
March 24 — The Mother Hips.  
March 27 — Tyga.  
April 3 — Gwar.  
April 4 — Hunter Hayes.  
April 6 — Tiger Army.  
April 11 — Katchafire.  
April 15 — Tech N9ne.  
May 2 — Say Anything.  
May 22 — Imelda May.  
May 26 — Tyrone Wells.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.  
February 17 — The Steely Damned.  
February 18 — Rising Star.

**Humphreys by the Bay:** 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.  
April 16 — Elvis Costello & the Imposters.  
April 17 — Madness.

**Lacey J's Roadhouse Saloon & Grille:** 8861 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-448-8550.  
February 17 — Ramshackle.  
February 18 — The Honky Tonk Kings.

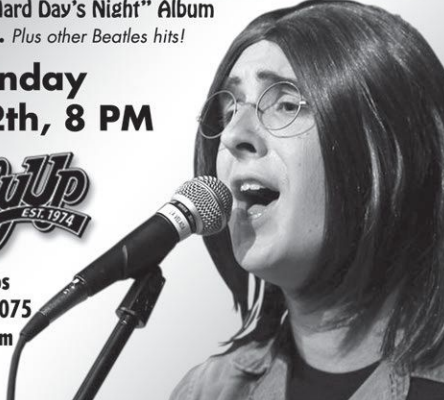
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9th Feb 5-8PM	LISTEN LOCAL WITH 94.9S CATHRYN BEEKS (NO COVER (WORLD)) TODO MUNDO	14th Feb 5-8PM	LISTEN LOCAL
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11th Feb 1-8PM	LIVE MUSIC AND VIDEO SHOOT A NIGHT OF DUBSTEP • "BASSQUAKE" WITH DJS • FREDDY TODD • OSAL8 HMT DMT • SQUAMA	16th Feb 5-8PM	LISTEN LOCAL WITH 94.9S CATHRYN BEEKS (ELECTRO DANCE AND HIPHOP) KRIAN MUSIC PROJECT • ATLANTIS RIZING HUMMINGBIRD THUNDER AND THE PSYCLE
12th Feb 6-9PM	JETWASH "OBOKE" WITH YOUR HOST- JOSE SINATRA	17th Feb 6-9PM	OBC PRESENTS CHRIS MEZA AND CHRIS DAHLBERG ROOTS, REGGAE WITH STRANGER
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**Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:** Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: \$3 wells, house wine, and drafts.

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#### PACIFIC BEACH

**710 Beach Club:** Daily, 4-7:10pm: 1/2-off food & booze.

**Moray's Lounge:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.50 wells, \$4.50 house wine. 4-6pm: \$4 appetizers: spicy chicken wings, fried calamari, potato skins.

**Sinbad Café:** Daily, 4-8pm: \$1.50 drafts, \$2 wells, shots, \$2.50 imports. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.

**Tony Roma's:** Daily, 1-4pm: \$3 wells, drafts. \$3 off appetizers.

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**Captain's Quarters:** Daily, 3-7pm: \$2 you-call-it wells, \$2.25 domestic drafts and bottles, discounted shots.

**Extreme Pizza:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$6 craft beer pitchers.

**Sail Ho Golf Club:** Monday, Thursday, 4pm-close: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$4 wells. Tuesday, 4pm-close: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$2 wells. Wednesday, 4pm-close: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$4 wells, \$1 tacos. Friday, 4pm-close: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$4 wells; smoked ribs. Saturday, 4pm-close: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$4 wells, \$10.95 burger and beer. Sunday, All day: \$2 beer, \$3.50 wine, \$4 wells.

#### POWAY

**Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar:** Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm, 9-11pm: \$1 off all wells, drafts, bottles, wine.

#### RAMONA

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

#### RANCHO BERNARDO

**Capri Blu:** Daily, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

**Carvers Steak & Chops:** Monday-Friday, 2-6:30pm: 1/2-off drinks. \$3-\$4 off appetizers.

**Kelly's Public House:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines.

#### RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS

**Deli Stop Sports Pub:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off all beer; \$3 Corona or glass of wine. \$1 off all appetizers.

#### RANCHO SAN DIEGO

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

#### RANCHO SANTA FE

**Delicias:** Daily, 4-6pm: \$5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

#### SAN MARCOS

**Cowshed Bar and Grill:** Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: \$3 domestic. \$3.50-\$4 wells. Tuesday, 4pm-2am: \$3 domestic. \$3.50-\$4 wells.

#### SANTEE

**Landre's Sports Bar & Grill:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks. \$5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

#### SCRIPPS RANCH

**Stone Flats:** Daily, 3-5pm, 7-9pm: \$1 Bud/Bud Light; 1/2-off all other beer/wine.

#### SERRA MESA

**Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill:** Sunday, \$2.50 mind erasers, kamikazes. \$3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

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**Blue Wave Bar & Grill:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off drinks; \$3-\$5 appetizers, including jumbo shrimp cocktail and crispy fried calamari.

#### SOLANA BEACH

**Chief's Burgers and Brew:** Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2.50 domestic, \$3.50 microbrew. 1/2-off appetizers.

#### SORRENTO VALLEY

**Ali Baba's Cave:** Daily, 3-7pm: 22-oz. beer \$4 (including tax). \$12 hookahs, \$5 refills.

**Karl Strauss Brewing Company:** Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

#### SOUTH PARK

**Hamilton's Tavern and Café:** Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

**Whistle Stop Bar:** Daily, 2-8pm: \$1 off all cocktails, pints.

#### SPRING VALLEY

**California Comfort:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine.

**Fannie's Nightclub:** Daily, 4-6pm: \$.50 off all drinks.

#### TIERRASANTA

**JP's Pub:** Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

#### UNIVERSITY CITY

**Michael's Lounge in the Hyatt Regency:** Daily, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts and well cocktails.

#### UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

**Apertivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar:** Daily, noon to 6 pm: \$3 beer, wine, and sangria.

**Small Bar:** Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: \$1 off drafts and cocktails.

#### VALLEY CENTER

**Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$2 domestic. \$3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

#### VISTA

**Chili Coast Burgers:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$.50-.75 off tap beer.



# 2nd Saturday Feb 11

## w/ Karl Strauss

We are celebrating 23 years with Karl and a Cajun feast!  
Dueling Casks: Dry Hopped Tower 20 IIPA vs Oatmeal Stout w/vanilla  
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## Thursday Feb 9th- 5PM

### Bear Republic Racer 5 from the cask!

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---

### Valentine's Day Tuesday Feb 14

### Chocolate and Roses Eclipse Chocolates paired with Four Roses Bourbon. Chocolate Beers on tap too!


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## Thursday, February 9

### DJ Frankie Lektro DJ Digital Opinion DJ Fish Fomics

## Friday, February 10

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## Saturday, February 11

### BEB TRIO

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WARING STATES OF MIND  
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## THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

### 42nd Street

Coronado Playhouse presents the musical celebration of Broadway (hard work, being in the right place at the right time). Songs include "You're Getting to Be a Habit with Me," "We're in the Money," and "Lullaby of Broadway." CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 4.

### A Behanding in Spokane

Cygnnet Theatre warns patrons about Martin McDonagh's "violence and strong language." And if frontal, fun house-warped theater — imagine Sam Shepard on 55-Hour Energy — is not your cup of tea, stay away! Behanding bullies its audience for 90 minutes with

racism, homophobia, and F-bombs. Problem is: it's also very funny. Carmichael (Jeffrey Jones) lost his left hand 27 years ago and has quested for it ever since. Marilyn (Kelly Iverson) and Toby (Vimel) may have found it and end up chained to a radiator and soaked in gasoline. Nerdy Mervyn (Mike Sears) doesn't care. He's having the adventure of his psychotic dreams.

### Worth a try.

CYGNNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 19.

### A Raisin in the Sun

Lorraine Hansberry's breakthrough drama (1959) is in loving, unflinching hands at Moxie Theatre. Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, the ensemble and design work are first rate. And outstanding performances by Mark Christopher Lawrence, as conflicted Walter Lee Younger, and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson, as his mother Lena, make the production one of Moxie's finest ever. The Youngers have lived in their cramped, Southside Chicago apartment for decades. A \$10,000 life insurance check inspires competing dreams. But before they can move out, to an uncertain future, the family must climb out of personal valleys. By

play's end, the old, "rat trap" of an apartment cannot contain their pride. **Critic's Pick.**

MOXIE AT ROLANDO THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. 858-598-7620. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 4.

### American Night: The Ballad of Juan José

La Jolla Playhouse presents Culture Clash's latest work, written by Richard Montoya. As Juan studies for his U.S. citizenship exam, he goes on a journey through American history. Jo Bonney directed.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

### An Enemy of the People

In Henrik Ibsen's famous drama, when Dr. Thomas Stockman learns that the water flowing into the town's baths is poisoned, he goes on a crusade. And resentment against him grows like a virus. Intrepid Shakespeare Company is using Arthur Miller's abbreviated version, which plays more like melodrama than Ibsen's detailed portrayal of social corruption (Miller had his reasons: he turned the play into an indictment of McCarthyism). The characters, and some of the acting,

are thin. Within these limits, Matt Scott gives a full-bodied, fully felt performance as Stockman, "he who stands alone." The uncredited set (on San Diego Academy's impressive new Liggett Theatre) is functional, though the hyper, early '50s rock and roll doesn't fit the moods of the play. **Worth a try.** SAN DIEGUITO ACADEMY, 800 SANTA FE DR., ENCINITAS. 760-752-1121. 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 19.

### Big Daddy Returns

Community Actors Theatre is reprising its popular musical revue, written and directed by Jennie Hamilton, that pays tribute to the blues, jazz, and pop. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., COLLEGE AREA. 619-264-3391. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

### Blasted

As part of its Off-the-Radar series, Ion Theatre presents Sarah Kane's "meditation on the shattering effects of war on the human psyche." Claudio Raygoza directed. ION THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-600-5020. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 18.

### Brooklyn Boy

Eric Weiss's dream has come true. He's got the 11th-best-selling novel in the country. Donald Margulies's comedy-drama puts Eric on a pinnacle, then systematically demolishes it in six funny-serious scenes. Eric's path is never in doubt, and the conclusion comes as no surprise. What grabs, in the script and

the Scripps Ranch production, is how the play becomes funnier the deeper Eric falls. Cris O'Bryon does a fine turn as Eric, slowly peeling away his illusions. Ably directed by Ruff Yeager, the cast defines characters — and caricatures — with skill.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 19.

### Dividing the Estate

It's 1987. Stella Gordon, aging matriarch, wants to keep her estate intact. But her children, like King Lear's, want to tear the land, and tradition, apart. Horton Foote, a wonderful writer, has subtly inscribed a social history into what looks like a conventional how-to-slice-the-family-pie comedy-drama. The Old Globe's production, however, is all surface. And can't find a tone to accommodate the drama and the histrionics. The actors perform as if in isolation. Even their reaction times vary. As anticipated, Elizabeth Ashley gives a bravura performance as Stella (having Ashley in San Diego is the sole recommendation for the production, but it's a compelling one). The rest of the cast ranges from over-the-top to bland. Jeff Cowie's richly detailed set, lit too brightly, is so wide that the actors at each end must make a toll call.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.

### Golden Child

Chinese Pirate Productions stages

David Henry Hwang's drama that "examines the politics of conversion at the dawn of an intercultural world." Andy Lowe directed. TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 18.

### Grace and Glorie

Broadway Theatre stages Tom Zeigler's comedy-drama about an elderly backwoods woman and a hospice worker whose intentions may have an ulterior motive. Randall Hickman directed.

BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROADWAY, VISTA. 760-806-7905. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 4.

### Guy & Raina of "The Lawrence Welk Show"

Guy & Raina, of the Lawrence Welk TV show, appear at the Welk Theatre for five performances only. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM AND 8PM THURSDAY.

### Guys and Dolls

Lamb's Players stages Frank Loesser's musical classic, based on the stories of Damon Runyon. Kerry Meads directed.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 18.

### Hearts Afire

Short stories are minidramas, made so by language alone. So, asked the founders of Write Out Loud, why not assemble a troupe and read them in public? That idea has grown into a popular event. These aren't staged readings, with little advance preparation. Local actors rehearse a story as they would a script, emphasizing style and meaning. As in the old days of radio, regular attendees often close their eyes and listen. *Hearts Afire* celebrates Valentine's Day with "stories of love and romance."

### Worth a try.

CYGNNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM MONDAY. : CITY OF CARLSBAD DOVE LIBRARY, 1775 DOVE LANE, CARLSBAD. 760-602-2049. 7PM TUESDAY.

### How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

Welk Resort Theatre stages the popular Frank Loesser/Abe Burrows musical about J. Pierpont Finch's meteoric rise up the corporate ladder. Ray Limon directed and choreographed.

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM AND 8PM THURSDAYS, 1PM SATURDAYS, 6:30PM SUNDAYS, 1PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

### Love Roulette

Circle Circle dot dot presents staged readings from works by company members as a "Valentine's fundraiser to inspire the cupid in all of us."

DANCE PLACE SAN DIEGO, 2650 TRUX-TUN RD., STUDIO 106, POINT LOMA. 8PM SATURDAY.

### Mary and Myra

Summer of 1875: Myra Bradwell, America's first woman lawyer, fights to release Mary Todd Lincoln from an insane asylum.

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ALL CARMICHAEL WANTS IS A HAND...HIS HAND!

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- THE NEW YORK TIMES

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ENCINITAS. 7:30PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

**National Comedy Theatre**

The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is "appropriate for all audiences." NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 INDIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

**Night Stage to Big Shaft**

Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. "When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect."

MIKKI'S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

**Spring Awakening**

UCSD Theatre presents the play that inspired the musical: Frank Wedekind's tragic story of adolescents coming of age in a repressive society. Anthony Luciano directed. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-2230. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 11.

**The Comedy of Errors**

New Village Arts presents Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identities. Director Justin Lang has reset the play in the 1950s, as if being filmed before a live studio audience. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 4.

**The Dinner Detective North San Diego**

An interactive and improvised comedic



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM CARMODY

UCSD Theatre presents the play that inspired the musical, Frank Wedekind's tragic Spring Awakening.

murder mystery set in the present day. None of our performers are dressed in costume, but instead are dressed just like everyone else; therefore, the audience doesn't know who's a part of the show and who isn't.

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 NORTH ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 6:15PM SATURDAY.

**The Marvelous Wonderettes**

San Diego Musical Theatre presents

Roger Bean's "trip down memory lane": two proms ten years apart, at Springfield High. Bean directed. BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

**The Recommendation**

Aaron Feldman isn't just entitled, he's exempt. He'll never have a worry in his life. So playwright Jonathan Caren plunks him where

the social network can't reach him: jail. Aaron makes a pact with Dwight (as connected behind bars as Aaron is outside), then fails to follow through. The play has a schematic feel (for the ethical dilemmas to unfold, things must happen in spite of logic), but Caren has a terrific comic touch and a gift for dialogue. And the Old Globe's hip, brassy production boasts three fine performances (Evan Todd, Jimonn Cole, and Brandon Gill) and

outstanding design work. **Critic's Pick.**

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

**The Vagina Monologues**

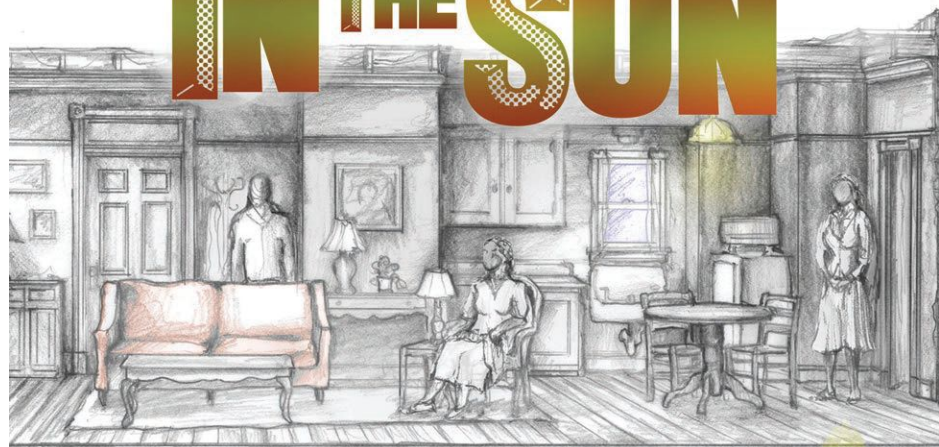
Directed by Kelsey Cottrell and organized by a team of SDSU

students, Eve Ensler's award-winning play will be performed in an effort to stop violence against women and girls. Ninety percent of all proceeds will be donated to the YWCA's Becky's House. DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 3:30PM SUNDAY, THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.

The play that "changed American theatre forever" -The New York Times

by Lorraine Hansberry

A RAISIN IN THE SUN



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moxietheatre.com or 858-598-7620

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**

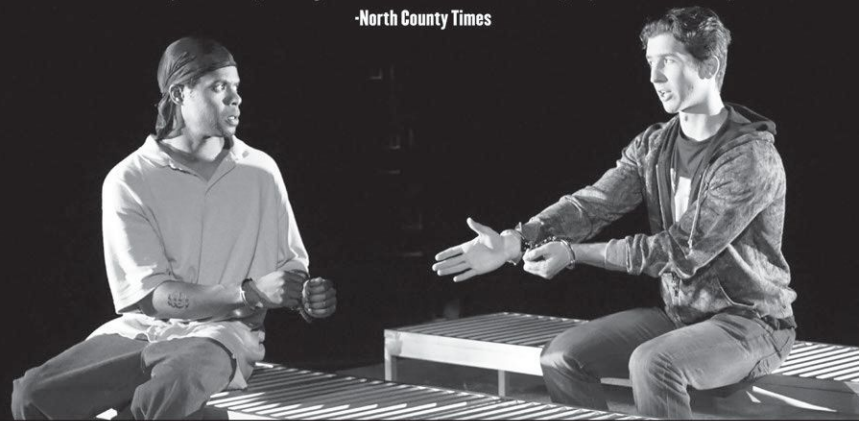
"A rousing RECOMMENDATION. This is one show about connections that really does connect."

-U-T San Diego

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**

"Smart, sassy and surprising. It's one of the best new plays I've seen in years."

-North County Times



Jimonn Cole and Evan Todd. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

**A WORLD PREMIERE PLAY THE RECOMMENDATION**

Aaron is smart, privileged and liked by everyone. Iskinder, his college roommate, is modest, unconnected and comes from a middle-class immigrant family. The safe haven of college only lasts so long, and when the tables turn, both Aaron and Iskinder have to rethink the meaning of friendship and where loyalty has its limits. *Contains strong language.*

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# All Nerves, No Heart

*A curious element of the Japanese horror genre seems to hang about the edges.*

## The Woman in Black

My first reaction to *The Woman in Black* was “all nerves, no heart.”

But I have a weakness for the sort of nerve-stretching that the film employs. The sort that comes from a long shot that peers down a dim hallway in

an old house and strains at the darkness, waiting for something to emerge. The sort that mounts as a pale solicitor (Daniel Radcliffe) tries key after key in a locked door behind which he can hear a persistent thump and scrape. The sort that is almost glad when the ghost makes its appearance, because the waiting is the hardest part. So the

nerves part tended to obscure the heart part, which is perhaps as the makers intended.

With the benefit of hindsight and daylight, my opinion has softened on both fronts. First, the nerves weren't as nervy as they might have been, relying too heavily on big noises and jump scares and not enough on the creepy Victoriana surrounding our hero as he tries to sort out a dead widow's paperwork in a ruined house in the middle of a boggy marsh. The first time we got a glimpse of the alarmingly lifelike monkeys in the traditional see-no-evil, hear-no-



**Harry Potter's Daniel Radcliffe is a haunted man in *The Woman in Black*.**

evil, speak-no-evil pose, I shivered at the thought of how the old saying might come into play. Alas, it didn't. And don't these people know that one creepy wind-up clown doll chiming away in the silence of an abandoned

nursery is a good deal scarier than ten, all sounding off together?

And the heart was more heartfelt than I first realized. Radcliffe begins the film as a haunted man, having lost his wife in childbirth four years before.

What follows is his journey toward peace, as opposed to the ghost's. (The role was a good choice as a first cinematic step away from *Harry Potter* — Radcliffe's fine features go taut without even trying.) It's what keeps him going in the face of some grisly encounters in the haunted Eel Marsh House.

As for the rest, a curious element of the Japanese horror genre seems to hang about the edges in the form

### Dig a Hole: Ben Gazzara

By Scott Marks — Feb. 5, 11:56 a.m.

### Grate Cinema: The Way We Were (1973)

By Scott Marks — Feb. 5, 9:40 a.m.

### DVD Rentals: Crossfire (1947)

By Scott Marks — Feb. 4, 9:46 a.m.

### Tonight's Midnight Movie at The Ken: The Theatre Bizarre

By Scott Marks — Feb. 4, 9:34 a.m.

### Searching for Jimmy Dean

By Matthew Lickona — Feb. 3, 9:16 a.m.

### Grate Cinema: Death Wish 3 (1985)

By Scott Marks — Feb. 3, 9:04 a.m.

### The Title or Trailer Game III: The List Is Life

By Scott Marks — Feb. 2, 2:36 p.m.

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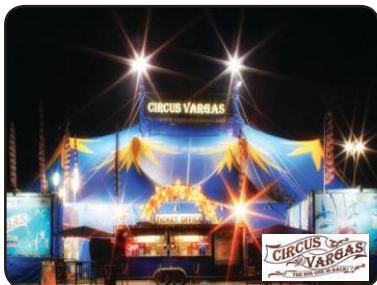
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of a horrific curse randomly applied. But the look is sumptuously English; even the heavy, overcast sky glows with moody brilliance.

★

### The Flowers of War

Now we know why they called it the Rape of Nanking. *The Flowers of War* tells the story of one American man's attempt to save a group of Chinese schoolgirls from rape at the hands of Japanese invaders in the late '30s. We are witnesses to attempted rape when the Japanese first break into the cathedral that is supposed to serve as the girls' sanctuary. We get actual rape when the Japanese catch a couple of the prostitutes who are also hiding out in the church. And we have the promise of rape when...well, I won't give it away. Rape, rape, rape, sometimes accompanied by sacred choral music.

Does it sound over the top? Perish the thought. There is no top. We're talking about bullets punching through a stained-glass window to save a girl from sexual assault. A paper-factory booby trap that sends rainbow-colored shreds soaring through the exploding air. A church with sassy whores in the basement and pious virgins in the attic. I could go on. I think the story might make a fine opera.

Christian Bale is our reluctant American hero, and his attempt at playing a drunken jerk in need of some humanity at the start of the story had me longing for the seedy, self-regarding charm of William Holden or Richard Burton. His role as White Savior is more believable — the Japanese are reluctant to harm a Westerner, and so he is the last best hope of the Chinese who beg for his protection. Converted by a mix of compassion (for the girls) and lust (for the whores), he impersonates a priest and sets about trying to repair a ruined truck on the church grounds so that he can smuggle his charges to safety.

For all the film's cheerful willingness to wallow in the extremes that wartime may bring, it does pause to dabble in humanity and nuance: a motherly prostitute here, a repentant schoolgirl there. Simple, powerful stuff. Plus, it looks amazing. So while I can see how some might condemn *The Flowers of War* as brutal, bathetic exploitation, I can't quite join in.

Opens February 17 at Landmark's Hillcrest Cinemas.

★

### Elite Squad: The Enemy Within

"This may sound like a cliché in a Hollywood movie," rasps the narrator at the start of the Brazilian cop drama *Elite Squad*. The rest of the sentence

isn't important. What matters is the smackdown that the narrator, and the entire film, delivers to the American action-film hegemony.

Lt. Colonel Nascimento starts the film as the head of BOPE, Rio de Janeiro's version of a SWAT team (albeit one that uses a skull as an emblem). But after the squad's clampdown on a prison riot goes south — Nascimento wants to let the drug cartels kill each other, while the human-rights advocate who married his ex-wife (!) wants to negotiate peace — he finds himself booted upstairs to a desk job, monitoring wiretaps and running BOPE from above.

What follows is one man's war against the system, and the struggle is fascinating and visceral. Nascimento defines the system as "an articulation of loathsome interests," and it's those interests that make things interesting. The system isn't any one thing, controlled by one man, opposable by

force applied at one point. It's many things, controlled by many men — from politicians to cops to criminals — and force applied at one point may produce unintended effects in others.

A soldier who is used to defined missions with clear objectives must now consider motivations and weigh consequences, and guess what? Though his moral vision is clear, his judgment is not, and he makes serious mistakes.

The heavy use of narration makes it feel a little like film noir. The machinations — betrayals, conspiracies, manipulations — are worthy of any political thriller. The family dynamics, instead of being tossed in for the sake of adding depth to the protagonist, wind up being the central drama. But the feeling is pure police action.

★★★

*Oscar doings:* Friday begins the showing of this year's Oscar-nominated

short films, both animated and live action, at the Ken Cinema. Short films, at their best, have the same compact virtues as short stories, and here you have a gathering of contenders for that designation of "best."

The animated fare features a pleasing range of styles, though it's hard to imagine the prize going to anything besides Pixar's *La Luna*. *Cars 2* may have been a stumble, and *Brave* may look to be verging into the overcrowded field of Kickass Heroines, but the studio still understands the magic unique to animation. A little boy helps his father and grandfather to sweep the moon — what more do you need to know?

On the live-action side, *Tuba Atlantic* may wind up being one of the best things I see all year. A heartfelt mix of Wes Anderson's earnest whimsy and David Lynch's *The Straight Story*, set along the frozen

coast of Norway. I was overwhelmed.

Reviewed in the movie capsules: *Chronicle*.

— Matthew Lickona

## 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 black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

**Albert Nobbs** — Glenn Close, looking quite small, revives a role she did to off-Broadway acclaim 30 years earlier. Albert, a parched, remote, miserly, desexed "male" butler, is really a woman. His life at a Dublin hotel is mediocre, but Close achieves a sad, stricken pathos. She almost loses the film to Janet McTeer as another female in butcher drag, sexily macho and in love



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Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES



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# Calendar MOVIES

with his/her pretty wife. Rodrigo Garcia directed this oddity with care and sensuality. Brendan Gleeson is good as a boozing but decent doctor. 2012. — D.E.

★★ (HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**The Artist** — A comedy of unreserved movie 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 iffier (female stars of the era had more flesh), but she sure is "swell." Beautiful design, period touches, and black-and-white tonalities sustain the simple story's odd, witty dreaminess. Words are only heard at the end, and the lift of some *Vertigo* music is impudent but effective. This Chaplinesque nostalgia bubble has a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E.

★★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Big Miracle** — Aside from Drew Barrymore's Greenpeace activist, there's not an unselfish, trustworthy character to be found in this well-intentioned "save the whales" tale. It's a kid pic, so the screenwriters wisely (unknowingly?) never allow personality and emotion to get in the way of the



**Journey 2: The Mysterious Island** — The Rock leads a ragtag bunch in Brad Peyton's 3-D adventure

overriding message. A cast of familiar faces keeps it moving along, and director Ken Kwapis, cinematographer John Bailey, and the effects crew always provide something worth looking at. You and the family could do worse. 2012. — S.M.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; 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; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**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?* funneling into *Who's Afraid of Neil Simon?* Two married couples (Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz, Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly) fume, spar, and rip apart their civilized 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)

**Chronicle** — *Spider-Man* meets *X-Men* in the story of an outcast high-school kid who gains incredible powers and ultimately decides that he's now better than all those regular people who used to put him down. But the best part of the story is what comes in between those events: a growing friendship between three young guys who find they have something very special in common. The film gets both teenage joy and teenage misery. It's a pity they decided to toss in the distracting gimmick of making the camera

part of the story. Directed by Josh Trank; with Michael B. Jordan, Michael Kelly, Alex Russell. 2012. — M.L.

★★ (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)

**Contraband** — The camera looks for extremes in this action caper about transport ship smugglers. We are jolted between oppressive closeups and panoramic helicopter shots. Mark Wahlberg plays the reformed smuggler who is compelled back into crime to protect his family. Giovanni Ribisi, as the villain, rehases his addled weasel performance from *The Rum Diary*. The "gone straight, drawn crooked" storyline has become a cliché. There is a tense heist sequence in Panama that manages to keep the thrills consistent and well paced, but overall the film lacks ingenuity. 2012. — J.R.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**The Descendants** — Alexander Payne's film is on Hawaiian time and floats well below his *Sideways*. George Clooney is the rich Honolulu lawyer whose faithless wife has crashed into a coma. He is also trustee for a huge patch of Kauai that excites his greedy relatives and his wife's lover. His trip with his daughters has some wry humor, leading to live-and-learn pathos. It's like *The Little Foxes* adrift in a Hawaiian travelogue. Clooney tries hard, but his hair does best. Acting laurels go to subtle Shailene Woodley as the older daughter and Robert Forster as her grumpy gramps. With Judy Greer, Nick Krause, Matthew Lillard, Beau Bridges, Laird Hamilton. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA 12; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Elite Squad: The Enemy Within** — Reviewed this issue.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15; FROM 2/10)

**Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** — Extremely ambitious and incredibly pretentious. Also false. A brainy, yappy New York boy (Thomas Horn) feels guilty about not answering the WTC calls of his doomed dad (Tom Hanks) on 9/11/01. He walks around New York looking for fishy clues, and a mute, grizzled man (Max von Sydow) tags along cluelessly. Von Sydow looks more burdened by fate than when he faced Death in *The Seventh Seal*. Stephen Daldry directed, loading the kid with so much symbolic weight that he is like a toy carrying the World Trade Center. Though well shot, it makes seriousness seem a labored game for children. With Sandra Bullock, Zoe Caldwell, Viola Davis, John Goodman, Jeffrey Wright — all working below their ability (Hanks, ditto). 2012. — D.E.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**The Flowers of War** — Reviewed this issue.

★ (HILLCREST; OPENS 2/17)

**The Grey** — Increasingly bushy-haired oil-rig men, their plane downed in an Alaskan storm, face extremely hairy wolves. No contest. As desperate men are picked off, Liam Neeson becomes even more the bravely stoical loner than he was in *Schindler's List*. Joe Carnahan directed with strong weather effects, okay acting, and deaths not too visceral. This man-cave of morbid feelings is like Jack London's fiction with its Nietzschean ideas sucked out. With Dermot Mulroney, Dallas Roberts, Frank Grillo, credible wolves. 2012. — D.E.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Haywire** — Steven Soderbergh's latest attempt to subvert popular genre expectations results in an adequate 007 action/adventure picture. Mixed martial arts champion Gina Carano has the tough, tight look and smoldering dispassion the genre demands, but not even Meryl Streep could add depth to this. It's easier to swallow than the average Angelina Jolie "female empowerment" outing, due to the expertly staged fight sequences and a brisk running time. With Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender, Antonio Banderas, Michael Angarano. 2012. — S.M.

★★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

**The Iron Lady** — Britain's greatest prime minister since Churchill is seen through a



## FILM FESTIVALS

### HORRIBLE IMAGININGS

#### Tenth Avenue Theatre

930 Tenth Avenue, East Village • 443-834-3742

**"Women in Horror"** is the theme for a showcase of "a collection of short horror films directed by women from all over the world." Saturday, February 11, 9:30 p.m.

### TALKING PICTURES

#### San Diego Central Library

820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5817



**Ikiru** 1952. Akira Kurosawa's film "examines the struggles of a minor Tokyo bureaucrat and his final quest for meaning." Friday, February 10, 2:30 p.m.

**Sanshiro Sugata** 1943. Kurosawa's directorial debut tells the tale of a "stubborn youth who travels into the city in order to learn jujutsu," but discovers judo on his arrival. Friday, February 17, 2:30 p.m.

### COMING OF AGE FILM FESTIVAL

#### Museum of Photographic Arts

Balboa Park • 619-238-7559

**The First Grader** 2010. Enjoy the "true story of an 84-year-old Kenyan villager and ex-Mau Mau freedom fighter" fighting to attend school for the first time. Thursday, February 9, 6 p.m.

### FILM FORUM

#### San Diego Central Library

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

**Age of Consent** 1969. Michael Powell's film stars James Mason as an Australian artist and Helen Mirren, in her first major film role, as his wild muse. Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

**A Matter of Life and Death** 1946. In this romantic fantasy, David Niven plays a British pilot "who misses his appointment with death, falling in love with a WAC (Kim Hunter) on his borrowed time." Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 p.m.

### MODERN ROMANCE

#### Carlsbad Library

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad • 760-602-2026

**Crazy, Stupid, Love** 2011. Steve Carell is "a nerdy everyman thrust into a midlife tailspin" when his wife (Julianne Moore) decides she wants a divorce; Ryan Gosling is an "ultra-slick lady killer who helps him get his groove back!" Wednesday, February 15, 6 p.m.

**Love and Other Drugs** 2010. Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway play characters "under the influence of the ultimate drug: love." Wednesday, February 22, 6 p.m.

### FILM & DISCUSSION

#### Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla

700 Prospect Street, La Jolla • 858-454-3541

**Miss Representation** 2011. "An inside look at how media misrepresentation of women has led to under representation of women in positions of power and influence in America" is offered in this documentary. Discussion follows. Friday, February 10, 6 p.m.

### SUNDAY MATINEE

#### San Diego Central Library

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

**Ides of March** 2011. George Clooney

co-wrote, directed, and starred in this political thriller described as "an intense tale of sex, ambition, loyalty, betrayal, and revenge." Sunday, February 12, 2 p.m.

### DIVE-IN THEATRE

#### Pearl Hotel

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**The Notebook** 2004. This romance stars Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young couple who fall in love during the early 1940s. Wednesday, February 15, 8 p.m.

**Dirty Dancing** 1987. A teenage girl (Jennifer Grey) rebels against her father by starting a relationship with a dance instructor (Patrick Swayze) during the family's summer vacation. Wednesday, February 22, 8 p.m.

glass, darkly — the darkness of dementia closing in. Her bouffant crown of hair is gone, but flickering memories turn into brisk flashbacks of the glory years. Meryl Streep is quite touching as Margaret Thatcher in retirement and is a brilliant poser in her prime of bulldozing power. In the political segments, Thatcher is surrounded by file footage and cartoonish men in suits. The decision of director Phyllida Lloyd and writer Abi Morgan to frame this fierce, game-changing leader as a sad has-been is diminishing, almost demeaning. With Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant, and (young Maggie) Alexandra Roach. 2012. — D.E.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

#### Journey 2: The Mysterious Island —

The robust Jules Verne story gets refitted by several writers in Brad Peyton's 3-D adventure. With Josh Hutcherson, Luis Guzmán, Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, and Michael ("Show me my check") Caine. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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 2/10)

**Loosies** — A New York pickpocket finds the loose change of a past sexual fling, then the bonus of unexpected fatherhood. Michael Corrente's film stars Peter Facinelli, Christy Romano, Michael Madsen, Vincent Gallo, Joe Pantoliano. (GASLAMP 15; FROM 2/10)

**Man on a Ledge** — Wrongly sent to prison, a cop (Sam Worthington) breaks out, then pretends to risk suicide on a skyscraper ledge as a media and police distraction so that his kid brother and the bro's Latina hottie can complete a nearby (and highly implausible) heist. This makes him a folk hero to voyeurs yet never seems quite necessary as a robbery decoy. There is rigged suspense, a big diamond, and a born-to-be-hated billionaire (a gaunt Ed Harris). Asger Leth's increasingly idiotic thriller is a stink bomb. With Elizabeth Banks, Jamie Bell, Edward Burns, Kyra Sedgwick. 2012. — D.E.

● (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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

★★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**One for the Money** — An out-of-work lingerie clerk is hired as a bounty hunter to track down her ex. Katherine Heigl's idea of a bold departure is changing her hair color. Were it not for men stepping in to save the day, our heroine wouldn't have survived the first reel, let alone the entire feature. If this formula failed to score for Jennifer Aniston, did Hollywood

really think it would work for another TV actress trying desperately to crack the big time? Julie Anne Robinson directed. 2012. — S.M.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

#### Oscar-Nominated Short Films —

Reviewed this issue. (KEN; FROM 2/10)

**Pina** — Wim Wenders's documentary salute to the late master choreographer Pina Bausch, with numerous dances, some interviews, and 3-D said to be used sparingly but well. Reviewed next issue. (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 2/10)

**Red Tails** — Producer George Lucas's passion project about the Tuskegee airmen is competent but not ambitious. It ought to be ambitious. The dogfights, exciting as they are, take up half the screen time and nearly all of the drama. But it's the battle on the ground — against a military that accepted African-Americans' service while still rejecting their essential equality — that makes the story so significant. And *that* battle gets shoddy treatment: exposition, speeches, and emotional fizzle. Winning in the air is supposed to prove the airmen's point. But here, it feels like it is the point. 2012. — M.L.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PLAZA BONITA 14)

**Safe House** — It doesn't prove nearly safe enough for a young CIA man, soon on the run in Daniel Espinosa's thriller. With Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds, Brendan Gleeson, Vera Farmiga, Sam Shepard, Rubén Blades. Reviewed next issue.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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 2/10)

**A Separation** — Another Iranian movie steeped in humanity, with nuances that accentuate the virtues of a tight budget. A teen girl doesn't want her parents to split, but Islamic and sexist issues intervene, as does grandfatherly Alzheimer's. The cast is splendid (Sareh Bayat especially, as a scared caregiver), the direction deft and lucid. Without rhetorical hammers, creator Asghar Farhadi makes us see, intimately, how the Islamic Republic has entrenched the war between men and women. 2012. — D.E.

★★★ (HILLCREST)

**Underworld: Awakening** — Kate Beckinsale slithers into Selene's vinyl catsuit once again for another round of Vampires vs. Werewolves...er, Lycans. Happily, much of the grandiose mythology has given way to scientific scheming and old-fashioned monster-movie fun. Specifically, the old-fashioned monster movies of Hammer Films, complete with glowering Brits (Charles Dance, channeling both Peter Cushing and Basil Rathbone), sardonic Irish (Stephen Rea), and ungainly yet menacing werewolves. It's almost enough to make you forgive the heavy blue filter, turgid opening, and muddy storytelling. 2012. — M.L.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION

## SEEN ON DVD



*Repo! The Genetic Opera*

#### HILARY ANDREWS

Student, San Diego State University

If *Heroes* and *Skins* were combined into a single series, you'd get *Misfits*. *Misfits* is a British TV show about five delinquent social outcasts who become unlikely friends after a lightning storm gives them super powers. It's funny, sexy, thrilling, and wonderfully original.

*Repo! The Genetic Opera*, directed by Darren Lynn Bousman, is very macabre but at the same time appealing and artistically beautiful. The story begins after a worldwide epidemic of organ failures has led biotech giant GeneCo to become the world's leading supplier of organ transplants, with the catch being that repossession of said organs after any missed payments tends to be a fatal affair. *Repo!* will please a campy coterie of fans, and not many else.

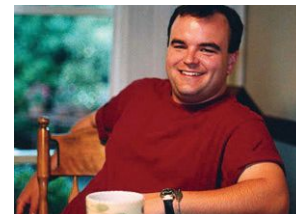
**MISFITS: SEASON ONE** (England) 2011, AIS  
List price: \$56.98

**REPO! THE GENETIC OPERA** (USA) 2008, Lionsgate  
List price: \$14.98

MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

**The Vow** — When dear Rachel McAdams comes mistily out of a coma, darling husband Channing Tatum gets to woo her all over again. Bring hankies, and look closely for Jessica Lange.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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



*Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father*

**JEFFREY ROBERT MURRAY**  
Musician and Panera Bread associate

*Dear Zachary* must be the most horrifying film I've ever encountered. This documentary by Kurt Kuenne follows the story of two childhood moviemakers and one man's tribute to his best friend's son. It's a documentary crafted with an unnervingly raw edge and a story so polished with moments of disbelief and passion, it may haunt you for the rest of your life.

Start getting ready for the new *Hobbit* movie! I know it may be weird to recommend the middle of a trilogy, but in the case of Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (Special Edition) an exception must be made. With a run time of 223 minutes, Andy Serkis, bonus features on Weta Workshop, and four different commentary tracks — you may need a month for your journey there and back again.

**DEAR ZACHARY: A LETTER TO A SON ABOUT HIS FATHER** (USA) 2008, Oscilloscope  
List Price: \$29.99

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS** (New Zealand) 2002, New Line  
List Price: \$39.99

Find more Seen on DVD reviews at [SDReader.com/dvd](http://SDReader.com/dvd)



*Liberty Heights*

**JOCELYN MAGGARD**  
Freelance journalist, [jocelynmaggard.com](http://jocelynmaggard.com)

*Liberty Heights* is one of my favorite movies, but most people have never seen or heard of it. Barry Levinson (*Rain Man* and *Good Morning Vietnam*) wrote, directed, and produced the movie. What I love most is its coming-of-age narrative, dry humor, and lead character Ben Kurtzman — though it offers much more than that. I have become a one-woman crusader to educate the world about this little known, yet beautiful, film.

In the spirit of election season, I began watching *The West Wing* again. Now, my dream job is to work in the White House, but only in Aaron Sorkin's fictional administration. Besides my crush on the president's personal aide (Dule Hill), I am drawn into every episode's quick and brilliant dialogue; the chemistry among the characters; and a good dose of foreign and domestic policy issues that are still relevant.

**LIBERTY HEIGHTS** (USA) 2000, Warner Home Video  
List Price: \$9.99

**THE WEST WING: THE COMPLETE SERIES** (USA) 2006, Warner Home Video  
List Price: \$145.00

★ (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)

16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 2/10)

**W./E.** — Directed and partly written by Madonna, *W.E.* tells the old story of the crown-cracking romance of Edward VIII (James D'Arcy) and man-hunting divorcée Wallis Simpson (Andrea Riseborough), also a contrast romance of lesser rank starring Abbie Cornish and Oscar Isaac. Reviewed next issue. (HILLCREST; FROM 2/10)

**The Woman in Black** — Reviewed this issue.









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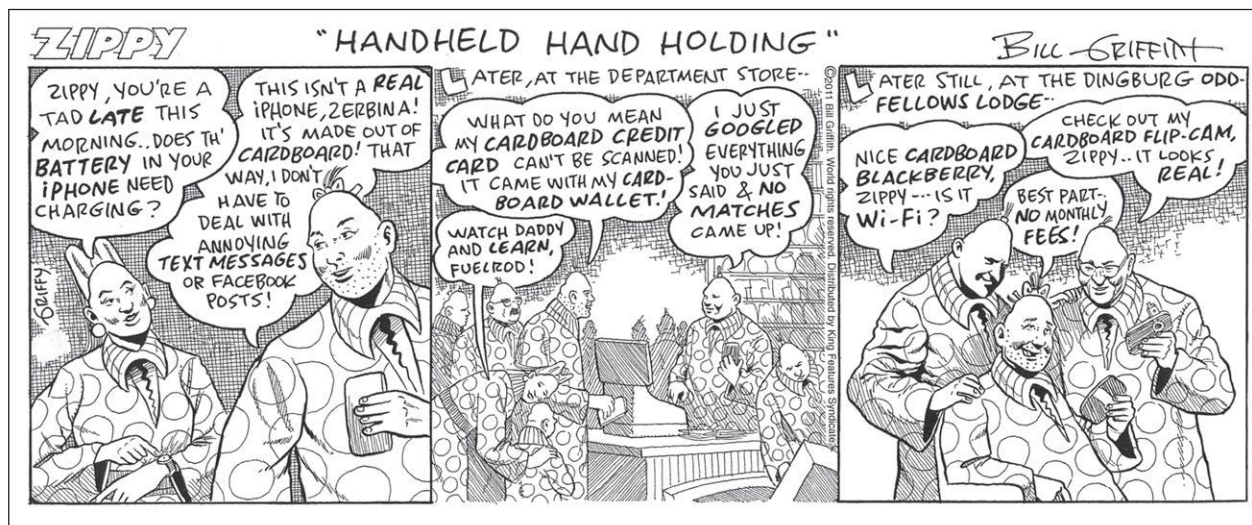
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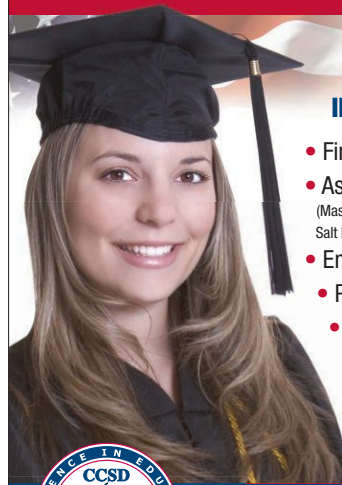
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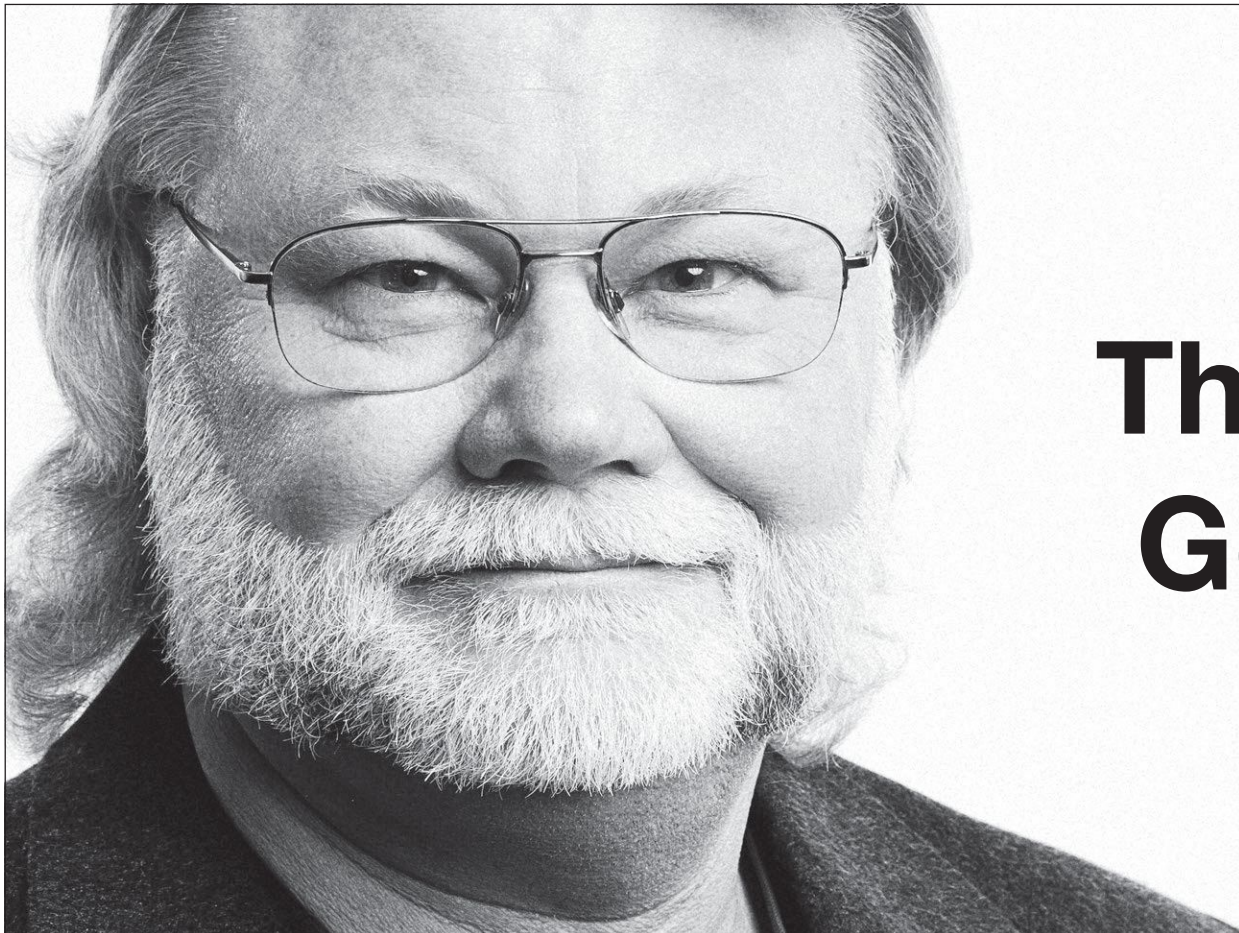
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\*http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\_chart\_001.htm (National Statistics, local results may vary). †Offered fully online by Stevens-Henager College® Salt Lake City/Murray, an affiliated college. \*\* Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost.



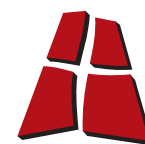
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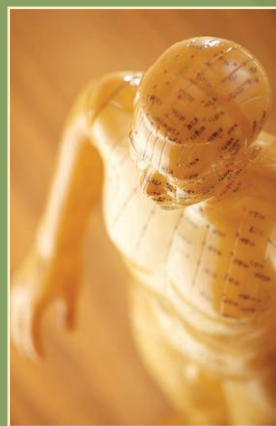
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## RENTALS

### Commercial Rentals



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**DOWNTOWN, \$250-495.** Artist work spaces: Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call 619-234-4165 or 619-269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$65.** Brand new, just built storage sheds. Weather proof. Available for immediate use. 2627 C St. \$65 per month. innoreventerprises.com. 858-568-5081.

## CAREER TRAINING

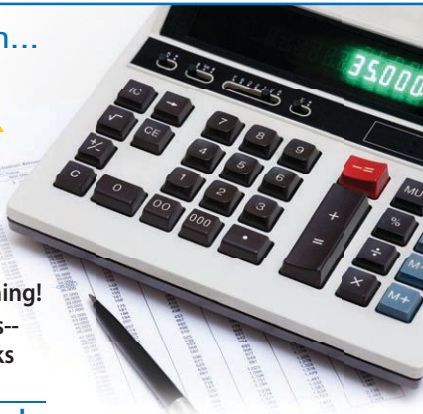
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Financial Aid available  
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# A puzzler and a writer?

## THE READER PUZZLE:

### RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to [SDReader.com/puzzle](http://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) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or **619-233-7907**; or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy; or scanned and e-mailed to: [puzzles@sdreader.com](mailto:puzzles@sdreader.com). Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

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

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

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

### Across

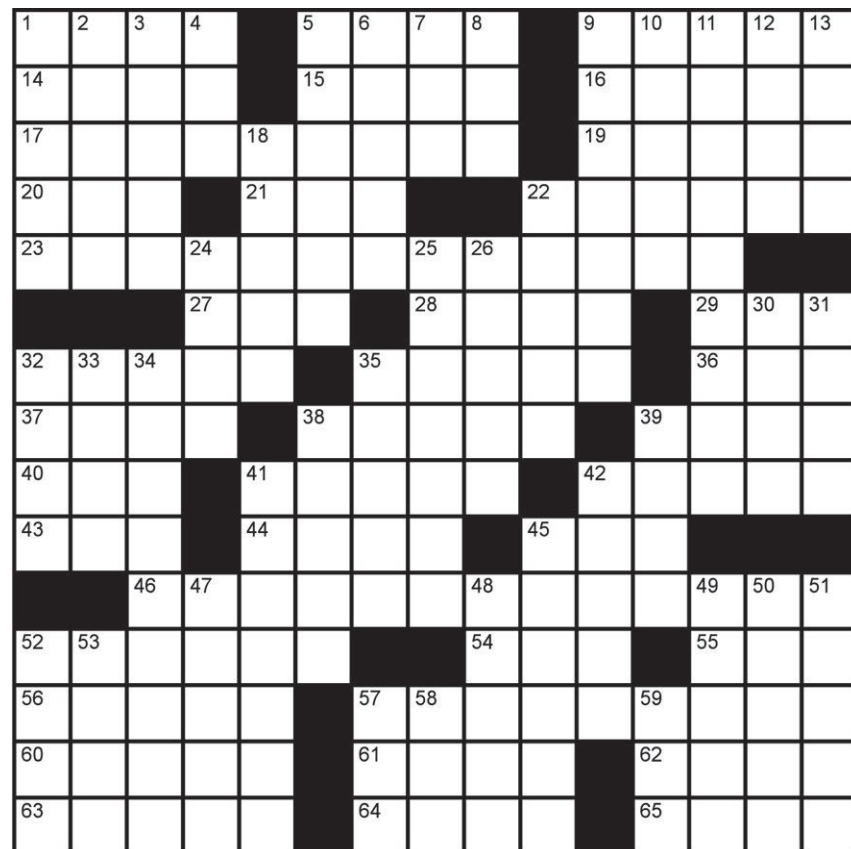
1. Admonishing sounds
5. The love of Juan's life?
9. VCR inserts
14. Part of MYOB
15. Former money in Milan
16. Hipbone-related

17. Mafia figure whose territory spans 3.26 light years?
19. Red suit wearer
20. CPR pro
21. Not neg.
22. "The end \_\_\_\_"
23. Push a broom straight down the middle of an unclean floor?
27. Decompose
28. Art Deco artist
29. Increase, with "up"
32. Peter, Paul or Mary
35. Pig Latin refusal
36. Poet's "before"
37. Charitable contribution
38. Former Yankee third baseman  
Nettles
39. Sport
40. One thing \_\_\_\_ time
41. Flew into \_\_\_\_ (got furious)
42. Wimp
43. Neighbor of Braz.
44. Former Yankee first baseman  
Martinez
45. Office seeker, for short
46. Didn't stay for the end of the flea circus?
52. "Dynasty" vixen
54. Kick \_\_\_\_ storm
55. Bake sale org.
56. Televised again
57. Common cocktail ingredient ...  
or this puzzle's theme
60. Sagan and Sandburg
61. You can't do it until you're 18
62. Publicist's headache
63. Advent
64. Basis of growth
65. "The Lord \_\_\_\_ shepherd ..."

### Down

1. Laid-back
2. "Likewise"
3. Author Vonnegut and others

4. Sophs. two years later
5. "Little Women" author
6. Thick
7. Conquistador's loot
8. Bolted
9. Very thin, as paper
10. Astronauts Bean and Shepard
11. Sources of needles
12. "I could \_\_\_\_ horse!"
13. Mark for life
18. Center of Florida?
22. Luggage attachment
24. Coastal raptors
25. Honeycomb shape
26. Pulitzer winner Pyle
30. Gay Nineties and Roaring Twenties
31. "\_\_\_\_ funny!"
32. Volvo rival
33. Kind of sax
34. "Well?"
35. Qom native
38. South side?
39. Droop
41. Initially
42. San Diego's region, for short
45. Livened (up)
47. Force out of the country
48. Hotel offering
49. Church recesses
50. Third-stringers
51. Hardly chic
52. BP subsidiary
53. Tilt
57. They often hang around sports bars
58. Salmon \_\_\_\_
59. Actor Wallach



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We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Cap: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt: S \_\_\_\_\_

We are temporarily out of T-shirts. Winners will receive caps.

### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:



### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 10. I like 12-year-olds—I'm talking about Scotch whiskey.

Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 9. I tried swimming laps in an infinity pool. It took forever!

Richard Hutchings, Santee, 9. An empty coin purse remains the same as long as there's no change in it.

Bill Pischke, Ramona, 9. What do planting roses and doing crosswords have in common? In both, you sometimes get stuck.

Conway Redding, La Mesa, 9. A body at rest tends to stay at rest; a body in motion tends to get hurt.



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**LA JOLLA, \$1075.**  
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**LA JOLLA, \$1095.**  
Studio+1BA. Walk-in closet, on-site laundry, parking, garden area. Close to the Cove and Ocean! 1129 Torrey Pines Rd. #9. 619-804-3325.

**LA JOLLA, \$1650.**  
2BD+1.5BA 1071sqft. townhouse. Attached garage, washer/dryer hookups, patio, balcony, pools, garden-like. La Jolla Terrace. 858-597-0229 or 858-230-5555.

**LA JOLLA, \$1795.**  
2BD+2.5BA spacious townhome, La Jolla/UTC area. 2 master suites with private patio. Upgraded kitchen. A/C. 8148 Avenida Navidad. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

**LA JOLLA, \$1900.**  
2BD+2BA condo. Parking, two pools, club house, exercise room, available now. 858-722-6851.

**LA JOLLA, \$2395.**  
2BD+1BA roomy apartment. **Open house Saturday, 2/11, 2:30-3:30.** Charming La Jolla Shores garden complex, near Beach & Tennis Club. Hardwood floors, fireplace. 7850 El Paseo Grande #5. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

**MISSION BEACH, \$1295.**  
1BD+1BA. Parking, appliances, laundry on site. Fenced front and back patio, steps to beach. Across from Catamaran Hotel. 744 Santa Rita Place. 858-272-9547.

**MISSION BEACH, \$1795.**  
2BD+2BA apartment. Steps to beach! Garage space, open floor plan, deck. Fireplace, dishwasher, laundry. 735 Santa Clara Place. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

**MISSION BEACH.**  
\$249 & up motel weekly rates. Full kitchens, cable TV, furnished. Santa Clara Motel, 839 Santa Clara Place, San Diego, 92109. 858-488-1193.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1160.**  
1BD+1BA duplex, with patio yard. Parking and appliances. 5 blocks to beach! Great area! 4573 Cape May Ave. Pets OK! 619-224-4215.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1345.**  
2BD+2BA apartment in great building with views. Gated entrance and parking. Convenient location near Robb Field, beach and YMCA. No pets. 4457 Temecula at West Point Loma Boulevard. TPPM, 619-770-1959, www.torreypinespm.com.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1350.**  
2BD+1BA upstairs apartment. 2 blocks to beach! 4826 Santa Cruz. Call 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-962-9549.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1450.**  
2BD+1BA upstairs apartment. Brand-new building! Washer/dryer in unit, tiled and carpeted floors. New stainless steel appliances. All new amenities: 2729 Camulos. 858-270-4674; 619-224-0306.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1900.**  
3BD+2-1/2BA townhouse. 1-car garage plus 1 space, fireplace, patio, all appliances, water paid. No pets. Lease. Available now. 619-275-0176; 619-337-5159.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$960.**  
1BD+1BA apartment. \$200 off 1st month! \$500 deposit OAC. No application fee. Blocks to the beach! Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Includes water and trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651, 619-224-0759.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$980.**  
1BD+1BA upstairs apartment. Appliances, laundry. Near the beach! Pets OK. 4826 Santa Cruz. Call 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-962-9549.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1250.**  
1BD+1BA apartment. Upstairs. Appliances, on-site laundry. Hardwood tile floors. Close to bay, park and freeway access. Garage. 3724 Ingraham. 858-272-9547.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1025 & UP.**  
1BD+1BA apartment. Great values. Nice, convenient, multiple Pacific Beach locations. 1 bedrooms from \$1025. 2 bedrooms from \$1380. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck, parking, laundry. No pets. 858-483-3796.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.**  
1BD+1BA. Large apartment. New carpeting and new bath floor. Parking, laundry. Near bay. Near beach. No pets. Call Von, 619-846-2117.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.**  
1BD+1BA huge apartment. Garden courtyard, on-site laundry. Guaranteed parking, 2 cars. Beach 10 blocks; Vons/CVS 1 block. No pets. 6-month lease. 858-270-5914.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1150.**  
1BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available now. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1165.**  
1BD+1BA. Beautiful, newly remodeled apartment. Dishwasher, laundry, parking. Gated. Lovely courtyard, heated pool. Quiet. Cat friendly. One-year lease. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1175.**  
1BD. Large, upstairs, remodeled unit in North PB. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, parking, no pets. Available 2/10/12. 1552.5 Diamond Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1200.**  
1BD+1BA large apartment in Crown Point. Ideal location two blocks to Sail Bay. Private patio. Pool. Laundry, parking. 3773 Haines Street. TPPM, 858-333-1318, casariviera3777@gmail.com.

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# RENTALS REGION MAP

## BEACHES

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Pacific Beach • Point Loma

## DOWNTOWN

Balboa Park • Banker's Hill • Downtown  
East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy  
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights  
South Park • Stockton

## EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard  
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul  
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove  
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona  
Rancho San Diego • Santee  
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

## CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont  
College Area • Del Cerro • Grantville  
Kearny Mesa • Linda Vista • Mira Mesa  
Miramar • Mission Valley • San Carlos  
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

## NC COASTAL

Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar  
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

## OLD TOWN & UPTOWN

City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge  
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park  
Old Town • University Heights

## NC INLAND

Bonsall • Carmel Mountain • Escondido  
Fallbrook • Poway • Rancho Bernardo  
Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe  
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula  
Valley Center • Vista



## SOUTH BAY

Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado  
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa  
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

## SOUTHEAST SD

Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto  
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope  
Mountain View • Shelltown • Southcrest • Valencia Park



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# Brainstorms

by Don Rubin

## Moon type

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Derived from Roman capital letters, Moon type comprises only nine basic shapes, which are turned in various directions to denote the 26 letters of the alphabet.

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Can you decipher this message?

---



---



---



---

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Message: \_\_\_\_\_

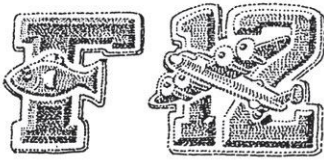
Please check *We are temporarily out of T-shirts. Winners will receive caps.*

Cap: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt: S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_

### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

#### High tech?

- |                            |   |                               |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1) I Owe U.                | 9) School of Fish   | 15) Rock 'n' Roll High School |
| 2) Rocky Mountain High     | 10) Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing                                      | 16) Twelve o'Clock High       |
| 3) Allstate (or All State) | 11) Charm School  |                               |
| 4) School of Hard Knocks   | 12) Welfare State   |                               |
| 5) College of Cardinals    | 13) Electoral College   |                               |
| 6) Solid State             | 14) Motion Picture Academy (or Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) |                               |
| 7) High Tech               |   |                               |
| 8) Dealer Prep             |   |                               |



( T O O N U / R / - O R )  
 ( C I N O S G O L O I - / U S S )  
 ( R R - O O S . . - O R L I N R / )  
 ( - R R L R O S R K A R A R A )  
 ( - O U O - A N A R I O S )  
 ( - R R L O - - O R O )  
 ( A L - R A N A - R L J . L I A R )  
 ( A R A N O L L A R > O )  
 ( R I R L S . . )  
 ( O R C O U S / R . R V R N A N )  
 ( O L A R A A L O - A O > O )  
 ( / O R R - R R / . . )

### 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](http://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 *Reader* 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 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: [Puzzles@sdreader.com](mailto:Puzzles@sdreader.com). Submissions

- by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
- 6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
  - 7) Late entries will not be considered.
  - 8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
  - 9) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

#### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

**Conway Redding, La Mesa,**  
**8.** *The occupational hazard of living is pain.*

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)



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**GRAND OPENING** in Escondido  
**BEAUTY SPA**

**\$10 off**  
 1/2 hour Massage with this ad.  
 Swedish • Deep Tissue  
 Table/Shower Available • Jacuzzi

242 W. Mission Avenue  
 Suite H, Escondido (Behind Burger King)  
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 Hablamos Espanol (License #167890)




**Oriental Chi Spa**

**\$20 off**  
 1-hr. massage  
**\$10 off**  
 1/2-hr. massage

• Therapeutic Jacuzzi  
 • Body Shampoo  
 • Stress Reduction & Relaxation

6786 University Ave.  
 (near SDSU)  
**619-265-8500**  
 Lic. #00012847

# OFF THE CUFF

BY  
ANDY BOYD

WHAT IS THE MOST USELESS, YET INTERESTING,  
FACT YOU'VE ALWAYS REMEMBERED?



**Geoffrey Keezer**  
Pianist, North Park

Mozart actually wrote a piece called "Leck Mich Im Arsch." Translates exactly to: "Lick me in the ass."



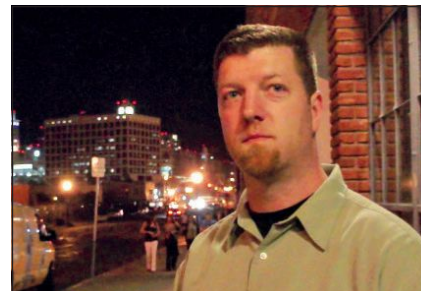
**Susan Wulff**  
Bassist for San Diego Symphony, North Park

The sea otter has the densest fur of any animal. One square inch of its fur has more hairs than the average human head.



**Tiffany Harper**  
X-Ray Technician, Pacific Beach

The fact that you're more likely to be mauled by a polar bear and a regular bear in the same day than you are to win the lottery.



**Kent Georgi**  
Organizer for All Things San Diego,  
Rancho Bernardo

Peter Pan and 101 Dalmatians are the only two Disney movies that feature both parents surviving the length of the film.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$1150.**  
2BD+1BA apartment. Quiet, picturesque building. Laundry, patio, beautiful street. No pets. 2449 A Street. 619-549-9542 or 858-278-6135.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$1150.**  
2BD+1BA. Laundry! Parking. Available now. 2472 B Street. www.AMGSD.com. 619-295-1165.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$850.**  
Spacious, large studio apartment in great neighborhood. Open floor plan. Laundry on-site. \$850. 2627 C St. innorevleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$875.**  
1BD+1BA. \$200 off 1st month rent (OAC). Renovated with patio, gated community, on-site laundry, assigned parking, close to parks, hospitals, restaurants and freeway exits. 2720 Broadway. Contact Elizabeth at 619-677-0026.

**GOLDEN HILL, \$900.**  
1BD+1BA, great upstairs corner unit. Gated property with laundry on site. Carpet and tile throughout. 2865 A St. innorevleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.

**GOLDEN HILLS, \$1895.**  
3BD+2BA 2-story home. New laminate floors, carpet, paint, electric stove, washer/dryer, backyard, patio, carport. Pet OK. 3840 Dove St. 619-804-3325.

**SOUTH PARK, \$700.**  
Studio apartment. Ceramic tile, coin-operated laundry, pets OK with additional deposit. Assigned parking. 3011 30th St. www.steveteeproperties.com. 619-295-5525.

**SOUTH PARK, \$950.**  
Large 1BD+1BA apartment. Hardwood flooring and tile. Stand-alone cottage in great neighborhood. Gated property under new management. 1917 30th St. innorevleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.

## East County

**EL CAJON, \$895 & UP.**  
2BD+1BA spacious apartments. \$899 Moves You In! Private patios. Great cul-de-sac location with controlled access, on-site parking and laundry.

Easy freeway access. 441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500, www.dominguezwayapts.com.

**EL CAJON, \$1210.**  
2BD+1BA, 1038 sqft. Private yard, deck, garage, fireplace. Water and trash included. Like new! 619-203-4695.

**EL CAJON, \$2650.**  
4BD+2BA house! 2154 sqft. in Fletcher Hills. Great location, 2-car garage. Large, open floor plan. Will not last! If

you can find one better... rent it! 255 Dewane Drive. Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

**EL CAJON, \$480-850.**  
Trailers. Gated community park. Each unit has a little yard. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-933-5189.

**EL CAJON, \$755-765.**  
1BD+1BA apartment. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. You will be proud to call Four Winds your home. Great manager, great service, great value. Rent today! No pets. 1072 E. Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-985-3900, www.fourwindsapts.info.

**EL CAJON, \$765.**  
1BD+1BA charming granny flat off Pepper Dr. Rent includes all utilities. Call 858-768-4333.

**EL CAJON, \$775 & UP.**  
1BD+1BA; and 2BD+1BA, \$915. Spacious apartments in beautiful property with sparkling pool. \$899 Moves You In! Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-990-5900, www.tradewindsapts.info.

**EL CAJON, \$775-795.**  
1BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722, www.palmtowers.com.

**EL CAJON, \$775.**  
1BD+1BA and 2BD+2BA, \$985. Call for Move-in special- half off first month's rent! Spacious apartments. \$400 deposit. Large kitchen. Pool, Jacuzzi, barbecue, on-site laundry. Off-street parking. Credit check. Section 8 OK. 619-440-5258.

**EL CAJON, \$800-900 & UP.**  
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA apartments. 1/2 off 2nd month OAC! Appliances, A/C, on-site laundry, off-street parking, pool, lush landscaping. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On-site manager: 619-715-8243 or 619-334-7934. If no answer, try 619-994-7392.

**EL CAJON, \$825-925.**  
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA. 1 month free! No application fee! A/C, shared BBQ/picnic area, on-site laundry, parking. Section 8 OK. 798 McClure Street #3, #12. 619-715-3865.

**EL CAJON, \$950.**  
2BD+1BA, large 900 sqft apartment with new carpet. Swimming pool, assigned parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and freeway. 619-444-1876.

**EL CAJON, \$950.**  
2BD+1BA apartments, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds with lots of open space, laundry on premises, parking. Near town, shops,

bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. 619-579-0174 or 619-464-1818.

**EL CAJON, \$975.**  
2BD+1BA. On-site parking and laundry. Close to all. Great location! If you can find one better... rent it! 890 Ballantyne. Call Jeff at 619-713-1044 or Rachael at 619-804-1044.

**EL CAJON, \$995.**  
2BD+1BA. Newly renovated, close to all. Clean, quiet complex. Pool, laundry, gated. Off-street parking. We pay water and trash. No pets. 619-312-0606.

**LA MESA, \$1075 & UP.**  
2BD+2BA apartment. Also, 1BD+1BA, \$850. Parking, pool, laundry on site. No pets. 5436 Vincetta Ct. Call manager, Sarka, 619-417-4964.

**LA MESA, \$1099.**  
2BD+2BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1399. Welcome to Mt. Helix! Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry, Garages, Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

**LA MESA, \$1099.**  
2BD+1BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1399. Espaciosos. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. 619-646-8670.

**LA MESA, \$1150.**  
2BD+2BA. Upgraded, beautiful apartment. New appliances, carpet, remodeled bathrooms, laundry. 4236 Parks Avenue. TPPM, 858-232-2232, www.torreypinespm.com.

**LA MESA, \$1350.**  
1BD+1BA house plus two large storage buildings. Private, gated yard and driveway. Hardwood floors, dual-paned windows, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, ceiling fans. Pets welcome. An oasis in the city. 619-463-1943.

## SERVICES

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FREE TABLE SHOWER & HOT TUB with 1 hr. massage

Japanese Combination Massage  
Swedish • Shiatsu • Deep Tissue  
Sports Massage

**Osaka Oriental Massage & Spa**

1845 Adams Ave.  
University Heights 5 min. from Mission Valley

Open daily 9:00am-10:30pm  
Major credit cards accepted.

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Lic #2010030762

**\$10 off 1 hr Massage**  
Saturday & Sunday  
Jacuzzi Shower  
Walk-ins Welcome

**Best Oriental Massage In Town!!!**

We invite you to experience one of the best massages by professional staff!!!

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829 S. Escondido Blvd., Corner of 9th & Escondido

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**\$20 OFF**  
1 hr. MASSAGE

• Deep Tissue • Table Shower  
• Swedish & All Types

**Holistic Health Clinic**

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**Grand Opening Special**

**Full Body Massage**

1 Hour **\$34<sup>99</sup>** reg. \$40

**Foot Massage** 1 Hour **\$19<sup>99</sup>**

**Free Table Shower after Services**  
Offers valid with this ad. Expires 3/01/12  
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We accept competitors coupons!

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**619-255-9990**

**Sasha Spa**  
ORIENTAL

**\$20 OFF**  
MASSAGE  
OUTDOOR JACUZZI  
STEAM THERAPY  
SHOWER TABLES

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3960 4TH AVENUE • SAN DIEGO

**Grand Opening**

**\$10 Off** with ad.  
any massage

**New Energy Massage**

3817 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92105  
Open 9 AM - 10 PM  
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**Little Italy**

**\$20 off**  
**1-Hr. Massage**  
**\$10 off 1/2 hr**

• Deep tissue • Table Shower  
• Swedish  
• Hong Kong Massage

Open 7 days 10 am-11 pm

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619-231-1917  
License #30672

**Wie Spa**

New Management - New Staff

**1 Massage Session \$60**

Includes: Steam Sauna, Table Shampoo, Jacuzzi.

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(across from CVS, next to Platt College)  
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**1-HOUR MASSAGE**  
(with coupon - Expires 3/15/12)

Come In & Experience  
The Most Relaxed Massage

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(Next to Arco Gas Station)



















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for New Patients

**\$20**  
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ANY Doctor!

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**EL CAJON**  
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El Cajon, CA 92021

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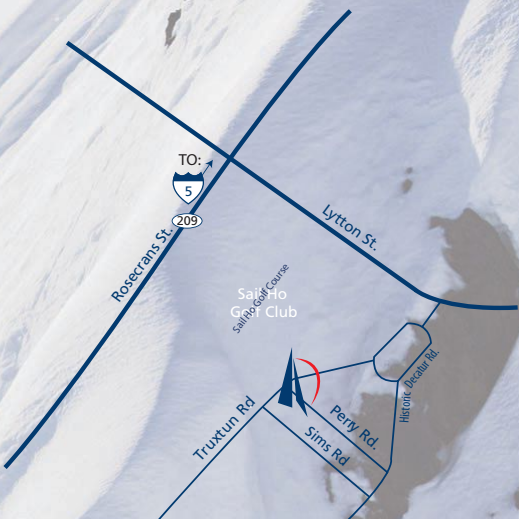
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