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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEWS &amp; FEATURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary of a Diva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight From the Hip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD on the QT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Diego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Buys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crasher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Card Counters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Brother of France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puzzle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudoku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off the Cuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brainstorms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News of the Weird</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALENDAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Getaways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Music</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADVERTISING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classified Ads</th>
<th>Classified Index</th>
<th>119</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Display Ads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Training</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Beauty</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help Wanted</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Solutions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals</td>
<td>108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Studies</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Getaways</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Jerry Brown’s gift horses
The true source of the bulk of a $15,000 contribution given to the 2014 reelection bid of Democratic governor Jerry Brown by the Thoroughbred Owners of California PAC has finally been revealed. As we reported earlier this year, the money was received by the Brown camp on February 3, a few days after the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, operator of the famous track, gave $5000 to Brown. The virtually simultaneous contributions came amid a reportedly fierce lobbying effort by the cities of Del Mar and Solana Beach regarding four upcoming Brown appointments to the board of the 22nd District Agricultural Association, which runs the fairgrounds. In addition, both cities had been angling to get the state to sell the fair-and-racing complex to them, an addition, both cities had been angling to get the

Advice to city council: don’t ask for it
Friday the 13th, and the date marks an anniversary that some political insiders say may signify bad news for transparency at San Diego’s city hall. It was one year ago tomorrow that the City’s Ethics Commission issued its most recent official conflict-of-interest advice letter to a city official. The historic missive went to Democratic city councilman David Alvarez regarding how he should conduct himself on the council light of some property he owned in the Dells Imperial district in Southeast San Diego. Alvarez had written to inquire whether his real estate would bar him from voting on a proposed redevelopment plan for the area. The short answer: “You may not, as a general rule, participate” in the vote, but if “the decision will impact your property interests in substantially the same manner that it impacts the ‘public generally,” then “you may lawfully participate in the decision.”

Since that day last April, no one at the City has seen a need to ask Ethics Commission staff for formal advice regarding potential conflicts of interest, confirms executive director Stacey Fullhorst. There was also a relative paucity of requests in 2010, with only 3 letters being issued, and just 2 in 2009. In 2008, a total of 8 letters went out, with titles including “Disqualification from Municipal Decisions Involving Spouse,” “Disqualification from Municipal Decision Based on Prior Employment,” and “Transferring Funds in 2004 Committee to 2008 Committee.”

In 2007, 7 letters were issued, and in 2006 there were 11. Peak demand came in 2003 and 2004, when 12 letters were dispatched each year. Fullhorst continued on page 45

Rigged Game
By Don Bauder
The truism goes back centuries: “Hee that lies with the dogs, riseth with fleas.” But ten years ago, Utility Consumers’ Action Network (ucan), the watchdog nonprofit attempting to dissolve while it is being investigated by the federal government, had not learned the lesson.

In 2001, a now-bankrupt company whose two officials later pleaded guilty to fraud, Best Windows and Doors, installed for free $20,000 of double-paned vinyl windows in Ucan’s then-new headquarters. The next year, the consumer group sent out a mailing to 31,000 members extolling the energy- and money-saving virtues of these windows but warning that companies selling them were often crooked.

Documents in my possession — verified by interviews with former and current ucan employees — show that the cost of the mailing was $32,965.71. Best Windows and Doors paid $27,403.71 of that mailing; the rest was paid by the consumer group. This means that Best Windows and Doors had advanced more than $47,000 in cash and services to Ucan. (The two employees who handled the mailing, Jordana “Jodi” Beebe a mailing to 31,000 members and 30,000 consumers extolling the energy- and money-saving virtues of these windows but warning that companies selling them were often crooked.

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continued on page 45
City Drains Owners’ Wallets
By Elizabeth Salaam

In March 2005, Darnell Johnson bought a one-bedroom condominium on a quiet, dead-end street in City Heights. He never imagined he’d be forced to fork out $50,000 to keep his home from falling into the canyon it overlooks. The erosion that jeopardizes his building is a problem for which he believes the City of San Diego is at least partially responsible.

The problem, Johnson says, begins with a curb inlet at the top of Lantana Drive. The inlet feeds into a City pipe that carries neighborhood water to a gully behind the complex. From the mouth of the pipe, the water flows down a steep hillside approximately 275 yards before it meets the concrete storm-water channel at the bottom of the canyon. The free-flow is cutting further and further into the bank behind and below one of the two buildings in the 14-unit condominium complex.

Back in January 2007, soon after the Condo Lantana homeowners association discovered that the 18-inch pipe lay in a City drainage easement, they sent a letter to their city council-member, Jim Madaffer.

“…based upon the fact that a permanent connection [between the drainpipe outlet and the concrete channel] has not been established,” the letter read, “excessive storm water breaches the Storm Drain Easement, causing significant erosion…[and] jeopardizing the structural integrity of the buildings…”

On February 27, 2007, Mark Hosford, the Public Works superintendent, responded to the association by way of a letter that read, “Based on the available information, our conclusion is, the storm drain pipe and 10’ of riprap is the City of San Diego’s responsibility to maintain. Anything outside this area is private and therefore the responsibility of the property owner. The erosion downstream of this system is the property owner’s responsibility to control.”

It was a letter that seemed to both accept and deny responsibility. And it worked. The homeowners took the doublespeak to mean they were on their own.

“We took this as being it,” Johnson says, holding up the letter from Hosford. “It’s an official letter…in response to our boardmember. So, after that, we’ve just been trying to save every dime that we can.”

The association decided their best option was to purchase, install, and bury a series of pipes that would guide the water all the way down to the storm-water channel — a project they believed the City had left unfinished. In the past five years, the city has not been responsible for its own maintenance. The association says the City had left the storm drain in its current state as a project they would fund on their own.

Darnell Johnson climbs out of the gully that threatens to undermine his City Heights condo.

Neal Obermeyer

There are several ways for parents to shield their children from objectionable television content.

Screaming Capabilities of TV for blocking specific channels

This channel has been blocked!

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DRAH!

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NORTH BAY VISTA

NEWS TICKER

Seismic Standards

Nuclear Station Faces Challenges on Multiple Fronts

San Onofre — Opponents of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in northern San Diego County are making noise on multiple fronts.

Yesterday, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility filed comments with the California Public Utilities Commission concerning a proposed ruling by administrative law judge Robert Barnett that concludes that seismic studies proposed by plant operator Southern California Edison “fulfill state regulatory objectives.”

The Alliance argues that the proposed ruling makes incorrect assumptions about the adequacy of the studies, particularly in light of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s enhanced seismic standards in the wake of Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

Ray Lutz, who as a member of Citizens Oversight Projects has been involved with numerous progressive movements of late, spoke on the numerous safety concerns being voiced about the plant.

“The problem here is that our elected officials have all taken money from Southern California Edison and SDG&E and Sempra Energy — massive amounts of money. The media takes money from these organizations as well; they advertise on all of your stations,” Lutz told the crowd of news cameras gathered on the coast near the power plant. “So, it’s hard to get the message out there sometimes about what’s going on….”

He went on to criticize the plant’s 14-foot seawall, stating that the maximum wave swell generated during Japan’s earthquake reached 133 feet in height.

By Dave Rice
Friday, April 6

Lincoln-Douglas Style

DeMaio Challenges Filner to Pension Debate

San Diego — Carl DeMaio has challenged Bob Filner to a “Lincoln-Douglas style debate on pension reform,” according to a San Diego Daily Transcript article posted to his website.

“I’m challenging [Filner] to a Lincoln-Douglas debate, man-to-man, one-on-one, to compare our reforms in Proposition B on how we save our city billions of dollars to whatever plan he wants to produce,” says DeMaio.

Filner, a Democrat, is the only one of four mayoral candidates (including Republicans DeMaio and Bonnie Dumanis and newly declared political independent Nathan Fletcher) to oppose Proposition B, which would block new city hires from receiving pensions, instead offering them 401(k) retirement plans.

According to DeMaio, the plan would save the city about $1 billion. Filner says the measure alone doesn’t guarantee any savings at all. The Voice of San Diego’s Fact Check Blog reports that there’s truth to both continued on page 47...
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Panorama Balloon Tours
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More Deals to Enjoy

Envious Skin $20 for $45 Brazilian wax
Kous Kous 50% off Moroccan bistro
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Sanfilippo’s $15 for $25 Italian cuisine
Stadium Car Wash and Detailing $8 for $20.99 full service hand car wash
Ranchos 50% off Mexican food

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LETTERS

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

Independent Blood-Suckers

Joe Deegan’s article (“Paul People,” Cover Story, April 5) on Ron Paul’s popularity with people discovering the Libertarian point of view as Dr./Rep. Paul shows the tunnel vision I think most people are guilty of: “single-facet thinking.” People who think they can take care of themselves and no one has to help them if they have no insurance — it’s their choice — choose to ignore the fact that we’ll all have to chip in for their care, without having them contributed to the pot. Such people suck the blood out of everyone else in the name of independence and think of themselves as credits to the nation.

Also, they think all the problems caused by human nature — self-interest — can be resolved immediately or within a lifetime or two? There is no way to produce a “fair” system. None! Everyone has their own idea of “fair,” and those who enter and succeed at political leadership find themselves having to go along to get along: hand washing; it’s the natural order of things. The people Deegan interviewed are, in my opinion, naïve. I had the solution to all the nation’s problems on a website for over ten years, with not a single email telling me to stuff it or plead for me to run for chief facilitator of planet earth. Not one!

I have been left with the only thing of intelligence to say about the failure of America to mature with experience: Tstagushin helphin!

Saul Harmon Gritz
via email

Stockton Loves Paul
Super-big thank you for the article on Saint Paul, from San Joaquin County for Liberty Stockton, Ca.

Sal
via email

Hidden In That Tea Bag
To the Paul People (“Paul People,” Cover Story, April 5):

I very much appreciate your bringing out into the open that the Tea Party is corporate and wants only no taxes on corporations and taxes to be spent on corporate war profiteers. I appreciate and support Ron Paul’s not wanting to participate in foreign aggressive wars of conquest completely and wish that he could be an independent candidate to challenge Obama’s foreign policy. And I appreciate his position if he believes in states having more power over domestic policy. But I don’t support a complete anarchist policy because that would ensure dictatorship by the corporations and be disaster for our environment as well as our working people. And I have heard that Ayn Rand needed government assistance at the end of her life in her old age. We are a stronger civilization when we participate together in a nonprofit way for health, education, environment, and peace.

Val Sanfilippo
via email

I Have The True Truth
This is a comment to the man who wrote about the Hindu religion (Letters, April 5) and the real truth is that they fall way short of Christianity and don’t care for nor like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christianity is the only true religion and is never superseded by any other religion, and unless you have Jesus and know Him you’ll always have peace. The Hindu religion forces us to worship graven images, and they do this every time the light is shed on them. They are enemies of our Lord God, which we only worship. In conclusion, the Hindu religion has a great deal to learn about Christians and Christianity.

Name Withheld
via email
San Diego Pro Football Player Shaun Phillips

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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012 5
For most of us, death is not a daily affair. Our brains have difficulty processing the idea of our own non-existence, and our hearts can’t stand considering the possibility of losing a loved one. Unless you’re one of those people who believe that some kind of Narnia (minus the White Witch) awaits you on the other side, death is an occurrence you’re not eagerly awaiting. I’ve yet to meet anyone not clinically depressed who enjoys dwelling on the inevitability of demise.

Nonetheless, when the Grim Reaper waves his scythe in your general vicinity, you can’t help but take notice and wonder about the day it will choose to sever your ties. If you haven’t been struck down by an aneurism (as was the fate of my beloved father), you can’t help but take notice and wonder about the day it will choose to sever your ties. If you haven’t been struck down by an aneurism (as was the fate of my beloved father), you need to get through securities and onto the plane.

A few days later, after my sister Jane and I spoke on the phone, having confirmed his death, the hospital called to say he was dead. “I just accept it,” Dad said. “With age might have a thing or two to tell us, Dad was first to speak. “This afternoon I need to stop by Make-a-Wish. I’m picking up some information on a kid we’re sending to Disney World. Apparently he’s going to require some help with all of the medical equipment he needs to get through security and onto the plane.”

“It just occurred to me that you deal with the whole death issue way more often than I do,” I said. “How do you cope?”

“I just accept it,” Dad said. “With the inevitability of demise, you’re not eagerly awaiting. I’ve yet to meet anyone not clinically depressed who enjoys dwelling on the inevitability of demise.”

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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012 7
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**STRAIGHT from the HIP**

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Hey Matt:
I had a dream that we had a giant earthquake and the entire coast was under tsunami warning. I had to drive to Point Loma and rescue my dog. We lived on Sunset Cliffs and started driving up Hill Street, with water lapping at my wheels. So, my question is this: is the top of Hill Street high enough away from a tsunami? And just what is the elevation from sea level to the top of Hill Street, anyway? Just want to be sure I have an exit strategy.
— MR, via email

Hill Street’s a pretty good exit strategy. It’s about 350 feet above sea level where it meets Catalina, way higher than any tsunami wave that has hit or is likely to hit San Diego’s coast. Tsunamis are generated by massive events such as huge coastal landslides, underwater volcanic activity, and earthquakes, especially those caused by subduction activity, one tectonic plate sliding over another. The Pacific “ring of fire” has all these risks, and we’re part of that ring. Far out at sea, tsunami swells are pretty much invisible, unlike wind waves.

Tsunamis are also a series of upwellings that might have a few minutes or an hour or more between the peak of each wave. They don’t break like wind waves but arrive on land like a huge wall of water, then spread inland. Tsunami waves can travel at hundreds of miles an hour. Risk from tsunami is not only the smash of each wave into buildings and the like, but also from the strong raking power of the wave as it recedes.

So what’s the deal with you and your pup? Well, after the devastating south Asia tsunami of 2004, the U.S. decided they were napping on the job and needed to reevaluate the Pacific coast’s risk. In 2009, state geologic agencies drew a line down the coast connecting points at 30-foot elevations and looked at geology and history to make a realistic assessment of human risk. About 350,000 coastal Californians could be affected by a tsunami, though none of the potential waves were predicted to be anywhere near 30 feet high at their peaks. The most vulnerable area on the coast is beleaguered Crescent City, so far north of us that, given a few more feet, it would be Oregon’s problem. Though other Pacific Rim countries have experienced tsunami swells of hundreds of feet, California is predicted to suffer, at worst (in Crescent City), waves in the low 20s. If the tsunami precursor is from the north, wave height will diminish as it heads south.

The old risk-assessment map predicted that Coronado could be completely inundated in a tsunami event. The post-2009 map shows that the worst-case scenario would have the city hit by 15- to 18-foot water walls — bad enough, I guess, considering how far inland the water would spill. Our biggest risk is from high-energy geologic activity in Alaska and the eastern Aleutians, though quakes as far away as Chile can affect us.

Hey Matt:
For the last while, I’ve been noticing a phenomenon regarding television commercials. They’re cutting each other off in record numbers. As an example, a car commercial will be cut right off by a drug store commercial and so on and so on. It happens instantaneously. Doesn’t matter which station or the time of day. Even saw this happen between a news station (being cut off) and the following upcoming scheduled program. Don’t they have technical resources in place to keep this from happening? I mentioned this to a friend the other day and she was amazed because she’s observed it too and wondered what the heck is going on. Any ideas?
— Observant Senior Citizen, Sent from my iPad

As usual, plenty of ideas. As usual, it’s human error. As automated as so much of radio and TV are these days, there’s still a human bean in midsystem available to screw something up. When TV shows are sent out to affiliates, complete with national commercials in them, there are spaces in the programs that are available to be filled by local advertisers. At the affiliate station, it’s a human’s job to insert the local commercials into the program stream flawlessly. Get the timing wrong and the local commercial can step on the feet of the preceding commercial. And even at the program’s origin, some semi-techie can mis-time the insertion of a national commercial’s beginning with the same result. I don’t know why there should be such a spate of timing problems recently. But, anyway, good observing, Senior Citizen.

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDreader.com/hip

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.
The attorneys and law firms who provide this information are solely responsible for its content. This information does not address all legal situations, nor is it intended to replace legal counsel. It is provided free, although if calling from outlying areas you may incur toll charges on your telephone bill.
City Orders Removal of Quetzalcoatl Mural from Balboa Park’s Centro Cultural de la Raza

Office of Parks and Recreation Rules that Mural of Feathered Snake God and Fertility Goddess Violates California Constitution’s No Preference Clause

“The jury’s still out on the Egyptian gods on the side of the World Beat Center.”

It started with the Surfing Madonna mosaic. After the San Diego office of state parks denied a request by the City of Encinitas to place the 10’ by 10’ piece on state land at the entrance to Moonlight Beach, San Diego’s own parks authority apparently began fretting about other religious displays on public land. And yesterday, parks commissioner Martin Measely’s beady little gaze landed on a particular mural adorning the Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park.

“At first glance, all you notice are the woman’s strangely nipple-free breasts,” wheezed Measely in an extremely uncomfortable statement to the press yesterday afternoon. “But once you’ve studied the mural, it becomes clear that the woman’s nether regions are encircled by a rattlesnake tail — a rattlesnake tail covered in feathers. This is a clear reference to the ‘feathered serpent’ Quetzalcoatl, worshipped for centuries in Central and South America. Indeed, analysis of Teotihuacan iconography shows that the feathered serpent was part of a triad of agricultural deities: the Goddess of the Cave symbolizing motherhood, reproduction, and life; Tlaloc, god of rain, lightning, and thunder; and the feathered serpent, god of vegetational renewal.”

Measely nervously cleared his throat and continued. “Today, of course, the majority of Mexican types revere the woman depicted on the Surfing Madonna mosaic. But ‘No Preference’ means ‘No Preference,’ and it would be wrong to give the Goddess of the Cave and her serpentine partner a pass just because they’ve fallen out of religious fashion.”

Anonymous Takes Credit for Lifted Lorax Statue

La Jolla — Authorities made a breakthrough today in their search for the thieves who stole the Lorax statue from in front of Dr. Seuss widow Audrey Geisel’s luxurious oceanfront home.

“Whoever took the statue left a weird sort of platform behind in its place,” explained La Jolla police detective Wilberforce Throckmorton. “One of the platform’s stones was marked with the word ‘unless,’ and upon further inspection, it was revealed that this stone was in fact hollow and made from cast concrete. Inside, we found a note which gives us our first real understanding of the motivation behind this heinous crime.”

SD on the QT has obtained a copy of the note and is happy to bring its readers an exclusive peek into this ongoing investigation:

We are Anonymous, you stupid old get
We do not forgive and we do not forget
And we sure as hell do not stand idly by
While you make all your husband’s admirers cry.

Dr. Seuss was a genius, but you are a troll
Did we steal a statue? What about what you stole?

His honor, integrity — dignity, too
A bright, shining legacy, covered in poo.

The Lorax made children aware of the earth
Its beautiful, fragile, intrinsic worth
But you sold it out for a CGI flick
That made saving trees just a gift for a chick.

Horton, the Grinch, and the Cat in the Hat
We let them all slide, and we regret that
But the Lorax? His masterpiece? We’re sorry, but no
We’re calling a stop to this big sellout show.

We speak for the Lorax, who spoke for the trees
Unless you wise up, and we doubt that you will
Your chances of seeing this Lorax are nil.

SDSU “Retires” Zuma Mascot

“Kid-Friendly” Jaguar Mascot Has Still-Beating Heart Pulled from Chest and Eaten by Official Mascot Aztec Warrior, and Is Then Flayed and Skinned, His Bones and Flesh Left for the Vultures, His Skin Spread Out as Sideline Resting Place for the Feet of Exalted High Coach Steve Fisher.

Fisher: “Someone had to take the blame for the tourney loss to N.C. State.”

N-Cups

In Wake of Shutdown, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Installs Radiation-Resistant Covers on Containment Vessels

SONGS plant manager: “As the station ages, of course, some parts are going to require a little additional support.”

Anonymous Takes Credit for Lifted Lorax Statue

SD on the QT

Almost factual news

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— Debra H.
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**POST TITLE:** Sandra Bullock and Jesse…Now What?
**POST DATE:** April 6, 2010
Every relationship is a dance with both people whirling around the dance floor together. In other words, both Sandra and James co-created their relationship; therefore, both of them are responsible for what happened…. I’m not saying that Sandra is responsible for his choosing to sashay out with however many tattooed, um, ladies he made it with. Of course she isn’t. But she is responsible for her half of the relationship dance. The dance that created the conditions that allowed this to happen.

So if I were sitting with Sandra over a cup of tea, or better still a beer at Shultz’s in Austin, here’s what I would say: ‘You are not the victim so many people think you are. ‘Poor Sandra…look what that louse did to her.’ I don’t believe that, and if you believe it and stand on your self-righteous soapbox railing about how you were done to, you will not use this great opportunity to move forward. On some level, you needed the upheaval. You needed to shake things up so that ultimately you could find a higher spiritual and emotional level of living.”

---

**POST TITLE:** Tiger Woods…from Tiger’s perspective.
**POST DATE:** April 13, 2010
Because Tiger was so blatant (another word might be “stupid”) in his dalliances, I’ve wondered if he might not have wanted to get caught. Why? Because some kind of change was needed.

Another thought, perhaps on some level, the unreality of his goody two-shoes image weighed on him.

I don’t know if he was pushed too hard by his father from a very early age, and whether that might have played a part in all of this as well. You know, by tarnishing his well-oiled image (the Tiger his dad wanted him to be) he could get back at Daddy.

Tiger went to rehab, allegedly for a sex addiction. Addictions are used to cover up pain…. If we scratch [the] surface, we will find lost souls who are making incredibly painful choices in order to learn valuable life lessons; lessons that would enable them to move to a higher, more conscious, more joyful level of living.

---

**POST TITLE:** Al & Tipper: Did They Fail?
**POST DATE:** June 5, 2010
Who knows about the Gores? Maybe after 40 years, their marriage, like mine, had simply run its course. Perhaps they needed to grow in ways that their marriage couldn’t accommodate. Maybe it was just time to experience new and different things, to find fulfillment in other ways, and perhaps, like my ex and I, they will find another form for their relationship that suits the people they have become, not the people they once were. A form that will nurture them as their marriage once did…deep friendship, supportive companions, or people who don’t even see each other, but still carry each other in their hearts. It takes courage to call it quits after so long and kudos to them for having the strength to do it in the way that they have — by talking it through, maturely, mindfully, and coming to a mutual decision.

---

**POST TITLE:** Arnold: Thinking with the little head.
**POST DATE:** May 18, 2011
I would say poor Maria, but I can’t because I believe that whatever happened, she will be all the better for it.

Seems to me, she gave up a lot for him. I doubt she ever wanted to be the California governor’s little wifey when she had a great career of her own, which presumably she really enjoyed.

Maria is not a victim. I wonder how long she ignored her gut…. Then again, she comes from a family famous for looking the other way. Remember Jackie? Yes, Arnold betrayed Maria. But did Maria betray herself? And is the self-betrayal her contribution to what happened? Just throwing the question out there… It’s up to her to answer it. And I’m quite sure she will. This is not a woman who will just sit around and cry.

[Posts edited for length.]
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---Stanley Kunitz

**From the first chapter:**

Judith Moore called me in the early spring of 1995 while I was living temporarily in Laguna Beach, CA, and teaching at UC Irvine for a semester. Judith was familiar with my poems and from some of them deduced I’d grown up on a dairy farm. She wanted me to write an article for the *San Diego Reader*, a weekly newspaper, on one of the last remaining dairymen in San Diego County, a man named Pete Verboom. He lived in Pauma Valley, only about forty to fifty miles from Laguna, but an entirely different world.

She said the article had to be at least 6,000 words long. Then she said something I hadn’t heard before in my writing life: the *Reader* would pay me $3,000.

I’d published six full-length books of poetry by then, four of them with a major house, and I’d made maybe twice that much money from their combined royalties. I said to Judith: “Sure.” To myself I said: “How hard can this be?”

**Thomas Lux** was born in December 1946.

He has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and three times from the NEA. He received the Kingsley Tufts Award for his book *Split Horizon*.

His most recent collection of poems is *God Particles* (Houghton Mifflin, 2008) and Houghton Mifflin will publish *Child Made of Sand* in 2012.

Lux is Bourne Professor of Poetry and Director of the McEver Visiting Writers Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is a frequent visitor to the MFA programs at Sarah Lawrence College and Warren Wilson College. He lives in Atlanta.

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**Sports Inflation Comes Home**

**That’s nuts.** I’m on the phone with an old friend in Phoenix. We’ve been talking about her son who’s playing junior varsity baseball at a suburban high school. He wants to get (have Mom buy), a Rawlings Primo baseball glove. Four hundred bucks. What he really wants is an Albert Pujols custom glove, but, so far, Mom has been able to hold a defensive perimeter.

Mom has had to buy a practice jersey and two baseball caps. Throw another 75 bucks at the school district for their wonderfully named “participation fee.” Then, the kid has to buy his own bat. You could trot out and drop $450+ on the 2012 Demarini CF5 bat. Or, if you want to diminish your son in the eyes of his cohorts, you could buy your male heir an ordinary DeMarini 2012 Voodoo bat for $190. Then, baseball shoes, cleats, pants, jerseys, batting gloves, bags, athletic supporter, socks, pom-poms, and Jamaican weed.

These prices are more shocking to me than the sports gear obscenely rich people buy for their Big 3 sports, to wit: yachting, Formula 1, and thoroughbred horse racing. However many millions you have, you can leave it all with the hard-working tradesmen those industries provide.

Got a hankering to sharpen your pool game? Then pony up for a Luxury Billiard Table starting at $177,000. Luxury has a world of choices. There is the Noblesse, “Legs and ornaments gilt with golden leaves, plain 18-carat gold diamonds.” Too glitzy? How about the Majesté with platinum leaves, or better, order a custom model. Every Luxury Billiard Table has a billiard triangle built in. One ever-so-slight push on a discreet button and your triangle slides out with the same ease as the CD player in your $2,400,000 Bugatti Veyron Super Sports coupe. Rack ‘em!

Don’t like billiards but want something to do in the entertainment wing? Why not Foosball!! *Feel the power!* The Eleven Forty Company brings you Opus, a $28,000 stunner built by hand, with etched glass, finished in stainless steel, oak, ash, mahogany, walnut, and, most spectacular of all, the one feature that tells you it’s all right to spend $28,000 on a game you’ll never play, *on-field-lighting!* So, play on, Sports, no worries if a rioting mob cuts power to your chateau.


The rich are burdened with too many choices and too much money. To the rest of us, in our little worlds, buying sports equipment (particularly if it’s for your kids and you’ve been out of the game for a while) is maximum sticker shock.

Just as baseball games have gone from dirt cheap to rent money and NFL tickets have gone from...here’s an example. There is an index called the Fan Cost Index (FCI). Said index measures the average cost for a family of four to attend a sporting event. The cost is measured by adding the price of four average-priced tickets, two draft beers, four soft drinks, four hot dogs, two caps, two programs, and parking for one vehicle. The FCI for the San Diego Chargers in 1991 was $197. In 2009 it was $767, a 163 percent increase.

Where the NFL leads, the Sports-Industrial Complex follows. A top-end carbon-fiber bicycle can go for $15,000+. A good bike, standard production model, $800. A top-end kayak, Trak 1600, goes for $6000. A good (used), freshwater fiberglass kayak can be acquired for $1500.

Cowboys and indians. Bows and arrows. A quality compound bow and accessories — say, the Quest Bowhunting Outdoors Primal Compound Bow Package, goes for $900. It’s got a G5 Rock four-pin sight, Whisker Biscuit QS arrowrest and peep. And free shipping.

With more and more public schools dropping more sports and expecting/asking/demanding parents pick up more of the cost of sports programs they do keep, parents will do well to shop carefully.

Which will be a challenge. All the high-tech gizmos that used to be the domain of professional and elite athletes, all that stuff is now available to your wretched child who won’t pick up his room. Then, there are the parasite industries attached to each sport. Each sport has its own sports clothing. Within sports clothing industries attached to each sport. Each sport has its own sports organizations, training facilities, specialized training equipment, camps, magazines, vitamins, and drinks. Not to overlook the cost of summer teams, travel teams, away tournaments, doctors, private coaches, nutrition...
When I hear the word ‘tots,’ I think of Napoleon — Dynamite, that is, not Bonaparte. Bully kid: “Napoleon, give me some of your tots.”

Napoleon Dynamite: “No! Go find your own!”

Napoleon understood that tater tots are precious pearls not to be thrown away to swine or school bullies. But are all tots created equal? That’s the question burning in the souls of my teenage boys who regularly channel the spirit of Dynamite.

I sat husband Patrick down for some potato-tot goodness to answer the tot-equality question. The teenage boys flew in like vultures after the testing.

We started with the low-price leaders. Great Value Taters ($1.97 for 32 ounces at Walmart) had too much salt. Market Pantry Potato Puffs ($1.97 for 32 ounces at Target) fared better. “I bite into it and get a sense that I am eating a potato dish rather than potato tots. A nice balance between soft and crunchy, steamy inside...”

As Patrick continued to opine, I dished him a plate of Trader Joe’s Potato Tots ($2.29 for 32 ounces). It was another keeper. “I have no complaints with this — nice crunchy crust on the outside that gives way to a soft inside that tastes of chunks of potatoes, not homogeneous goo.”

365 Organic Tater Puffs ($2.69 for 16 ounces at Whole Foods) were bland. “Tastes like the school-cafeteria tater tots. The crust is disappointing, chewy instead of crunchy.”

Albertson’s Potato Rounds ($3.99 for 32 ounces): “The outside of this tot reminds me of a breaded fish stick, not a potato tot.”

365 Tater Puffs ($2.99 for 32 ounces at Whole Foods) suffered in the breading department as well. “Another fish-stick feeling, and bits of this crust are crunchy but other large parts are not. Most of the crust is thin and insipid and the inside is mushy. It’s like the difference between real mashed potatoes and boxed potato buds. With the former you taste chunks of potato, there’s some chew. With the latter, it’s just homogenous potato mush.”

Open Nature Tater Puffs ($3.79 for 32 ounces at Vons) touted its 100 percent natural quality. “No disodium dihydrogen pyrophosphate,” I read.

“Well, thank goodness for that. What the heck is disodium dihydrogen pyrophosphate?” Patrick laughed. “The crust doesn’t stand up to the fork. You touch it, and it falls apart on the plate. But my biggest complaint is something that doesn’t taste like potatoes.”

“This is what my mind pictures when I think tots,” I said, eyeing the package of Ore-Ida Tater Tots ($3.99 for 32 ounces at Ralphs).

“It’s funny how you become a snob after you taste a bunch of these,” laughed Patrick. “The inside on these is pasty and the crust is thin and forgettable.”

Ore-Ida Crispy Crowns ($2.99 for 30 ounces at Target) were shaped like little discs. “These are all crust, not enough filling,” Patrick complained. “The flat, skinny shape makes for too low an inside-to-crust ratio. And what there is of the inside tastes like school paste.”

Ore-Ida Extra Crispy Tater Tots ($3.99 for 28 ounces at Ralphs) also suffered from the fishstick effect. “The inside is too mushy. I would never have guessed these were the ‘extra crispy’ variety. There were others that had a crispier crust.”

Ralph’s Tater Bites ($2.49 for 32 ounces) didn’t pass the taste test. “My first thought is ‘salty.’ I would like the outer crust to be more substantial than this.”

Its flat cousin, Ralph’s Tater Rounds ($2.49 for 30 ounces), was also a loser. “With these flat, disc-shaped taters, your mouth doesn’t get to spend enough time with the filling. The essence of tater tot-ness is the balance between crust and steamy insides,” said Patrick. “And they’re awfully greasy.”

Cascadian Farms Spud Puppies — love the name — ($3.49 for 16 ounces at Sprouts) had the lightest color of the tasting. “Nice potato-ey flavor on the inside,” offered Patrick. “These are passable.”

We hit another winner with Safeway Tater Treats ($2.29 for 32 ounces at Vons). “This has the contrasting textures you are looking for — crunchy crust and steamy, slightly chunky inside. It’s close to tot perfection.”

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Feeling down??

Featuring Jesse DeSoto from “Dancing With The Stars”

by Chad Deal

Last November, I wandered into the Ruby Room in Hillcrest on a Tuesday evening and had an instant oh-shit moment. Oh shit, I remember thinking when I heard the free-jazz trio onstage shift seamlessly between Röyksopp’s “Remind Me” and a Nirvana cover amid frenzied, improvised jams carried by percussion that often lapsed into volleys of electronic-beats.

As the band went from Afrojazziacs, local keyboard luminaries Joshua White, and saxophonist Ian Tordella’s CD release at Glashaus in Barrio Logan.

“I think the video is more important than music these days,” Kris says. “A great music video with an emphasis on the video is such a great thing. When music videos first came out, it was this cliché shit. It got put in this box. So we’re trying to break out of that. We’re trying to figure out a way to make the things that we’re doing accessible. No matter how weird we play, as long as we keep it in this viable format, it’s okay.”

“I want to set a new standard for San Diego.”

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The birthday girl and her guy

Lou exhibiting textbook Nasty Face

San Diego Reader
April 12, 2012
Nate is unassuming. He has brown hair and an average build. He wears khakis and collared three-button shirts. He isn’t flashy. He makes Christian jokes. For instance: “We should just have barcodes tattooed on our foreheads that can be scanned during offering.” He giggles over this. So does his wife. He doesn’t appear to be the kind of guy who would sweat it out at a blackjack table.

Nate joined a Christian card-counting team in 2009, after being approached by a couple who attended his church. Nate’s wife, Faith, was pregnant at the time. He had just been let go from his job as a math teacher at a small local Christian college. His toddler was sick, they weren’t sure with what. It started with high fevers, followed by seizures; the doctors mentioned cancer. On top of that, Nate was in charge of overseeing a new church plant in the SDSU area. (“Planting” involves overseeing the operations of a sister church and making sure it grows in the community.) It was a full-time job that he wasn’t paid to do. He was broke and rattled by his responsibilities.

Shirley and Will, a couple who hosted Bible classes for newly married church members in their home, invited Nate to join the team. “It was pretty shocking. It wasn’t something I was even going to consider.”

Nate had always thought about gambling in a casual, recreational way. He’d played cards with his brothers and attended poker nights but had never gambled in a casino. He hadn’t even played a slot machine. The way he saw it, the house had the advantage, so why bother wasting his money.

“I have always seen gambling as a tax for people that are bad at math.” Nate laughs.

He admits that while the idea of becoming a professional card counter seemed ridiculous, there was something compelling about it.

“I like games and I like problem solving, so the math part of card counting appealed to me. The fact that, in this instance, the house didn’t have the advantage was an interesting concept.”

Nate and Faith began to seriously consider the proposition, and, slowly, Nate allowed himself to believe card counting could be a
viable source of income for his family. According to Shirley, once on the team, Nate would only have to play 40 hours a month. He would get paid hourly, and he would be gambling with investors’ money, never his own. He could foreseeably make much more working part time than he’d made at his previous, full-time job. More importantly, Nate’s time would be freed up to focus on planting the new church. The plan seemed perfect, smart even.

“We were in a financial place where it seemed a risk might make sense,” says Nate. “Faith thought it was really cool, so she was more of a driving force behind joining.”

Adds Faith, “Well, I mean, who does that? Who spends time in casinos and loves Jesus? Casinos are raping people for money, and we could be a part of taking a little bit back. The fact that the team was made up of people who love Jesus and are in ministry was such a cool thing.”

Before making an official decision to join the team, Faith and Nate ran it past the pastor of their church and the Bible study group they lead in their home.

“Most people were supportive,” Nate says. “There was one couple in our group that was uncomfortable with the idea. It was mostly the wife. She had a problem with the deceit. We talked it out as a community, and I agreed that I would never take trips alone to Vegas. I would always have a spotter, and I wouldn’t pretend to be someone I wasn’t. I would go into it with integrity and honesty.”

Before being considered for the team, Shirley, who was a member and an investor for the team, had to vouch for Nate. “The reason the team worked,” Shirley tells me, “is because we all had accountability to Jesus. We could be trusted with large amounts of money, because we answer to a higher power. We weren’t about to steal from our team. When I recommended Nate, if he [later] proved to be untrustworthy or unethical, I would be off the team. I didn’t recommend him lightly.”

Adds Nate, “Colin and Ben, the team managers, wanted to know why they should trust me. Shirley told them that if anything happened to her or Will, Faith and I would be in charge of their children. That was good enough. If they trusted me with their children then I could be trusted.
Shirley had joined the team for the thrill. Card counting was not her family’s only source of income.

“It was a very unique and elite job,” she says. “A very, very small population of the world can say, ‘I was a professional card counter.’ And I am one of those people.”

The event that began Shirley’s card-counting career was a conference that her church put on. Her husband met two men, a worship leader and a pastor. They mentioned that, while in San Diego, they planned to spend some time working in the Indian casinos. By working, they did not mean handing out Bibles to gambling addicts. They would be playing blackjack. The guys told Will about the team and how they were managing close to $100,000 weekly. Will was intrigued. He loved the concept. He immediately thought of his wife, who was a stay-at-home mom. He was convinced that Shirley would be a perfect fit for the team. He knew she would love the idea. Within minutes, he had her on the phone with one of the card counters. By the time she hung up, Shirley had convinced them to meet her and Will the next morning to discuss allowing her onto the team.

“I thought the whole idea was amazing,” says Shirley. “We loved the concept of the team and the fact that it was funding people that were pastors and in ministry. I liked that the team allowed them a full source of income to provide for their families and their ministries.”

They met at a Denny’s in a seedy part of El Cajon. The card counters explained to Shirley exactly what they did in casinos, and how they went about doing it. They received an hourly wage that was not based on winnings but the type of blackjack they played. If they played so-called “hit” blackjack, they would get paid more than playing the “stand” version. If they could buy insurance on their hand, they might make up to $250 an hour. They would have to meticulously keep track of everything, hours played, and all their winnings and losings. They had to pace themselves, and only get a few hours in at each casino, so that the pit bosses and security wouldn’t catch on that they were card counters.
One of the counters brought a deck of cards. They got down to the technical side of how it worked.

“Right there at the table, they showed me how it was done,” Shirley says. “They showed me the schematic of the deviations. It was like I had unlocked the key to a puzzle that other people were clueless about.”

The next night, the guys came over after a long night of playing at Barona Casino. One of them told Shirley that he needed to count and record his money.

“He whipped out several wads of hundred-dollar bills. I mean there was over $100,000 there. I had never seen that much money. Now, it’s no big deal because I have had that much money on me. But, back then, I was, like, ‘Oh, my goodness, is this really happening?’ It was very powerful. I was in shock.”

Shirley and Will discussed the idea with the leadership at their church.

“They were on board. It didn’t come as a surprise to them. They knew about the team. Our pastor knew several other pastors that were in on it already. We didn’t tell many people that I was joining.”

In order to land a spot on the team Shirley and Will had to fly up to Seattle to convince the team founders that she was a good fit. Shirley is used to getting her way. She is beautiful, brunette, and leggy. When she walks into a room everyone notices. No is not a word she hears often. The guys agreed to give Shirley a chance. It helped that she became an investor.

They gave her $2000 in practice money to get started.

“Quite frankly, they could’ve given a rip about that $2000. It was like play money to them. You have to understand that at that point the team was in a place where they were really flourishing.”

Shirley would need a minimum of 60 hours’ worth of training in

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casinos. She’d also need to memorize deviation charts before flying back to Seattle to attempt to test onto the team. Testing was a four-day process that involved 12-hour days at Seattle casinos, where the team founders watched Shirley in action. She had to be perfect — or close to it — in order for them to accept her on the team.

“She had to be perfect in her 60 hours of training. When she flew to Seattle to test out, it was the first time she had ever been away from her children for that long. The first step in the process was counting cards at the blackjack table in Ben’s basement. That was the easy part; it only took an hour. Next, Shirley had to card count in a Seattle casino setting, while Ben and Colin watched, keeping track and making sure that her count and deviations were correct every time.

“They were talking to me, trying to confuse me. We were at a table full of people, and they wanted me to hold the table and take control of it. I would spend six hours working with Colin, and then four with Ben, and the same thing the next day. It was crazy. They were very serious about it. This was a job. This wasn’t some sort of hobby. We were playing with other people’s money.”

By Day Two of casino testing, Shirley had what she refers to as a mental breakdown. She wasn’t perfect, and in order to make the team, she had to be. Shirley thought about all the time and effort she had put into attempting to make the team. Failure was not an option. Yet she was making mistakes she had never made before. Part of it was nerves, the pressure of being in a testing environment. After day two, she made a tearful phone call to her husband, who was watching the kids back in San Diego.

“I was hysterical. I’m not a crier, but I was sobbing. It ended up being a really great gospel moment. Will said...”

“We were rushing to the airport to make my flight, and I had $60,000 sitting on my lap. It was crazy.”
to me: ‘It is done. Jesus said, It is done. When my Father sees you, he sees me in your place. He sees you as perfect. You don’t need to prove yourself to those guys. You don’t need to prove yourself to anyone.’”

Shirley says it was one of the defining moments of her life.

“It was transforming in my spiritual relationship with God. It highlighted that my identity is not wrapped up in what I can do. It’s wrapped up in Christ. He has performed anyone.’

I need to prove myself to those guys. You don’t need to prove yourself to me the day before, ‘Just so you know, you will not make the team. You’re done.’ Well, I started practicing with them again, and I killed it. I started practicing with the team. You’re done.’ Well, I started practicing with them again, and I killed it.

I felt like a new woman. I had to play, and I said, ‘I actually got up from the table to take cell phone calls. I pissed off everyone around me. They wanted to make sure that, if she lost count, she could make the table pause so she could recover and get it back.

‘I put it?’ she frantically asked Colin. ‘What am I supposed to do with all of this money? Where do I put it?’ she frantically asked Colin.

‘Shove it in your pants,’ he told her.

When Shirley got back to Ben’s house to resume playing. They had to wait for me off everyone around me. I pissed off everyone around me. I had to play, and I said, ‘I actually got up from the table to take cell phone calls. I pissed off everyone around me. They wanted to make sure that, if she lost count, she could make the table pause so she could recover and get it back.

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to the airport that night she was literally shoving money down her pants and into the sleeves of her shirt.

"I was so nervous. After that night, I had a system. I would wear baggy clothes on my Vegas flights. Some of our players have been met by FBI agents at the airport, when the amount of money they were carrying on them has been discovered. I didn’t want to ever go through that headache."

Nate’s first attempt at testing onto the team was a failure. He had only done 40 hours of training.

"The guys told me that no one had ever tested onto the team after only 40 hours, but that if I thought I could do it, I should try. So I flew out to Seattle. I thought I would make it. I have always been the kind of person who, as long as I work at something really hard, I can do it."

"It was an emergency need," adds Faith. "We had a mortgage payment, our third baby had just been born, and our son was very sick. We needed the money."

When he didn’t make it the first time, Faith and Nate were disappointed. But Nate was confident that with more training he could do it. His goal was to do 120 hours and attempt to make the team again. He mostly played at Barona and Viejas.

Nate says that he practiced at Viejas so much that he got to know some of the regulars.

"There was this old man who was always waiting for his girlfriend to get back from shopping. He said she was at the outlets and would be back any minute now. He was there every day, and he was always telling people that same story. I never saw his girlfriend. Then there were all the people with their oxygen tanks. They’d come in waiting for his girlfriend to get back from shopping."

While getting training time in at Barona, sometimes Nate’s family would stay in a suite. While he worked, Faith

On Mark’s first trip to Vegas, he made $60,000.

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would take the kids to the pool for the day.
Nate laughs. “Sometimes, we would walk through the casino with the kids, and Faith would point to a blackjack table and say, ‘Look, that’s where Daddy works.’”

***

The weekend after Shirley made the team, her husband attended a pastor’s conference in Las Vegas. She went with him. A couple of Shirley’s teammates, who were pastors, were also there.

“They hooked all of us up with phenomenal suites from comps they had received from the casinos. In one day, we charged over $500 worth of decadent food. We had filet mignon and lobster. We didn’t have to pay for any of it.”

One of the greatest perks of being a professional card counter was the comps. When guests walk into a casino and begin playing $2000 hands, the pit bosses do anything they can to get them to stick around.

A casino figures that high rollers always lose, and the house stands to make a hefty amount of cash off them. The major players get limo service, free food, beverages, and 2000-square-foot suites — basically, anything to accommodate them.

With the exception of her teammates and husband, no one else at the conference knew Shirley was a card counter. That weekend, she totaled 26

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hours of casino play. “I was on probation. They had let me on the team despite making an error on an ace deviation while I was testing out. My punishment was 40 hours’ probation, playing at a lower hourly rate. I wanted to get that out of the way. I didn’t play any of the big casinos. Only the seasoned players are allowed to play those. I had to have 80 hours in before I could do that. I played at a lower spread, $500 or $1000 a hand. I was only making $80–$100 per hour.”

Shirley says that card counting was a huge adrenaline rush. After a few months on the team, when she started getting really good, Shirley began to draw crowds.

“I was playing with such large sums of money that people couldn’t help but watch. Crowds would gather around my table. They would literally have to call security to push people back. It was awesome.”

The most Shirley won in the shortest amount of time was $35,000 in 30 minutes. It was at the Red Rock Casino, just off The Strip.

“As I was sitting there waiting for my money, the casino manager walked past me. He never stopped. He just whispered behind me, ‘You’re done.’ He knew I was a card counter.”

* * *

Nate wasn’t on the team long when he realized that blackjack was not the easy paycheck he’d signed up for.

“If I lived in Seattle, where a lot of other team members were, it would have been an easier job. They have tons of casinos out there. It was hard in San Diego. My philosophy was to try to go in and do a 30–45 minute session. I would have to drive all the way up to Viejas, Barona, or Harrah’s, and only be able to play a tiny bit. I would try to win and get out before I was kicked out for card counting. Because of this, I ended up doing a Vegas trip, sometimes twice a month, depending on the comps I was getting there.”

On Nate’s first trip to Vegas, he made $60,000. “At the time, I didn’t realize it was an anomaly to win that much. I thought it would always be that way. I can remember a point halfway through my blackjack career, saying to Faith, ‘I just need to get to Vegas. In Vegas I’ll win.’”

The 40 easy hours per month that Nate was counting on, in order to free up time for his church planting and his family, turned into two weekends each month spent away from home. In order to play, he had to go to destinations like
Reno, Kansas City, or Vegas. When he started getting really good, casinos began to catch on. Pit bosses and security would figure out that he was counting cards, and they would "back him off," come to his table and ask him to leave. Sometimes, he would be "trespassed," which meant that if he were ever seen at that casino again, he could be arrested. Some casinos even went so far as to produce a flier with Nate’s face on it to alert their competition that he was a card counter.

“One, at Barona, I was down $12,000, and they told me my play was too good for them. It was frustrating. Sometimes, I would fly somewhere for the weekend, and they would back me off after only 30 minutes. My entire weekend would be wasted.”

Nate says that being on the team was a lot like the way the film 21 portrayed a card-counting team to be, “minus the drugs and orgies, of course. The truth is, we had some of the top blackjack players in the world on our team.”

“We were bigger than the MIT team,” adds Shirley.

While it was fast-paced and exciting, at times it could be extremely tedious. "Card counting is not rocket science,” Shirley explains. “That’s a misconception. You could teach a monkey to do this. You have to have drive and motivation. You need to let stuff roll off your back. You can’t get offended when people yell at you or kick you out of their casinos. Nate is easy-going and level-headed, and I don’t care what people think about me. We were perfect for it.”

A documentary on their team, called Holy Rollers, came out this year. In the film, Shirley wears a wig and glasses.

"We were bigger than the MIT team."
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About 76 million Americans struggle with high blood pressure, also known as hypertension. It may be difficult to control, but without adequate treatment high blood pressure can cause health complications. Physicians in our area are conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational combination of FDA-approved oral medicines intended to treat hypertension.

You may qualify if:
- you have been diagnosed with hypertension
- can attend up to 15 visits over 16 weeks

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
- all study-related medical evaluations,
  including an evaluation by a physician
- all study-related exams, monitoring and medicine

You may be compensated for your time and travel.
Health insurance is not necessary.

Do you or someone you know suffer from:
• Anxiety?
• Depression?
• Bipolar Disorder?
• Schizophrenia?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study.
All study related care provided at no cost.
Compensation for time and travel, if eligible.

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THE CONTRIBUTE STUDY

Do you already have ulcerative colitis that is hard to control with your current medication?

You could be eligible to participate in a clinical research study looking at whether a study medication is safe and effective in people with ulcerative colitis that is not well controlled using their current medication.

You might be able to participate if you:
- are between 18 to 75 years of age.
- have been diagnosed with mild or moderate ulcerative colitis
- have been taking an ulcerative colitis medication for at least 6 weeks but are currently having symptoms.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medication and health assessments at no cost and may be reimbursed for transportation costs.

To find out more, contact:
(619) 266-3332
Option 6

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

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To find out more, contact:
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Red, dry, itchy toes? Flaky skin between toes?

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The Scripps Research Institute

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

---

She speaks candidly about what it was like to be a Christian card counter. Nate can be seen in the film as well. In one shot, I spot him sitting in Ben’s basement during a team meeting. Not a single team member is wearing an Ed Hardy T-shirt or a fedora. They appear ordinary. They look like the kind of people you might bump into at the park pushing their kids on swings.

* * *

“Part of the reason I did the card counting was because it made for a great date night with my husband in Vegas.”

In the beginning of Shirley’s card-counting career, the casinos assumed she was a high roller, because she was betting so much money. She would play for a couple of hours at one casino and move on to the next. She wanted to maintain the illusion of merely being a wealthy woman with money at her disposal.

“The casinos would give us RFBL [room, food,
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You could help advance lupus research. Consider taking the next step by enrolling into a global clinical research program called EMBODY.

The EMBODY program will help us to learn more about an investigational study drug being developed for the treatment of lupus.

You may qualify to participate in a research study if you are at least 18 years of age and have been diagnosed with lupus. Study participants will receive study-related medical care and the investigational study drug or an inactive placebo. Participation will last approximately one year. Participation in the EMBODY program is completely voluntary. The study requirements, possible risks and potential benefits will be explained to you before you decide to participate. Call today to see if you qualify!

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(CONSTIPATION)

RESEARCH STUDIES

You May Qualify For An Important Clinical Research Study

If you are regularly taking pain medications and suffer from constipation, you may be eligible for a research study currently underway in our area to determine if an investigational medication is safe and effective in treating constipation.

You may qualify if:

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• you have experienced less than three bowel movements per week

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

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• study medication

You may be compensated for your time and travel if you are eligible to participate.

To see if you qualify, contact:

North County Clinical Research (NCCR)
3230 Waring Ct., Suite P. Oceanside, Ca 92056
760-639-4378

“I didn’t want to make a huge mistake that would destroy my relationship with my wife.”

- $800–$900 each time. On top of that, I would get $400 in free food. I would go to our favorite restaurant and treat myself. I would then order dinner and a bunch of gourmet sandwiches for the next two days. Then I would get a $200 gift card at my favorite sushi restaurant.

That is how we put our new floors in and paid for our marble fireplace. Not a bad situation for a stay-at-home mom.”

* * *

Eighteen months into Nate’s blackjack career, he started to burn out. “I questioned a lot...”
of things in my life. I started getting disillusioned with some of the stuff I used to feel pretty passionate about. When I was struggling with my identity, a lot of the things that were unwise became opportunities. The fact of the matter is, from when I was training for the team [and] all the way through, I had opportunities to flirt and go off and do stuff with women. I had women approach me, because they saw I had a lot of money. These things that I normally wouldn’t want to be a part of started to seem appealing. It came to a point that, for the sake of my family, my church, and my relationship with God, I needed to stop card counting. I didn’t want to make a huge mistake that would destroy my relationship with my wife.”

Faith says that they held a community meeting with the members of their church to discuss Nate’s struggle. In the end, the church offered to pay Nate a salary to stay off the team. “They thought it would be the best thing for us,” she says.

Before joining the team, church elders had discussed bringing Nate on as director of operations, with a full-time salary.

“I just didn’t think it would make financial sense for the church, so whenever it was brought up to pay me, I’d say no. So I kept playing blackjack. The church saw the lack of investment I had been making with my family and my relationship with God, and the detriment that came from that, so they told me, ‘You need to stop doing the blackjack. We are going to bring you on full-time, so you can continue working for the church and still support your family.’”

Nate still believes that there is nothing wrong with being a professional card counter. However, if someone sought his advice on the matter, he would share the same advice that his pastor had given him when he first joined the team: “It’s wiser to stay away.”

It took just over a year for the casinos to figure out that Shirley was counting cards. Before long, the limos, the free food and beverages, and all the other perks that Shirley looked forward to, were taken away.

“Will and I were at the Hard Rock when security came down and threatened to arrest me. They swore that I had been trespassed from their casino back in December. It wasn’t true. Their information was wrong. They sent a flier with my information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong. Their information was wrong.
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3 Effects of Botox/Dysport
4 How much does it cost?

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2 Who is a candidate?
3 Your eye exam
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For the professionals who provide this information are solely responsible for its content. This information does not address all medical situations, nor is it intended to replace a medical consultation. It is provided free, but if calling from outlying areas, you may incur toll charges on your telephone bill.

“I didn’t think people were stealing,” Shirley says. “I mean, it crossed my mind a couple of times, but certainly not with the person they thought was doing it.”

She admits that her biggest concern with having a non-Christian on the team was the trust issue. She was concerned, because the player did not have that same responsibility to God.

“I didn’t care as a player that there was a non-Christian on the team, but as an investor, I cared. I’d invested in a Christian card-counting team. These are people that are held accountable to the Lord of their life, the creator of the universe. I was fearful, because as a non-Christian, he didn’t have that same accountability.”

Eventually, under suspicion of stealing,
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the non-Christian was cut from the team. A few months later, Shirley dropped out. She still has her money invested in the team. What was once over a dozen players has dwindled to just four team members.

"I’m taking a loss on my investment this year. I’m okay with that. I have made my money back and then some. It looks like the team will shut down. It’s sad, but it had a good run. It was exciting while it lasted. I got to spend time with amazing, godly people. I got to be part of something unique. It was beautiful. I’m thankful for that. It was an exciting time. For the rest of my life, I will always look back and say, ‘That was an amazing season in my life, and I am so glad I did it.’"

Most of the people in Shirley’s life remain unaware that she was once a card counter.

"I don’t tell a lot of people. There are some people who just wouldn’t get it. I tell more non-Christians about my time on the team. It’s so sad, but I think there are some Christians that would look at it and consider it gambling. We did not gamble. When people ask me what it was like to gamble for a living, I tell them I have no idea. I have never gambled a day in my life. I understand that many people have gambling problems. My heart goes out to them. But if they understood how to unlock it, and not place their faith in the next best thing, they wouldn’t have that problem." — Siobhan Braun

"There are some Christians that would… consider it gambling. We did not gamble."

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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012 41
The holiday cards started coming in around this time last month. I’d gone through Dad’s directory and contacted as many of his acquaintances as I could, informing them that he’d passed away in June. Still, every time I stopped by to check on things, the mailbox of the old family house in our beloved Rolando neighborhood would be occupied by a few sweet-sad holiday greetings from people who still hadn’t heard.

Most of these were from people I didn’t know. Otherwise I’d have contacted them myself. Then one day a particular card arrived, penned in a peculiar scrawl. For some reason Dad hadn’t kept the name in his directory, but instantly the card jogged my memory, and I knew who it was from.

Like a lot of our fathers in the era when I grew up, mine was a veteran of WWII. He’d never set eyes on Southern California and had no idea what the rest of his life might bring, but in his early 20s he was an Army Air Corps telegraph operator moving through France in the aftermath of the Normandy invasion. Somewhere along the way, he befriended a French kid about a decade younger who was fascinated by the American soldiers and their equipment. He invited Dad to have dinner at the family house and spoke English well enough to make for a pleasant visit. They exchanged addresses and somehow stayed in touch over the years.

I remember the guy. He visited us in San Diego twice, once in the late ’50s when he was a student at MIT. I was just a kid, and the family home was itself a bitty thing on busy College Avenue. He visited again in summer 1968, while he was vacationing with his wife. I was then a clumsy adolescent, but Dad had Dad to have dinner at the family house and spoke English well enough to make for a pleasant visit. They exchanged addresses and somehow stayed in touch over the years.

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I even met the Frenchman for lunch once, in 1977. I was stationed in Germany with the Army, and he was in Frankfurt on business. He seemed impressed to see me emerge from the front of the old IG Farben Building, headquarters of U.S. Army V Corps — so distant from my San Diego upbringing, and I was meeting him for the first time as a fellow adult.

The holiday card he’d sent had a return address, so I mailed a card back, explaining the sad circumstances. Times being what they are, I also did a web search to see if I could find his name under a French organization that seemed to fit, and within 24 hours they replied with an email address. Even after considerable experience, I was still not quite sure how to break the news. I explained that Dad had passed away at age 90, after an active and healthy life until the final week or so. His reply was emotional, more so than my experience had prepared me for. For most of a lifetime, they had corresponded periodically, his customary closing being, “Your little brother of France.” I’d been idly aware, but not really cognizant, of how important Dad had been in this person’s life.

I thought of the three times I’d met this fellow at different stages in each of our lives and how he described his friendship with my dad through their university studies, their career preparation, their marriages and raising of families. He said it was a story that needed to be told.

So here I try. Dad’s long affinity for things French began to make more sense, and vague memories became more clear. The little plastic boat that we used to row around the above-ground pool on College Avenue had been adorned with an inscription that Dad said translated from French into “The Little Ordinary Boat.” He’d had some bookends in the shape of the Champs-Élysées, and as a kid I’d look at the buildings next to the water tower near the corner of College and University, thinking they resembled that structure and that perhaps France was within sight. After all, we could travel to Mexico in 30 minutes from our house in San Diego, so such a thing did not seem preposterous to a preschool kid.

A large map of the world had been pasted to the wall of my room when I was very small, and it always fascinated me. Probably it had a lot to do with my dad’s fascination long friendships or determine the subsequent course of a lifetime.

Dad’s long affinity for things French began to make more sense, and vague memories became more clear.

Then you come home, sit in the middle of familiar surroundings, and marvel at how it started and the wonder of it all. It makes you feel that, for all the sadness and tragedy and misfortune life can bring, there’s a sweetness to it.

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Rigged game
continued from page 2
windows in 2001, and the test wasn’t done until several months later. “This is ancient history,” she says, explaining her inability to regurgitate some details.

Langley, who was in charge of recruiting members, as well as doing much of the writing and analysis for the nonprofit, says he was following instructions of Michael Shames, cofounder and chief executive officer. Langley had a $30,000 budget for membership recruiting; Shames wanted it combined with the windows mailing. Langley argued that evaluating windows and dealers “had little to do with UCAN’s core mission. At one point we had a discussion. I said it doesn’t smell right. There is a potential conflict of interest. But Shames finds it “vile and repugnant” that anybody who is doing an evaluation of windows mailing as a marketing tool, just as Consumer Reports denounces companies that use its reports in marketing promotions. However, a memorandum of understanding dated July 16, 2002, states how Best will pay $27,403.71 for “100,000 pieces to homeowners and UCAN members.” It is signed by Michael Shames and Michael Chavez.

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So Langley put together the mailing lauding double-pane vinyl windows and warning consumers to watch out for wolves in sheep’s clothing. “Here we were sanctimoniously telling people to watch out for wolves in sheep’s clothing, and the people we were promoting were wolves… It’s one of the most shameful things I have ever done in my life.”

After only part of the mailings had gone out, UCAN got bitter complaints about Best Windows and Doors. The mailing was aborted. The nonprofit printed the consumer complaints on its website. Among many things, Best had been tied up with a Colorado-based rebate program that was charged with fraud in its home state and Wisconsin. (Initially, the head of the company disappeared to Costa Rica rather than face the music in the United States.)

In 2008, Chavez pleaded guilty to fund diversion and grand theft of personal property. He was sentenced to three years of probation and 180 days in custody. The jail sentence was stayed, but Chavez was ordered to make restitution to victims. Best went into Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy, and so did Chavez. One of Chavez’s top lieutenants, Joseph Fink, was sentenced to 120 days in custody and given three years of probation.

John Mattes, former San Diego TV investigative reporter, now an attorney, had interviewed Chavez in 2006. Mattes had asked about the rebate program and the mounting consumer complaints. “[Chavez] was wholly incredible; he used every defense in the book… everybody in the world had betrayed him,” recalls Mattes. At the Chavez sentencing, Mattes, no longer on TV, did a piece on Chavez as an embedded reporter for the watchdog group.

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Under the radar
continued from page 2

says that these days more requests for “informal” advice are being made and responded to, which reduces the need for official letters. There is no record kept of the informal queries, she explains.

— Matt Potter

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

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Read on page 3

**City lights**

**City drains wallets**

**continued from page 3**

years, they have raised the monthly fees twice, once by $10, and then by $20, in order to cover the large expense that controlling the water flow would incur. Today, the eight one-bedroom unit owners pay $140 per month, and the six two-bedroom unit owners pay $150.

“it’s going to cost us about $50,000, $40,000, [according to] the estimates I’m getting now, which is, like, 80 percent of our savings,” Johnson says. “it’s a huge project to undertake. That’s why everybody sort of avoided it, doing only cosmetic jobs instead of doing this. But, now, the structural integrity’s a problem.”

Recently, in revisiting the issue, Johnson and the other homeowners have returned to their original conclusion: the City should pay for the project. But, they no longer have the time to take it through official channels. They plan to go ahead with the project and hire a lawyer who will help them get some of the money back from the City.

Last month, they asked civil engineer Pat Rymer for a proposal to create a design for erosion damage repair and new storm-water drainage structures. On an early Monday morning in March, Rymer meets me in the Condo Lantana park lot to share his initial assessment.

“there’s a regular curb inlet up top there,” he says, pointing toward the upper part of Lantana Drive. “it drains a fairly big area, so there’s a lot of potential flow.”

Then he steps off into a patch of weeds and pushes aside a branch from an unruly bush that hides the City’s pipe.

“It discharges right here. So this is the City’s contribution,” he says.

Then he leads me back into the parking lot, walks several yards, and points to a grate at our feet. “This is the only drain right here that drains the parking lot here and it goes down to that little pipe that’s exposed here.” He points to a long black pipe that juts out over the gully. “The condo’s contribution is that little four-inch pipe, so there’s a huge difference as to whose water this is.”

Across the gully, probably 15 feet from where we stand, the roots of bushes dangle over a section where the hillside has eroded.

**City lights**

**City lights**

**City lights**

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Parvin Pam Mani, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
NEWS TICKER continued from page 3

claims, finding that all of the savings under Prop B account would actually cost the city $13 million more over the next 30 years in 2012 dollars ($56 million when factoring in inflation) as compared to keeping the existing system in place.

By Dave Rice
Friday, April 6
Public Ignited

Hundreds of Residents Speak Out Against SDG&E Proposal

Kearny Mesa — More than 600 people converged on the Al Bahr Shriners Center in Kearny Mesa yesterday in opposition to a proposal from SDG&E to raise utility rates as a way to recover costs from the 2007 wildfires.

Residents spent much of the two meetings blasting the energy company and their attempt to recover costs for the fires, which were ignited by downed power lines and responsible for the deaths of two people as well as the destruction of more than 1,300 homes.

In all, the three fires caused more than $1.1 billion in damages, all covered by SDG&E’s insurance. However, the company, owned by energy giant Sempra Energy, paid an additional $500 million or so to third parties for uninsured damages.

To recover those costs, SDG&E is asking that the Public Utilities Commission allow them to create a “Wildfire Expense Balancing Account” funded through increased utility rates. The account would not only recover most of the $500 million but also cover increased insurance rates.

It’s safe to say that the proposal isn’t well received. “The fires were self-inflicted by SDG&E. Ratepayers had nothing to do with it,” said a Rancho Bernardo resident. “This wasn’t an act of God. God had nothing to do with this.... This was a decision from SDG&E management not to protect the lines and not to protect the ratepayers. We got burned once... don’t let us get burned again.”

Residents wishing to submit additional comments can visit the CPUC website.

By Dorian Hargrove

Arrests Are Political

Alleged Plot to Smuggle Son of Gaddafi Foiled

Coronado/Baja — In an April 2 press conference on the White House lawn, Mexico’s president Felipe Calderón praised the cooperation between Mexico, Canada, and the United States for foiling an alleged plot to smuggle the son of Muammar Gaddafi out of Libya and into Mexico.

Four people have been arrested in connection with the plot: Cynthia Vanier, a Canadian citizen, Gabriela de Cueto, a Mexican national with a residence in Coronado, Pierre Christian Flensborg, a Danish national, and José Luis Prieto, a Mexican citizen.

The international blog La Politica es la Politica observed, “Mr. Calderón failed to mention that none of the four individuals imprisoned in Mexico and facing charges with regard to the alleged plot had been found guilty of any crime.”

It’s campaign season in Mexico. Although Calderón is ineligible to run again, his party, PAN (Partido Acción Nacional), is running a candidate in the July 1 election. Gregory Gillispie, who owns the company that brokered the flights for the alleged plot, reitered in an April 4 interview that the motivation for these arrests is “political.”

Through his security company, Gillispie asserts that he has dealings with people at the highest level of the Mexican government “and I’ve been told all along these arrests are political.” (For more details, see the March 28 Reader story “Gregory Gillispie Discusses Gabriela de Cueto’s Arrest in Mexico City.”)

The Mexican government has named Gillispie as a suspect, but he maintains that officials have made no attempt to contact him. “I just wish I could hold a press conference like Calderón and lay all my evidence on the table,” Gillispie said. “I’d really like to get my partners [Gabriela de Cueto and Pierre Flensborg] out of jail.”

By Susan Luzzaro

Family First

Romney’s House Is “Pretty Small”

La Jolla — Another day and another quote about Mitt Romney’s wealth has surfaced.

Today, progressive commentary website AMERICAnewsblog, run by former Econo-mist writer John Aravosis, posted a YouTube clip that showed a speech from Mitt Romney’s son, Josh, describing a Thanksgiving weekend that the family spent at their home in La Jolla.

“My dad is a guy who puts family first,” the young Romney said. “They finally gave my dad a day off.... We got to stay at my parents’ place. They have a two-bedroom house. It’s pretty small. My wife and I were there with our five kids in a two-bedroom house.”

The house on Dunemere Drive has been in the news since plans of a large-scale remodel of the 3000-square-foot home were posted on the city’s website.

By Dorian Hargrove

Tuesday, April 6

Become a Stringer. Earn up to $100 for your neighborhood news story, $25 for photo. See guidelines at SDReader.com/news/neighborhood-news/
**Thursday | 12**

**A MAN, HIS WIFE, AND HIS HAT**

Moxie presents Lauren Yee’s klezmer-inspired love triangle about a hatmaker who loses his wife and his hat. A talking wall and a golem may stop his search for both. Directed by Janet Hayatshahi, this show is described as “delightfully strange, a little absurd, and powerfully moving.”

**WHEN:** Ongoing until April 29, check for dates and times

**WHERE:** Moxie at Rolando Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area. 858-598-7620; moxietheatre.com

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**Saturday | 14**

**SAN DIEGO PET EXPO**

This year’s expo (proceeds benefit local shelters and animal-care groups) features Air Bud, who will “dazzle with his legendary athletic abilities,” a new bird show focusing on eagles, owls, kookaburras, and other exotic birds; and the Pooch Parade of Fashions. Enjoy the petting zoo, listen to expert speakers, shop pet products and services, and maybe adopt a pet.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; also Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 800-999-5400; sandiegopetexpo.net

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**Monday | 16**

**WINE AND CANVAS**

The theme for this painting-with-cocktails class is “Fun, Funky Glassware.” Sip on your favorite concoction while a local artist gives step-by-step instructions on how to complete your masterpiece. All painting supplies (and an apron) provided.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m. (and other evenings through May 2, check for dates)

**WHERE:** Taste & Thirst on Fourth, 715 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-207-9431; wineandcanvas.com

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**Wednesday | 18**

**RESPECT: A MUSICAL JOURNEY OF WOMEN**

The Lyceum stages a musical look at the lives of women as told through 50 Top 40 songs, including “I Will Follow Him,” “Stand By Your Man,” “These Boots Are Made for Walking,” and “I Will Survive.” Written and created by Dorothy Marcic.

**WHEN:** 2 and 7 p.m. (ongoing through June 24, check for dates and times)

**WHERE:** Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 619-544-1000; lyceumevents.org
Rosarito Beach
Sportfishing, Alive and Well
Tom Gatch

From the standpoint of "petro-tourism," it very well could be that nearby Baja California peninsula, with its Mediterranean-like coastal climate and uncrowded beaches, is one of the best draws for Southern Californians looking for a quality bargain getaway.

And these days, it’s one that keeps getting better as soon as you drive across the international border. At the current exchange rate, regular gasoline at the state-run Pemex stations runs about $2.97 a gallon, as opposed to over $4.30 a gallon in San Diego and Los Angeles.

Less than 20 miles south of the San Ysidro crossing, Rosarito Beach, with its many shops, restaurants, famous hotel, and sportfishing pier, offers a quick opportunity to shed your cares and feel like you’re on vacation in an exotic locale.

Decades ago, Rosarito Beach was a popular surf fishing destination for many Southern California anglers. Those who worked the shoreline could expect to catch a variety of species, such as croaker, corbina, perch, sand bass, halibut, and several types of rays and sand sharks.

As time progressed, however, Rosarito Beach was targeted by the spring break crowd, and an increasing number of trendy bars and eateries began to pop up along Boulevard Benito Juarez in the locals’ attempt to earn their fair share of profits from the increasing flow of weekend and holiday visitors from the north. This is about the time that the vision of Rosarito as a worthwhile place to cast out a line began to fade into the ether.

Luckily, a few years ago, Hugo Torres, owner of the Rosarito Beach Hotel, realized his long-time dream of building a sportfishing pier near his property. It now stretches over a quarter of a mile out into the ocean and comes to an end at an emergent cluster of large rocks, situated well past the breaking surf.

This natural habitat helps to turn the area near the pier’s furthest extremity into an “all-you-can-eat” buffet for hungry halibut, bass, perch, and other seasonal gamefish species. Nonetheless, fishing from the pier much closer to shore with light tackle for quality barred surf-perch that are swimming just beyond the inshore breakers can be productive as well. Access to the pier is available to the general public for a small fee and is free for hotel guests.

As spring turns into summer, it’s a safe bet that this popular pier will continue to draw throngs of intrepid anglers and other visitors from San Diego, Los Angeles, and Orange counties who are looking forward to enjoying a few relaxing days under the warm Baja sun.

Once they’ve arrived, they will be delighted to discover that the hotel’s pier is still flanked by numerous opportunities for shopping, entertainment, and upscale dining that have made Rosarito Beach such a popular destination for decades.

This halibut was the catch of the day at Rosarito’s sportfishing pier.
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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012 51

ROAM- O- RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

PALO VERDE CANYON AND THE MOLY MINE
A desert canyon dotted with palo verde trees leads to an abandoned mine and views toward the badlands.

Directions from downtown San Diego: About 100 miles (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). Allow 2.5 hours of driving time. From Julian, drive east on Hwy 78 to S-3. Turn left (north) and follow S-3 to Christmas Circle and S-22. Turn right (east) on S-22 and drive 14 miles to Mile Marker 33 and the turnoff for Palo Verde Wash and park. From Ramona, drive east on Hwy 78 to Hwy 79. Turn left (north) on Hwy 79 and drive to S-2. Turn southeast on S-2 to S-22. Turn left (east) on S-22 and drive to Borrego Springs and Christmas Circle. Follow directions above to Palo Verde Wash.


Palo Verde Canyon is aptly named for the many green-stemmed palo verde trees found in this desert canyon that leads down from the Santa Rosa Mountains. A hike up this canyon leads to an old abandoned mine long thought to have been a molybdenum prospect. The return hike has a small loop that follows a portion of an ancient Indian trail between Palo Verde Canyon and Smoke Tree Canyon to the east. Although the most opportune time to hike this canyon is late spring when bright yellow blooms festively decorate the palo verde trees, it is always a delight in any desert season because of the variety in both the plants and geologic features found in this canyon.

The hike begins at Hwy S-22, across from the entrance to Palo Verde Wash. Follow the gradually ascending canyon, being careful of the rocky, braided wash that is strong evidence of what the force of water can move and churn as it spills from a canyon mouth. Head north, not straying off course into a smaller canyon to the east of Palo Verde.

After beginning the hike, note the many lime-green palo verde trees that line the wash and continue up into the canyon. Palo verde is Spanish for “green stick,” referring to the bark of this tree. Palo verde have the ability to photosynthesize in the bark as well as in the leaves. This is an unusual feature also seen in the wand-like ocotillo found in this canyon. Ocotillo bark is also green, and like the palo verde, a leafless plant can generate food under dry conditions, thereby saving moisture normally lost in other plants through their leaves. This is one type of adaptation that desert plants employ to save water. The ocotillo also blooms in April, providing even more canyon color with its flame-tipped tubular flowers.

The canyon narrows at about 1.5 miles. Begin looking for a steep rocky trail up the granitic canyon wall on the right (east) side of the canyon, where a large palo verde tree is found in a small alcove. This is where the return trail will rejoin the canyon. This ancient Cahuilla trail ascends the ridge separating Palo Verde from Smoke Tree Canyon. It is part of a Native American trail leading to Wonderstone Wash, where rocks were quarried. If taking this trail to Smoke Tree Canyon, the Moly Mine is visible to the north from the trail.

Plants found in the lower part of the canyon wash include creosote, palo verde, ocotillo, krameria, teddybear cholla, and barrel cacti. Smoke trees and lavender become visible at higher elevations. Follow the canyon around to the northeast, where it opens into a bowl at 2.0 miles. Look for a trail up the ridge on the east side of this bowl that will lead to the entrance of the Moly Mine at 2.28 miles into the hike. If you have a flashlight, you can carefully peak into the mine entrance, being careful to watch out for cholla balls that will easily attach to your hiking boots. The mine entrance faces toward the west. Carefully work your way down from the mine entrance and up the ridge to the other side where the Indian trail crosses. Follow the Indian trail down 0.3 mile to rejoin the canyon floor and to begin the trek back to the trailhead on S-22.

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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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012
Outdoors

Escondido Spring Garden Tour
Tour five gardens focusing on water-wise gardening. Refreshments included. Tickets: $12.50 in advance from Escondido History Center in Grape Day Park. On April 14, pay $15 at 2037 Susan Court or 416 San Pasclito Court, Escondido. bark@escondidohistory.org or 760-743-8207. Saturday, April 14, 10am; free. Escondido garden tour, 2037 Susan Court. (ESCONDIDO)

Help Elfin Forest for Earth Day
Volunteers of all ages invited to join San Diego Zoo volunteer rangers to remove debris from tour, 2037 Susan Court.

Kumeyaay in Nature
Find golden yarrow, blue elderberry, padre’s apple stars, other wildflowers on trail guided-lead walk through historic Old Mission Dam. Saturday, April 14, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Wildflower Wonders and History
Find golden yarrow, blue elderberry, padre’s apple stars, other wildflowers on trail guided-lead walk through historic Old Mission Dam. Saturday, April 14, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

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, April 14, 8am; free. Los Peñasquitos Ranch Area. Discovery Museum and Campground Drive. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Work Party
San Diego Canyonlands work party promises weeding, watering, protective cage-building for newly planted natives in California Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Florida Canyon (immediately west of Balboa Park Tennis Club courts at Morley Field). Wear close-toed shoes. Gloves, water, hand tools provided (or bring your own). alambrennet@hotmail.com or 619-955-3257. Saturday, April 14, 9am; free. 18 and up. Morley Field Sports Complex, 2221 Morley Field Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Special Events

“Artists at Work — Large-Scale Ceramics”
Challenging the traditional scale of ceramics, Alex Long tosses a 100-pound ceramic urn on a potter’s wheel measuring approximately five feet tall. Appetizers by Harney Sushi and Bull Taco, open bar. Reservations: 760-435-3721. Thursday, April 12, 6pm; $15-$20. 21 and up. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

“Celebrations”
Time for Poway Valley Garden Club’s 34th standard flower show and plant sale. Poway Arts and Crafts Guild members and guest artists sell their wares. 886-672-2593. Saturday, April 14, 11am; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E. Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

“Fashion with a Passion”
Bring purses, shoes, fashion jewelry, other items to trade with guests during “ultimate fine accessory swap.” FIDM’s advanced fashion design knitwear program graduate Adelle Louise Burda headlines show. Enjoy gourmet food, wine, cocktails and dessert tasting, fashion and wellness-related vendor village, more. A Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego benefits. Saturday, April 14, 11am; free. $25. Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising FIDM, 350 Tenth Ave., 3rd Floor. (EAST VILLAGE)

“Hostel Takeover”
Evening of live music, art by many artists, poetry, film, crafts, food. Screening of film by Playing for Change Foundation. Parking in City College garage (1081 16th Street), take “hostel hopper shuttle.” Donations accepted. 619-525-1531. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; $75. David Alan Collection, 241 South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

“Looking to join a team or searching for new team members for an existing team? Get the scoop and mingle with fellow participat-

ing filmmakers during second meet and greet. Thursday, April 12, 7pm; free. Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza, 12925 El Camino Real. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Day at the Docks
Port of San Diego’s 33rd annual celebration promises more than 200 exhibitors displaying fishing tackle, marine art, clothing, accessories, “how-to” seminars; live entertainment, captains’ dunk tank, kids’ fishing and art contests. Open house aboard fleet vessels; boat rides around bay ($2 per person), more. 619-234-8793. Sunday, April 15, 11am; free. Sportfishing Lands. (POINT LOMA)

Del Mar Antique Show
More than 250 antique dealers from all over offer antiques, vintage collectibles, decorator items during Calend-

ables. Appraisal booth ($5 per item). Also on hand: repair and restoration specialist; expert in fields of glass, crystal, porcelain, pottery, rugs, jewelry. Tickets valid for run of show. 800-943-7501. Friday through Sunday, April 13–15, 11am–4pm; $8. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Harp Concert
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory prin-

cipal harpist Julia Schorn and SDSU Symphony Orchestra’s principal harpist Alexandra (Alex) Tibbits perform a wide range of compositions. Recital follows Sunday, April 15, 13pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)
San Diego Reader
April 12, 2012

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Win $50 to Apertivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar
Apertivo invites you to try their delicious Italian tapas and extensive wine selections, the newly reopened restaurant is located in San Diego’s North Park community.

Win $30 to Crepes and Corks
Crepes and Corks is a cozy European bistro and wine bar right in the heart of Del Mar. Come enjoy their delicious sweet or savory crepes, on the outdoor patio that will make you feel like you’re in Paris.

Win $20 to Costa Azul
Costa Azul is where creative California cuisine meets fresh Baja seafood. Fresh seafood, poblano rellenos, carnitas, coconut crunchy shrimp, carne asada, burritos, steaks, and more!

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**San Diego Reader**

**Sunday, April 15, 2pm**

**Mile Of Music On The Big Bay**

Take a stroll along San Diego’s Embarcadero and enjoy over two dozen acts performing a world of musical styles. Downtown San Diego waterfront between Grape and G Streets. thebigbay.com. Saturday, April 14, 2pm to 5pm. Embarcadero, A long Drive.

(DOWNTOWN)

**San Diego Pet Expo**

Entertainment, petting zoo, speakers, pet adoptions, pet products and services, more. 800-999-5450. Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, 10am. free. Del Mar Fairgrounds. 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**Seaside Native Plant Garden Tour**

Plant experts and neighborhood locals lead informative walking tour (1.5 miles) of 18 front-yard native plant gardens sponsored by Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association. Kids selling lemonade, cookies along route. Donations accepted for maps, 760-439-2473. Saturday, April 15, 2pm. free. St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, 515 Wisconsin Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

**Sketch Jam**

Bring your sketch materials, enjoy live music, refreshments. Open to all artists. 760-479-1848. Friday, April 13, 7pm; free. Studio 2nd St., 528 2nd Street. (ENCINITAS)

**Stamp Collecting Show**

Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, April 15, 10am. free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

**Rhyme & Verse**

**The Philosopher’s Club**

_A Poem by Kim Addonizio_

After class Thursday nights the students meet at the Philosopher’s Club. It’s right around the corner from the streetcar tracks at the West Portal tunnel. No one bothers to check I.D.s. Five or six of them get shooters and talk — about sex, usually. Let me tell you about this dildo I bought, one girl says. She describes how it looks when all the gadgets attached to it are going on at once. My girlfriend is pregnant, says one of the boys. That’s nothing, says another, I’ve got twins. I’ve never seen. It goes on like this all semester. Gradually they learn each other’s stories. One of the regulars stands there, and he quits at a black-and-white newsreel about the Nazi camps — piles of heads with their mouths open, bodies with arms like chicken wings. On the jukebox Otis Redding sings “Try a Little Tenderness.”

Kim Addonizio is an American poet who lives and teaches in the Bay Area. She is the author of two novels, two books about writing poetry, and several collections of poetry, one of which, _Tell Me_, was a National Book Award finalist. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. Her poetry collection _Jimmy and Rita_ has just been reprinted by Austin State University Press. “The Philosopher’s Club” is taken from her collection _The Philosopher’s Club_, published by BOA Editions, and is reprinted by permission.

**Find more poetry online at SDRreader.com/poetry**

**Stamp Collecting Show**

Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, April 15, 10am. free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

**Stylephile Styleings**

Enjoy new musical compositions for Stylephile, in conjunction with the exhibition “Stylephile: The Greatest Little [Musical] Instrument of the [Last] Century!” The Stylephile is an iconic British toy instrument embraced by pop musicians of the late 1960s, including David Bowie and Kraftwerk. Sunday, April 15, 2:30pm. free. UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Tailgate Gem Show**

San Diego County Council Gem and Mineral Show promises more than 40 dealers offering gem-related items for sale. 760-726-7570. Friday through Sunday, April 13–15, 9am. free. Antigas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

**Taking Care of Our Own Fundraising Dinner and Auction**

Ticket are $75 each and include double entre dinner, salad, dessert, and one drink. Full tables with 10 seats are available for $275. Event benefits Operation Promise, a nonprofit organization that supports the family members of wounded warriors. For more information and tickets, visit the website at www.takingcareofonewomen.org. Call Gary: 858-201-8577 or email: bahrsg@gmail.com. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; $75. Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place. (DOWNTOWN)

**What is a Political Moderate?**

Join Civilized Conversation group, non-partisan forum, to discuss the subject. 858-231-6209. Thursday, April 12, 7pm. free. Eclipse Chocolat, 2121 El Cajon Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**Wildlife Baby Shower**

Every spring, Project Wildlife cares for injured and orphaned wildlife until they are ready for release. Experience the wildlife “baby season” — see wildlife babies, take behind-the-scenes tour of center, meet animal ambassadors, enjoy food truck samples.

**Celebration Under The Stars**

San Diego Family Magazine’s 30th Anniversary, A Hollywood-Style Charity Gala of food, fun, entertainment, and more! Musical performances by the Young Artists Symphony, Varsity Strings, Celebrity Impersonators, plus KCQ/KPRZ. Get your tickets now www.sdchildren.org or call 858-876-7322. Thursday, April 26, 6pm to 11pm, Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

J.D. Souther/Jenn Grinels Top-notch acts will be at Queen Bee’s all year long. There will be a showcase every month of 2012! A portion of the proceeds from each show will go to benefit the San Diego Humane Society. Tickets are $25 each. www.queensbeessd.com. (619)255-5147. Friday, April 27, 8pm. Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street. (NORTH PARK)

**A Course in Mindful Parenting**

Mindful Parenting is being fully present in each moment with your child with kindness, consideration and compassion. This 2-hour workshop introduces the foundations of mindfulness practice and techniques for remaining present and responsive while engaging with children. Tickets: $30. www.Mindfulness.ucsd.edu. 888-334-4636. April, Saturday, April 28, 10:30am to 12:30pm. UCSD Center for Mindfulness, 5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 200. (LA JOLLA)

**Speak, Write & Promote: Become a Mover & Shaker**

Provides the combined writing and publishing wisdom of Cheryl Richardson, a #1 New York Times best-selling author, and Hay House President/CEO Reid Tracy. One Attendee is guaranteed to win a $10,000 publishing contract!!! Act on Your dream today! You could be the next Hay House author! Call 1-800-654-5126 or www.hayhouse.com. Friday, June 1, 7pm to 9pm, Saturday, June 2, 9am to 5pm, Sunday, June 3, 9am to 5pm. Westin Gaslamp Quarter, 910 Broadway Circle. (DOWNTOWN)

**SPOKEN WORD**

“Concubines, Pickpockets, and Ghosts: The Hidden Face of Japan” Mime-storyteller Motoko in a trailer park outside Detroit. the girl raped at knifepoint in Florida, the kid whose old man shot seven people, spoilt brats, he thinks. He imagines a woman the sound turned down. The bartender flips channels on the TV, in a bar, in a trailer park outside Detroit. Gradually they learn each other’s stories: That’s nothing, says another, I’ve got twins one girl says. She describes how it looks. Let me tell you about this dildo I bought, one girl says. She describes how it looks when all the gadgets attached to it are going on at once. My girlfriend is pregnant, says one of the boys. That’s nothing, says another, I’ve got twins. I’ve never seen. It goes on like this all semester. Gradually they learn each other’s stories: the girl raped at knife point in Florida, the kid whose old man shot seven people in a trailer park outside Detroit. Life is weird, they agree, touching glasses. The bartender flips channels on the TV, the sound turned down. Spoiled brats, he thinks. He imagines a woman the blonde’s legs, the brimette’s tights. Dynasty looks boring and he quits at a black-and-white newsreel about the Nazi camps — piles of heads with their mouths open, bodies with arms like chicken wings. On the jukebox Otis Redding sings “Try a Little Tenderness.”
lights "universality of human experience" during her storytelling concert hosted by Storytellers of San Diego in Manchester Auditorium. 619-298-6363. Saturday, April 14, 7:30pm; $15. 18 and up. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Bad Luck? Share your poems of disaster and despair during Friday the 13th meeting of Gelato Poetry Reading. 760-750-8077. Friday, April 13, 7pm; free. Roka's Ice Cream and Coffee, 2375 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

Literary Reading Harold Jaffe, author "of the docufiction collection" OD, reads from his work in Commons 206. Musical accompaniment, sound manipulation by Shane Boeschlein. 760-750-8077. Thursday, April 12, 7pm; free. CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

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 (Pantoneo, 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)

"Object Lessons: France in the Golden Age" View this "concentration of five French 17th-century paintings" through Sunday, June 3. The inaugural grouping is mounted with Cleveland Museum of Art’s loan of Nicolas Poussin’s The Holy Family Returning to Nazareth, shown alongside paintings by Poussin’s contemporaries: Christ Healing the Blind by Philippe de Champaigne, Pastoral Landscape by Claude Lorrain, Simon Vouet’s Anaxas and his Father Fleeing Troy, and The Holy Family with Saint John the Baptist in a Classical Landscape, attributed to Nicolas or Pierre Mignard.


"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.


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San Diego Reader April 12, 2012 55
A Baroque Recital featuring works by Bach, Handel, Corelli, Scarlatti. Gregory Lawrence, violin, and Pamela Monroe, harpsichord. Order your tickets online at www.cco-sd.com or call 619-300-5520 or 619-287-0821 Sunday, April 15, 3pm. St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Encinitas, 890 Balour Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Blue Rose Ensemble The Los Angeles-based piano, cello, clarinet trio performs works by Beethoven, Bruch, Villa Lobos, and contemporary composers. Sunday, April 15, 2pm. free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Canterbury Cathedral Choir Concert The 31-voice choir of men and boys performs “finessthetic” historic and contemporary sacred music by some of the greatest choral composers of all time.” Saturday, April 14, 7pm; $12-$15. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Low Flute Specialist Peter Sheridan presents music from his recent recording, Monologues and Dialogues, for Concert Hour series. Thursday, April 12, 12:30pm; $5. Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10), 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Scholarship Vocal Recital Virginia and Susan Hawk Memorial Scholarship recital and reception. Applicants were required to sing two operatic arias, a selection from an oratorio or cantata in its original language. more. 619-465-7425 or 619-447-4721. Sunday, April 15, 2:30pm; free. Ronald Reagan Community Center, 195 East Douglas. (EL CAJON)

Spring Concert Choir of Saint Therese of Carmel performs “Lux Aeterna” by Martin Lauridsen, “Totus Tuus” by Henry Goeke. Reception follows. Sunday, April 15, 15; free. St. Therese of Carmel Catholic Church, 4555 Del Mar Trails Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Twentieth Century Music of Russia and America Volante Piano Quartet performs Russian songs by Rachmaninoff, American songs by Rorem and others, music by American composer Amy Beach. Concert promises “mini-lecture” highlighting composers’ histories, biographies, musical styles. Reception follows. 858-538-8158. Sunday, April 15, 2:30pm; free. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

COMEDY

Australian Musician, Actor, Comedian, Writer Tim Minchin performs “his unique brand of musical comedy.” 619-570-1100. Thursday, April 12, 8pm; $29. Balboa Theatre, 884th Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

MIXX NUTS COMEDY RELIEF SHOW Flee’s Company presents headliner Bombo Belford, featured comedian Dave Wright, joksters Michael Avila Jr., Ed Badract, Dylan Boisvert, Chris Dahlgren, Duke Michaels, Sindri Somers, host Pman. Music by DJ Plastici. Two-item minimum. pmanbooking@gmail.com or 619-944-1251. Saturday, April 14, 15pm; $20. 18 and up. Comedy Palace, 8783 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNEY MESA)

Stage Monkeys Improvised Theater Stage Monkeys perform long-form improvised theater, using “one single suggestion from the audience” to catapult “into characters, scenes, games, songs,” more. Friday, April 13, 8pm; $5. 18 and up. Café Libertalia, 3815 5th Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Unraveled Improv Show The long-form improv troupe will “create a full-length play or movie from audience suggestions.” Saturday, April 14, 8pm; $5. 18 and up. North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe, 2031 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

West Coast Funnies Monthly comedy variety show blends sketch, video, stand-up comedy. This month, see Karen Rontowski, Gary Cannon, host Kurt Swann. Saturday, April 14, 8pm; $20. 18 and up. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2822 State Street. (CARLSBAD)


DANCE

Argentine Tango with Colette Will give you a First Free Class on Monday, April 16, and on Wednesday, April 18, at 7pm, when another 6-week session starts. Free classes are given every Monday or Wednesday at 7pm. Come and be introduced to the magic and passion of Tango at Dance Place San Diego in Point Loma. No partner needed. Visit www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5657. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxton Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

FILM

FREE & DRINK

Titanic Centennial First-Class Dinner Enjoy salute to the Titanic with ten-course feast “meticulously planned to replicate the final dinner served to Titanic’s first-class passengers.” Wait staff will don period tuxedo jackets. Piano quartet will play 1912-era melodies. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; $212. Prado, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Art of Amore Enjoy “presentation on dynamic artworks from history whose creations were inspired by love and passion,” with vocal performances driven by the featured artworks. Lobby will be filled with “living sculptures” modeling original fashion by clothing and jewelry designers. Open champagne bar, wine and beer tastings, savory appetizers, dessert samplings. Suggested reservations: 619-343-3721. Sunday, April 15, 12pm; $50-$40. 21 and up. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Titanic Tea Honorary champagne toast and saber ceremony commence Titanic centennial affair. Enjoy loose-leaf teas, culinary treats inspired by menus served aboard the legendary cruise liner. 619-744-2039. Saturday, April 14, 1pm; $22-$47. U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

COOKIE & WINE PAIRING Cookie Chew — specializing in unique truffle stuffed cookies and other delectable stuffed cookies — provides four of the company’s most popular cookie flavors, each paired with wine. Samples, light appetizers served as well. Thursday, April 12, 7pm; $18.21 and up. Jake’s on 6th — A Wine Bar, 3755 Sixth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Morning Glory Brunch The 14th annual brunch promises “more than 30 food and wine stations, boutique shopping, art and garden demonstrations,” the annual frog race. Reservations: jredondo@stms.org or 619-442-5129 x115. Saturday, April 14, 10am; $60-$225. St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center, 2119 East Madison Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Real Ale Festival The 15th annual celebration promises over 50 cask-conditioned beers “served in the English tradition.” Fee includes tasting glass, eight four-ounce tastes; $1 for additional samples. Friday, April 13, 1pm; Saturday, April 14, 11am; $30-$40. 21 and up. Pizza Port, 571 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Titanic Tea Honorary champagne toast and saber ceremony commence Titanic centennial affair. Enjoy loose-leaf teas, culinary treats inspired by menus served aboard the legendary cruise liner. 619-744-2039. Saturday, April 14, 1pm; $22-$47. U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)
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Entertainment includes:
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Admission:
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Sun., April 15 10am-5pm
Proceeds benefit local shelters & rescues

SanDiegoPetExpo.net
or 800-999-5400 for info

Due to Fairgrounds policy, please leave your pets at home and bring them back a treat!
**FOR KIDS**

“Garden of Activities” Children 6-12 invited to “Art Alive” family area, with hands-on projects for families to enjoy. Create floral arrangements using art materials, add to collaborative garden wall, enjoy museum-wide flower hunt, hear nature-inspired stories. Included in “Art Alive” admission ($15 general). Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, 12pm; 6 and up. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Community Science Fair** Eleventh annual Science Hall, students invited to enjoy more than 100 hands-on interactive science activities on central lawn near clock. cwilkinson@miraCosta.edu or 760-759-6616. Saturday, April 14, 1pm; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Mom and Pop-Ups! “Make a sweet and personal” Mother’s Day gift at Art Alive” admission ($15 general). Saturday and Sunday, April 14, 12pm; $4. Museum of Art and History, 1001 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

**GALLERIES**

“Collide” Enjoy a “multidisciplinary contemporary art show and benefit curated by Secco showcasing works by artists Mike Maxwell, Wes Bruce, Exist 1981, Spenser Little, others. Individual art displays, installations will “inhabit apartment units throughout the property.” Food and beverages on offer. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; $5. Community at Carnegie Building, 950 Ninth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

“Crossing the Divide” Opening reception for display of art in a variety of media by San Francisco artist Jenn Porreca. View exhibit drawing inspiration from the repetitive religious iconography of her childhood, European silhouette and folkloric artists of the early 1990s, literature, San Francisco street art, manga, and Japonisme through Saturday, May 5, 760-781-5779. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; free. ArtHatch, 317 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

“Dreamability” Reception for fine art exhibition curated by Marty Tiedeman, “A Place of One’s Own” by the Photo Arts Group, art by Andrea Zulli. Ceramics demonstration by artist David Hudgins (3pm). Saturday, April 14, 3pm; free. Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

“Eat Here Now” Opening reception for exhibition offering “an investigation into how we can re-imagine our cities to be near food, starting with…North Park.” “Bandits, Millenarians, Folk Heroes?” We Really Know Our Neighborhood? How might we engage our neighborhoods in learning to grow and support local food, starting with…North Park.” Reception for four artists with works “an investigation into how we can engage our neighborhoods in learning to grow and support local food,” in which “artistic processes reveal unexplored ground for both the artists and viewer.” Work by abstract painters Jack Stricker and Jeff Dandellinger, Chikle and Ricardo Ilas, and many others through Sunday, May 6, Saturday, April 14, 5pm; free. Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline St., Suite 104. (LA JOLLA)

“Immaterial Erogonomies” Reception for four artists with “an affinity for material transcen- dence,” displaying work representing “range of hybrid practices: sculpted canvases, painted videos, printed sculptures, and digital pro- cesses.” Party promises “experi- mental music” by Michael Trigilio, an installation from Anna Chiaretta Lavatelli’s My Pink Room. Closes Sunday, May 26, 619-269-7230. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; free. Space, 9500 Gilman Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

“Transition” Solo art show by Sonia López-Chávez, with more than 20 original paintings “por- traying her path towards personal enlighten- ment.” By DJ SolTonic. Live painting by López-Chávez. All ages. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; free. Spot, 1835 Main Street. (BARRIO LOGAN)

“Tree of Life” Painter Daniel Ryan has exhibit of his “tree scoops” resulting from an “effort to develop an artistic painting style in oil on canvas that reflects his academic background and personal affinity for the natural world.” RSVP: pro-ecology.com or 800-204-0062. Saturday, April 14, 6pm; Sunday, April 15, 12pm; free. Café, 325 K Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“Hybrids” Reception for exhibition of “new two-person collaboration works,” in which “artistic projects reveal unexplored ground for both the artists and viewer.” See work by abstract painters Jack Stricker and Jeff Dandellinger, Chikle and Ricardo Ilas, and many others through Sunday, May 6, Saturday, April 14, 5pm; free. Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline St., Suite 104. (LA JOLLA)

**LECTURES**

“Bandits, Millenarians, Folk Saints, and Sharpers?” Paul J. Vanderwood (1929-2011) was an “internationally recognized histori- an of modern Mexico who taught for his entire academic career” at SDSU. Conference promises analy- sis of each of his four major books by “an important historian of modern Mexico, with additional com- mentaries by other scholars and general discussion at all points” by attendees. Reception follows. RSVP: mgallinger@ucsd.edu or 858-822- 1696. Friday, April 13, 10am; free. Institute of the Americas, UCSD, 1111 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

“Book Publishing 1-2-3” Editor, proofreader Laurie Gibson presents lecture-workshop “From the Writer’s Fingers to the Reader’s Hands,” designed to empower and inspire writers. Expect writing exercises, "editor’s tips on craft," questions and answer. 858-635-1233. Thursday, April 12, 6pm; $10. Marcella June’s Coffee Lounge, 8513 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

“Climate and Climate Man- dates on Regional Transporta- tion” Mike Bullock of the Sierra Club discusses the San Diego Regional Transportation Plan, “how it fails to meet our climate responsibilities,” when Escondido Democratic Club monthly meetings are welcome. Saturday, April 14, 10:30am; free. Escondido Chamber of Commerce, 720 North Broad- way. (ESCONDIDO)

“Surveying Cross-Border Per- ceptions?” “Cross-Border Perceptions: Do We Really Know Our Neighbors?” symposium 4pm, in concert hall (building 2400). mrevece@miraCosta.edu. Thurs- day, April 12, 6pm; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (CARNEGIE BUILDING)

“Cross-Border Perceptions: Do We Really Know Our Neigh- bors?” Symposium focuses on “The Role of Contemporary Lit- erature in Cross-Border Percep- tions” during panel discussion in MiraCosta College Little Theatre (room 3601). Panelists: authors Michael Jaime-Beccerraa (Every Night Is Ladies’ Night) and Olga Garcia Echeverría (Falling Angels: Cuentos y Poemas), creative writ- ing professor and moderator Chad Tsuyuki. mrevece@miraCosta.edu. Friday, April 13, 9am; free. Mira- Costa College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

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“Remembering the Art Center in La Jolla” Dave Hampton, cura- tor of “Contemporary Art Wins a Beachhead: The La Jolla School of Art, 1960-1964” and former La Jolla School of Arts faculty and students on hand for informal conversation about what it was like to take classes and attend exhibition openings at the Art Center and the prevailing culture and environment in the late early 1960s.” Included in regular admission ($8). 760-435-3720. Saturday, April 14, 2pm; Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

“Seven Steps to a First Draft” “Learn a simple, step-by-step sys- tem to brainstorming, outlining, selecting ideas for marketability, swiftly writing” a first draft at the highest level possible during workshop led by Marni Freedman. Sat- urday, April 14, 10am; $60-$72. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 710 13th Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“TV to Film: An Insider’s Per- spective” Television writer, story editor Larry Reitzer (Ugly Betty, Just Shoot Me, Twins) shares ex- periences from sets of his various pro- jects, in Markstein Hall 252. 760-750-8889. Thursday, April 12, 5pm; $15. Marcella June’s Coffee Lounge, 8513 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

“The Role of the Media in Cross-Border Perceptions” Symposium themed “Cross-Border Perceptions: Do We Really Know Our Neighbors?” continues with panel discussion in room 204. Panelists: Laura Castañeda, Jose Luis Jimenez, Carmen Escobosa, Richard Yñiguez, moderator Kent Zobrist. mrevece@miraCosta.edu. Fri- day, April 13, 7:30pm; free. Mira- Costa College, San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDOFF)

“Doc’s Magic” MiraCosta College film and television program director R. Scott Linkous presents “seven-year process of documenting the life of a beloved Californian and Grand Canyon pin- neer, Helen Miller Bailey,” known as “Doc” by her admiring students. Learning Is for Everyone program takes place in room 201. 760-944-4449 x7782, Friday, April 13, 1pm; free. 18 and up. MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDOFF)

“Flower Bouquets in the Work of Marc Chagall” Bella Meyer, granddaughter of French artist Marc Chagall, shares “her take on flower bouquets” in Chagall’s work for talk by Lin Oliver, a TV pro- ducer and author of humorous chil- dren’s books (Who Shrunk Daniel Funk? and Hank Zipzer: World’s Best Underachiever). Join group in USD’s Hahn School of Nursing Building (Linda Vista Road and Marion Way). pr-sd@sandiego- sbw.org or 619-713-5462. Satur- 691-341-1726 www.bachcollegiumsd.org
A noble widow sometime lady of this town Called Richeldis, living full virtuous, Desired of Our Lady a petition, Her to honour with some work bounteous. This Blessed Virgin and Lady most gracious Granted her petition, as I shall after tell Unto her worship to edify this chapel. In spirit Our Lady to Nazareth her led, And showed her the place where Gabriel her greet. Lo daughter consider, to her Our Lady said, Of this place take absolutely the measurement Another like this at Walsingham thou set Unto my laud and singular honor, All that me seek there shall find succor. Where shall be had in a memorial, The great joy of my salvation, First of my joy’s ground and original, Root of mankind’s gracious redemption When Gabriel gave to me relation To be a mother through humility And God’s son conceived in virginity. — Anonymous, printed by Richard Pyson

Richard Pyson (1448–1529) was an English printer who contributed to the standardization of the English language and introduced Roman type to English printing (which until this time had employed only variations of Gothic type). He printed around 500 books, many of them law texts and devotional works, including this selection from the anonymous poem that recounts the origins of England’s most famous shrine to Our Lady — renowned throughout the world until Henry VIII destroyed it in 1538 during the English Protestant Revolt.

Meet the New Underwater Parks! What are Marine Protected Areas? Where are they located? Learn about California’s new underwater parks, established on January 1, during WILDCOAST events Octavio Aburto from Scripps Institution of Oceanography presents “Cabo Pulmo: Marine Protected Area Success Story.” diane@wiscott.com; (619) 442-7728; www.scripps.edu/parks; (LINDA VISTA)
Under Ghostly Bells

“It is the true American food — a mix of African, Native American, French, Spanish, German…”

Come sit here!” Southern hospitality hits San Diego. Darlene and Steven have just about finished their food, but as soon as they see me come into the courtyard, they toss out the invite.

“We always feel good when we’ve had our fix of Creole food,” says Darlene. “They’re from N’Awlins but living here.

So, hey, I sit down, and, like, instantly, we’re old friends.

This is the New Orleans Creole Cafe, a little place set in the ghostly garden of the haunted Whaley House, near El Campo Santo — the old Spanish-Mexican cemetery. I was sauntering past the restaurant, thinking no way I’d be able to afford it. Two or three sets of Beautiful People sat chomping under umbrellas. Zydeco music was playing on the sound system, a waiter dashing about the brick courtyard in a long white starched apron…

Something held me there.

Next thing you know, I’m sitting down with two Beautiful People, Darlene and Steven.

It’s dusk, so if any spirits are gonna come out, this would be the time. Meanwhile, there are plenty of high spirits. “The thing about New Orleans?” says Darlene, when I ask her to nail what the fuss is all about. “Everybody fits. We hug necks. Everyone’s saying ‘How’s your mamma’n’em?’ Meaning, ‘How’s your mother and all the family?’ There’s a neighborhood thing there.”

The bricky Whaley House, with it’s real gas-powered gaslamps, would fit right into the place set in the ghostly garden of the haunted Whaley House? Oh, sure, Mark says, he’s smelled the perfume of a lady called Violet. “And we get cigar smoke in the kitchen — probably Mr. Whaley himself. Or, once, I went across to the Whaley House and saw a chandelier, perfectly still, start wildly swinging. It went on for ten minutes. Another time, when I was coming to open the kitchen, I felt something pushing me back. Five minutes later, police arrived and found an armed man hiding under our veranda right here, with a gun. He probably would have taken me hostage. So, from that, I feel the ghosts are happy that Humberto and I are here.”

It’s getting dark. I stand up. Fork over $5.89. Sniff for perfume.

Then you’re paying more. But then I spot something in the “starters,” a small bowl of gumbo — “New Orleans’ richest soup, made with a dark roux and savory spices, $6.75.”

All right! We have lift-off! I order that.

Then I see Steven finishing up a bottle of beer. Abita Amber. Seems Abita’s the beer of New Orleans. His amber costs $4.75. In a fit of crazy, I hear myself asking for the Abita Andygator, a 22-ounce bottle of 8 percent beer that’s gonna set me back $8.

Whatever, no regrets. The gumbo has chicken and sausage in it — the “soup” part is based on a roux of the Holy Trinity of N’Awlins cooking: onion, celery, and Bell peppers. The whole lot comes with a flurry of white napkins, a basket of bread with butter, and it’s totally delish and totally enough, and with the last of the sun making the Andygator bubbles sparkle like champagne, its sweet, fruity taste countering the peppery end-taste of the gumbo…man, I’m in heaven.

“It is the true American food,” says Humberto. “A mix of African, Native American, French, Spanish, German, Irish, and Italian traditions.”

Mark the chef comes out to see how we’re doing. “These are my own family’s recipes,” he says. “We’ve been in Louisiana since 1750.”

Whoa.

The Place: New Orleans Creole Cafe, 2476 A, San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-542-1648

Prices: Crawfish étouffée, $19.75; fried shrimp platter, $18.50; red beans and rice, $13.50; jambalaya with sausage, $13.75–$18.50 (but you can ask for half-orders); alligator sausage po-boy, $11.75; small bowl of gumbo, $6.75

Hours: 11:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Thursday–Sunday; Monday, lunch only, 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; Tuesday–Wednesday, closed

Buses: 8, 9, 10, 28, 30, 35, 44, 88, 105, 150

Trolleys/Trains: Blue Line, Green Line, Coaster, Amtrak

Nearest bus/trolley/train stop: Old Town Transit Center, 4005 Taylor Street, Loma Portal/Old Town

And the legendary ghosts of the Whaley House? Oh, sure, Mark says, he’s smelled the perfume of a lady called Violet. “And we get cigar smoke in the kitchen — probably Mr. Whaley himself. Or, once, I went across to the Whaley House and saw a chandelier, perfectly still, start wildly swinging. It went on for ten minutes. Another time, when I was coming to open the kitchen, I felt something pushing me back. Five minutes later, police arrived and found an armed man hiding under our veranda right here, with a gun. He probably would have taken me hostage. So, from that, I feel the ghosts are happy that Humberto and I are here.”

It’s getting dark. I stand up. Fork over $15.89. Sniff for perfume.

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Afghan Pizza? Zia’s Shows How

Nine at night in Normal Heights: Khaled Waleh is trying to explain just what Afghan pizzas are. This place, Zia Gourmet Pizza (3311 Adams Avenue) is his vehicle to bring Afghani tastes in food to a town that has only heard about its wars. Me, I’m hooked on the look of this eggplant pizza. “It’s the most Afghan of them all,” Waleh says. “Eggplant is one of our main foods, and so is the Indian-style raita salty yogurt we put in. And the cranberries.”

Cranberries and yogurt in a pizza? Definitely a South Asia thing. I pick it up and bite in, and any doubts evaporate. Squishy eggplant, scallions, tomato, those cranberries, red sauce, mozzarella, and splotches of the savory yogurt sauce. The combo is, well, rico suave. And the yogurt/cranberry/eggplant combo makes you think of Persia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India.

There’s so much more to tell. Waleh is working on a cool lounge behind his main pizza room, and soon they’ll be getting a wine and beer license.

Posted March 30 by Ed Bedford

Que Huong Vietnamese Restaurant

As Elizabeth Salaam recently pointed out, City Heights has some amazing places to eat if one is willing to look around a bit. Que Huong, tucked into a strip mall at the intersection of University and Marborough, is just such a place.

Lavishly decorated, at least as compared to the more familiar pho joints that specialize in meals-on-the-quick, Que Huong offers a more leisurely atmosphere. Families regularly sit down together around the tables that have Lazy Susans installed in the center to provide access to the lavish spreads that come out of the kitchen.

The lengthy menu has section after section devoted to exotic meats. Beef and chicken start the parade, but they’re followed by quail, venison, wild boar, and even crocodile. Adventurous eaters will have a field day with the 100+ item selection. Prices are all over the place, since some items are as simple as a bowl of hot soup. Roughly speaking, to have a smoother-pouring li’l coffee pot. The silver beauty here pours the purest column of coffee I can remember.

I know, it’s no big deal. Just one of those tiny pleasures you remember as you sip while you wait for the Number 11 stretch limo.

Posted April 3 by Ed Bedford

Good Eats and a Foie Gras Alternative at Gabardine

Unless you’re lucky enough to live in Point Loma’s affluent inner expanses, it takes something special to justify a rush-hour trip on the long, congested, un-thoroughfare that is Rosecrans Street. Count a meal at Gabardine, Point Loma’s new modernized Portuguese fish house, as an experience worth the frustrating stop-and-go.

Executive chef Chad White has brought all ten to fifteen dollars per person buys more than enough food.

Part of the fun at Que Huong is that a lot of the food is cooked at the table. A small-sized “beef, shrimp, and squid hot grill” ($12.95) came out of the kitchen as a dizzying array of ingredients and equipment. There was a propane griddle, raw meat, cold rice noodles, fresh and pickled vegetables, rice paper, and a selection of sauces. The ultimate goal? Grill, roll, and eat your own spring rolls. It was fun, and the heaps of fresh ingredients made more food than one person could eat.

Catfish steaks, a more single-person-friendly option, were cooked in a scorching hot clay pot that sizzled and bubbled on the table. The bony, fatty cuts of fish were a bit difficult to eat with chopsticks, but the intense flavor of the fish gravy was an amazing way to cook catfish, which can be a little muddy in more-delicate preparations.

The fattiness of the preparation might turn some people off, but the accompanying depth of flavor is a fair trade-off.

Service was excellent, and the young guy working the dining room provided guidance and support for diners new to the restaurant and the specifics of Vietnamese, family-style dining.

Que Huong, 4134 University Avenue.

Posted April 3 by Ian Pike
of the rarely seen sea-fare treatments he made a name for himself at North Park’s smallish, tightly budgeted Sea Rocket Bistro, ramping them to new heights behind the deep pockets of James Brennan and Brian Malarkey’s Enlightened Hospitality Group. The result is a menu that is creative, daring, and unlike anything in San Diego.

Like all of EHG’s restaurants, the bill of fare is extensive. Not counting items from the Oyster Bar, Gab Bar, Aged Bar, daily specials, sides or desserts sections, Gabardine’s menu has over 35 entries. On a recent visit, I tackled eight of them and came back with plenty of inventive and interesting dishes to discuss.

The most praise-worthy of the bunch is Black Cod “Foie Gras.” As I mentioned last month, the process of fattening a duck’s liver to produce foie gras as we know it will be outlawed this summer. This item from Gabardine’s Hot Bar will provide a delicious go-to for foie fanatics in need of a fix.

A plump morsel of black cod liver — which tastes incredibly close to duck liver but with less of a tinny iron note and a slight fishiness that really only shows up in the aftertaste — comes perched atop a griddled piece of brioche that tastes like French toast. A gastrique of brandied cherries provides a nice sweet note, while pistachio brittle lends some crunch. It’s decadent, rich, and every bit as good as any fowl liver I’ve come across. One of the best dishes I’ve had this year.

Each EHG venue offers its own version on two dishes — shrimp and grits, and bacon and eggs. Gabardine features two takes on the latter, and I tried them both.

The first consisted of a meaty cube of slow-roasted, honey-glazed pork belly served alongside an egg cooked for four-and-a-half minutes, then panko breadcrumb-dusted and fried until crispy on the outside yet soft and runny. A mustard green–based chimichurri (a spicy, herbal Portuguese condiment) adds acidity to cut through the unctuousness of the belly, its sweet lacquer, and the egg yolk. Though heavy, there’s a good amount of balance, flavor wise. That and some astute cookery is the key to this dish’s success.

Bacon and Eggs part deux was a salad with a cold halved-egg over chopped asparagus...
and a mélange of lettuces. The bacon component is cured, smoked swordfish belly, which delivers all the salty meatiness of pork, plus some crispiness from being deep-fried before hitting the plate. While not as harmoniously balanced as the dish before, it’s a plate that’s worth ordering just to taste this rather obscure ingredient.

Another swordfish rarity is also available: the creature’s bone marrow. It comes served in all is aquatic glory atop a lime round and lightly dusted with ground espelette chili on a block of pink Himalayan salt. The dish comes with instructions. They’re simple: bend down and suck the clear gelatinous mass in. Alone, it has a neutral flavor, but with the addition of citrus and pepper it comes across a bit like a margarita sipped from a glass with a chile salted rim.

The last standout dish to leave a big impression was White’s signature ice cream, made from cream, sugar, liquid nitrogen and…wait for it…un. Sea urchin roe is the base for this dessert, which looks a lot like pumpkin ice cream and even tastes a bit like it thanks to a vanilla foam and an icy vanilla granita. Those components bring the only slightly fishy-tasting delicacy back to the realm of familiar flavors. I was as skeptical as any diner when I first heard about this dish, but after having it I found it amusing and delicious enough to crave as much as a scoop of rocky road or mint chocolate chip.

Gabardine, 1005 Rosecrans. Posted April 3 by Brandon Hernández

Hamilton Eats Free in the Gaslamp
Life in the Gaslamp? It’s a Damon Runyon play. Midnight, Monday night: This is the time when you start hearing the clacking of cans being crushed, smell drifts of marijuana smoke, hear guys laughing, shivering, yelling things such as “Don! Where’s Don?” “He’s gone to get the car.” “What? We can’t wait out here! Don!”

This guy Leaf Smith isn’t put off by the rain. He strides up and down 1 Street and Fifth with his big arrow sign advertising “Gaslamp Pizza by the Slice.” Then he stands in the rain, wowing ladies who are lining up to get into Stingaree, the nightclub.

“You need a slice, ladies!” he says. “You’ll pay ten times as much there!”

We get to talking, and when I ask, he leads me like a dripping Pied Piper over to the Gaslamp Pizza (505 Fifth Avenue). I’ve eaten here before. The pizzas are good, and they do two slices and a soda for $6. But you really know it’s hot when a bunch of the Russian girls had their pedicabs up and head in out of the rain.

“This is a bit like Vladivostok,” says one of the girls, “but the pizza is way better.”

Leaf stands shivering outside. “Might have to quit in this,” he says.

“Yes, yes,” says Hadir (“Call me Eddy”), one of the Chaldean owners. “Good job.”

Leaf looks relieved. We’re still out in the rain. The Russian girls have filled the sheltered part.


“Howdy Doody?” he says to the Russian girls.

“Hi,” says one of them. Posted April 3 by Ed Bedford

Chopahn: It Means “Shepherd,” Not “Composer”
This must be Afghan Month. First I found Zia Pizza, then Ian turned up at Khyber Pass, then I find myself outside Chopahn (650 Sixth Avenue,

Win $50 to Apertivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar
Apertivo invites you to try their delicious Italian tapas and extensive wine selections, the newly reopened restaurant is located in San Diego’s North Park community.

Win $30 to Crepes and Corks
Crepes and Corks is a cozy European bistro and wine bar right in the heart of Del Mar. Come enjoy their delicious sweet or savory crepes, on the outdoor patio that will make you feel like you’re in Paris.

Win $20 to Costa Azul
Costa Azul is where creative California cuisine meets fresh Baja seafood. Fresh seafood, poblano rellenos, carnitas, coconut crunchy shrimp, carne asada, burritos, steaks, and more!
Gaslamp). I’m gawking at the menu—pedestal outside when the owner comes up. For me, the entrée prices are gobsmacking. Kabob plates go from $17 to $35. So we’re talking quality. Kabob plates go from $17 to $35. So we’re talking quality. Kebab plates go from $17 to $35. So we’re talking quality.

Hussainy. “Would it be cool to just have, like, an appetizer?” I ask. “Absolutely,” he says. He means it too, and so I follow him.

Inside, it’s very elegant: chandelier, cream-colored arches reaching two stories high, carved wooden chairs you’d only expect to see in the US Grant. White linen tablecloths, translucent marble sconce lights, a gleaming chandelier, cream arches reaching two stories high, a large, sprawling, two-story dining room. I think about the soups: chicken vegetable variations, chicken vegetable variations, chicken vegetable variations.

I have to say, the service is like I’m a millionaire. Rodrigo, the black-tie waiter serves the baderjan with the full-on elegant, and the waitresses, Rachael and Jayna, constantly check that all’s okay and my water’s topped up.

The baderjan is beautifully spicy—inside the crispy batter, that same, slightly salty yogurt on one half and a pot of green sauce to ladle on. Rachel says it’s a cilantro chutney mix with serrano peppers, peppery, citrus, garlic, and some fresh herbs. It zings the taste up good.

In fact, the three are quite filling. Folks around have piles of rice and stews and chicken, but I don’t feel robbed. I’ll be back to try those sambosas next time.

I got outta there paying $7.49 and feeling like a king.

Daddy’s Hot Dogs
There’s been a little commentary on Feast! blogs, that people would prefer to see local businesses over big, national places. That is sort of a double-edge sword, folks.

At the end of the day, the industry is the industry and places like Costco aren’t going anywhere. It’s better for our local scene to patronize the local shops, but being informed about all the options is in diners’ best interests, so everybody should enjoy reading about Costco just as much as about the little guy.

On that note: Daddy’s Hot Dogs (1281 University Avenue) is pretty much anti-Costco. It’s a legitimate family affair.

I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself. I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself.

Daddy’s is super cheap and open late on weekends for anyone who wants to grab a dog after going out. Also, it’s got indie status, so at the end of the day the money’s going to stay in the neighborhood instead of padding some corporate account somewhere else.

JSix: Three Courses for $15
When I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad, when I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad, when I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad, when I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad, when I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad, when I was a kid, my heart hurt to see anyone dining alone at a restaurant. It hurt so bad.

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At the end of the day, the industry is the industry and places like Costco aren’t going anywhere. It’s better for our local scene to patronize the local shops, but being informed about all the options is in diners’ best interests, so everybody should enjoy reading about Costco just as much as about the little guy.

On that note: Daddy’s Hot Dogs (1281 University Avenue) is pretty much anti-Costco. It’s a legitimate family affair.

I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself. I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself. I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself. I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself. I had to look away. During my twenties in New York, I discovered the joy of a great novel, a glass of wine, and a whole restaurant table all to myself.
it anyway. The texture was wonderfully smooth, and it might have sent ginger lovers to the moon. Not me. I preferred the salad, which was light and topped with quinoa, of all things.

For dessert, Kris brought a chocolate chip cookie and gelato, both of which will make choosing difficult next time.

Regret #1: The wild mushroom and mascarpone ravioli. I wish I’d gotten the burger instead. The pasta itself was a bit more dense than I care for, and the intense mushroomy flavor got to be a bit much after the first couple of bites.

Regret #2: Accepting a hosted lunch. It resulted in a lot of hovering — the chef twice and Kris every two minutes or so. I was unable to get through the magazine article I’d hoped to read. Although everyone — especially Kris — was thoughtful and kind, I would much rather be left alone than checked on after every bite.

The lesson: An hour alone, dining in anonymity, is worth the price of a meal, especially when it’s only $15 for three courses.

**Embedded Image**

Asian Fusion at Café Jay

I was chatting with some friends about Thai food, and someone mentioned Café Jay in Sorrento Valley (9450 Scorton Road) as a nice, quick lunch spot. Located on Scorton Road, in the shadow of the Qualcomm office building off the 805, it’s part of a small food court that serves office workers from the Sorrento Valley area.

Café Jay isn’t Thai; it offers simple, vegetarian Asian-fusion cuisine.

Prices are reasonable, too. My pad see ew with soy chicken was $6.95. At first glance, I thought that there was baby corn in it. On closer inspection, I realized that the soy chicken had been formed so that one side looked bumpy, like skin. It didn’t taste like chicken, but it did its job soaking up the light, garlicky brown sauce, as did the wide, slippery rice noodles.

The vegetables were nicely cooked: chunks of green cabbage, carrots, and broccoli were still crisp and bright. Plenty of scrambled-egg bits (optional) were tossed in the mix.

The level of heat in the dish surprised me, in a good way. I know it’s tough to judge how heat tolerant a customer is, but the chef recommends from an Argentinian guy I know. His verdict is that the place makes “the best burger I have ever eaten in my life.” Since the man basically lives on a diet of beef, I take his recommendation pretty seriously.

The inside of the place is much smaller than it looks from the word. Probably half the restaurant’s seating is on the patio, which is going to be great when the temperature rises a little bit but right now it’s tough to get a seat inside when the mercury is low.

The décor is a sort of homage to hunting and game cookery, with antlers strewn about the place and a big, velvet curtain draped across the doorway to
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Jersey Mike’s Coming to Hillcrest

Okay, it’s a way-big chain, but I’ve met true fanatics of this sub place. It started in Point Pleasant, Jersey Shore, the Kinda PB of New Jersey, an hour south of New York City. A real guy named Mike started “Mike’s Subs” in 1956, when subs were pretty new. It was a big summer vacation thing for New Yorkers. He hired a 14-year-old high school kid named Peter Cancro as a gofer in 1972. Three years later he wanted to retire, and the 17-year-old kid found backers to actually buy the business from Mike.

Fast forward 37 years, and Cancro has expanded the joint to 600 locations and a name change to “Jersey Mike’s.” They say their secret is the Angus-beef top rounds they use and the bread they bake right there.

I’ll have to see when they open. Meanwhile, the space Kazumi Sushi Bar used to occupy (110 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest) is busy behind brown paper. No word on opening date yet.

Posted April 6 by Ed Bedford

What the Chef Eats by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

Pasta with Trapaneese Pesto

Recipe by Jared Van Camp
Executive Chef, Quality Social

What I like to cook are the questions people can’t answer for me. For example, if I asked how to make mashed potatoes, there would be several answers. But when I asked how to make charcuterie, I didn’t get a clear answer. I love diving into that.

Before culinary school, I took a job in a bakery owned by a woman from Switzerland. I came in every morning at 4 a.m. and baked bread and listened to music. I didn’t even see a person until after nine, when we opened. It was one of my favorite jobs ever. The bakery had a case of meats and salamis but no one knew how they were made. Even at culinary school, no one could tell me how to dry-cure salami.

I talked to some butchers in Pennsylvania who knew how to make charcuterie but they wouldn’t tell me how. They were afraid I would mess it up and hurt someone. Another butcher told me I had a lot to learn and he gave me an out-of-print book.

Now we have a massive charcuterie program at Quality Social. We bring in whole animals from farmers and break them down and dry-cure the whole thing from the bone to the mortedella and head cheese [a cold cut]. Charcuterie is something young chefs want to learn. They have the questions now and I love my role as a teacher. You can’t just read a recipe and do it because charcuterie is so nuanced. I feel like I’ve worked to get the information and now I’m paying it forward.

When I’m not eating salami, I am eating pasta. It makes me happy. I’ll gravitate toward any person or restaurant making good pasta. I love making simple noodles at home with a really great sauce.

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 8)

- 1 lb. fresh cherry tomatoes, blanched and peeled
- 45 oz. almonds, blanched for 2 minutes in boiling water
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled
- 25 large basil leaves, torn into small pieces
- 25 leaves Italian parsley, leaves only, chopped
- 10 leaves fresh mint, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground Calabria chili pepper (substitute cayenne if needed)
- ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 16 oz. fresh “pici” pasta (or substitute linguini)
- Salt and pepper to taste

HOW TO DO IT

Boil a large pot of water and add the tomatoes. Let boil for 2 minutes and then remove, drain, and plunge the tomatoes into a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking process. When cool, cut the tomatoes into quarters and remove the inner seeds.

Before culinary school, they said their secret is the Angus-beef top rounds they use and the bread they bake right there.

Major props for three of their liquors at the ninth-annual American Distilling Institute Conference in Louisville. Their Devil’s Share single malt whiskey — such a young creation that it barely had time to age to proper maturing — earned a gold medal and was named Best of Category for straight malt whiskey.

Two other on-point spirits — Three Sheets White rum and Devil’s Share bourbon — won a silver medal in their categories. Additionally, Three Sheets was named Best of Category for clear rums.

“Being recognized here in Kentucky, by people who have been doing this for generations, means the world to us,” said Cherney while after picking up his hardware.

He’s sure to bask in the glory of these victories...but not for long. Come next month, he and his Ballast Point colleagues will fight to repeat as the best small-brewing company in the world (a distinction they earned in 2010) at the biggest craft-beer competition on the planet, the World Beer Cup.

I’ll have to see when they open. Meanwhile, the space Kazumi Sushi Bar used to occupy (110 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest) is busy behind brown paper. No word on opening date yet.

Posted April 6 by Ed Bedford

Ballast Point Spirits Breed Kentucky-Fried Envy

It took Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits over a decade to cement their reputation as a top-tier craft brewery, but it’s taken less than three years to age to proper maturing — three of their victories...but not for long. Come next month, he and his Ballast Point colleagues will fight to repeat as the best small-brewing company in the world (a distinction they earned in 2010) at the biggest craft-beer competition on the planet, the World Beer Cup.

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Thai Pepper: Into the Hot Pot

There I was, waiting for the 928 to take me back down to Fashion Valley, when I noticed a little café, Thai Pepper Cuisine (3361 Sandrock Road). It looked kind of open. This was around sunset, seven in the evening. I’m really open to suggestion at that time, especially to Thai.

Before I knew it, my hand...
flesh and seeds. Pass the remaining tomatoes through a food mill and reserve for later. (If you don’t have a food mill, then push the remaining tomatoes through a fine mesh sieve held over a bowl and reserve contents in the bowl for later.) Repeat the same blanching procedure for the almonds.

Add the almonds and garlic to a mortar and pestle and finely grind until creamy. Add the herbs and continue to grind until the herbs are incorporated. In a mixing bowl, combine the tomatoes, the almond/garlic/herit mixture, and season with salt, pepper, and Calabria chili powder. Next, whisk in the olive oil.

To finish, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the fresh pici noodles to the pot and cook al dente.

Reserve one cup of the cooking water. In a sauté pan, add 1 cup of the pasta cooking water to the pesto. Combine the sauce with the cooked pasta and toss to coat. Serve with grated Pecorino Romano if desired.

What the Chef Eats

A perky lady named Oy came up, “I just want a snack.” I said, and started looking at the menu. But the menu was huge. I said, and started looking at the menu. But then I can’t leave well enough alone, and before I know it I’ve ordered a dish of mee krob (“crispy stir-fried chicken and shrimp mixed with tamarind and orange skin tomato sauce,” the menu says). I guess I went for it because it’s only $5.95.

When they arrive, I realize I’ve gone greedy again. The tom yum, though, was fantastic, with a couple of hand twitches of hot peppers and some of the gooey peppery stuff from the little spices tray. I’m fire-breathing at the pain and the pleasure.

The mee krob was only okay. Probably a mistake, though. Too much! Plus I didn’t realize it’s basically sweet. The owner and cook, a nice guy named Thanakorn Sukjinda, said a lot of people don’t realize that. Basically those crooked-back crisp noodles with chicken and shrimp. But the silver lining is that I didn’t have a food mill, then push the remaining tomatoes through a fine mesh sieve held over a bowl and reserve contents in the bowl for later.

I went for the tom yum. Sour, hot, usually sets the hairs on the back of your neck going. But the silver lining is that I got it packed to take back to the lovely Carla. Fine, a sacrifice. But what man with an ounce of decency in him wouldn’t sacrifice his future hunger for his woman? But then, when I’m on the bus, she called and said, “What? You’ve eaten Thai! Without me! You owe me big-time, Bedford. I’ve gone greedy again. The tom yum, though, was fantastic, though, was fantastic, though, was fantastic...

"You don’t want Thai? I have some left over. I’m bringing it.” “Cold leftovers? Fugged-about!” Your punishment is hot dogs.” I swear. That Carla. I love her. I should be finding her a hot-dog addiction specialist. I worry 7-Eleven will run out.

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"You don’t want Thai? I have some left over. I’m bringing it.” “Cold leftovers? Fugged-about!” Your punishment is hot dogs.” I swear. That Carla. I love her. I should be finding her a hot-dog addiction specialist. I worry 7-Eleven will run out. But that meant I got to eat my mee krob after all, at a leisurely pace, while the ravenous Carla carved her molars into those dogs.

And guess what? It was delicious. The sweet noodles, the chicken and shrimp, the lettuce, and the forest of bean sprouts with lime squirted all over them...it was like a healthy dessert.


Posted April 4 by Ed Bedford
**Give It Away Now.** Since October of last year, the Hard Rock Hotel has hosted a once-a-month concert featuring headliners that would normally play Casbah or Belly Up. And the shows are free. The Soundcheck concert series is held in the downtown hotel’s 500-capacity Club 207 room. VHS or Beta, Heyena, Penguin Prison, and Built to Spill have played the event. One insider tells the Reader that Built to Spill typically command a $5000 to $7000 guarantee and could be counted on to sell 500–600 tickets.

The next Soundcheck show is L.A. garage-pop duo Best Coast on April 24. The last time they opened for Wavves at Soma. That show sold out. “This just doesn’t make any sense,” says the confounded insider. “I don’t see how they’re ever going to make their money back. It’s like they are pouring thousands of dollars into the ocean for one free show a month.”

But Jana Peck, the Hard Rock Hotel’s marketing director, sees it as money well spent. “We want to establish the Hard Rock Hotel with our guests and with the local music fans as a place where music is worshipped.... We had the Black Eyed Peas play at our grand opening four and a half years ago. We also had Adele perform here two years ago. Our goal is to connect quality music to the Hard Rock Hotel experience.”

Peck says Mary Jane’s Underground is another once-a-month showcase at the Hard Rock Hotel. It features local bands, such as Dead Feather Moon, the Kabbys, and Kera and the Lesbians, and is curated by Tim Pyles of 94/9. On April 15, the hotel’s larger Float room will host DJ Paul Oakenfold. Peck says the Hard Rock has committed to keeping the Soundcheck series free through 2012. She says no ads were taken out to promote Soundcheck. “We put all our money into the show. We have a robust database, and we rely on our media partner, FILTER Magazine, to get the word out.”

FILTER is an L.A.-based fashion/music/lifestyle magazine and marketing company that was brought in by the Hard Rock Hotel to produce and promote the Soundcheck series.

The insider remains skeptical. “Club 207 is the first bar you see coming out of the gate at Petco. That Best Coast show happens to fall on a home-game night, which could be a logistical trainwreck for them.... Plus, I don’t understand what they expect to get out of it. I don’t think those people who come to see a free Built to Spill show are going to say, ‘I want to come back to the Hard Rock this weekend and buy a bottle of vodka for $400 and watch the sparklers.’” — Ken Leighton

**Ziggy’s Love Chicken.** When Ezequiel “Ziggy” Pelayo says, “We started Yeah Buddy Fest because we really just wanted to barbecue and party and hang out all day,” you believe him. When the 30-year-old musical renaissance buddy isn’t pouring drinks at Eleven, Tower Bar, or Ruby Room, he’s booking bands under Another Zeke Productions (eight years and running), playing drums with pop-punk outfits Moosejaw and Beside Myself, pressing vinyl with La Escalera Records, or silk-screening (Escalera partner William Castro owns B Street Hill screen printing company) shirts, record sleeves, and posters designed by his girlfriend, Jillian. Oh, and he just picked up another job at Starbucks to support the label. “It was all about spending the whole day raging, you know? Just celebrating,” Ziggy says of February’s third annual Yeah Buddy Fest, which grew out of Yeah Buddy Tuesday shows at the late Zombie Lounge. This year’s festivities at Shakedown included ten bands, a hundred-some friends, and 25 pounds of Ziggy’s Love Chicken — a sweet and spicy recipe from back home in Guadalajara with a homemade honey-whiskey barbecue sauce. “It’s all our friends,” Ziggy says. “We’re all Yeah Buddy. We all say hi to each other that way.”

The salutation is extended in La Escalera’s Yeah Buddy series — limited 500-copy split seven-inch runs of mostly pop-punk groups but also bands such as A Scribe Amidst the Marsupials. Spanish for “the staircase,” La Escalera’s dedication to supporting and elevating the music they love is evinced by nine record releases this year on vinyl, digital, CDs, and, soon, cassettes. Albums are available online and at shops around San Diego, Sacramento, Seattle, and Mexico City, and the label recently connected with Eager Beaver Records in Japan to broaden distribution.

“Remember one thing, we can all do our part,” La Escalera’s website reads. “La Escalera is not a group or a faction. It’s not a band or a label. It’s a movement. It’s up to you.”

Do your part and have a good time at the Tower Bar on Thursday, April 12, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., when La Escalera Records will be celebrating their one-year anniversary with four album releases, six bands (Prosthetic Arms, the Shell Corporation, the Mighty Fine, Bastards of Young, Beside Myself, and Kids Say the Darndest Things), and, of course, a mountain of marinated Ziggy’s Love Chicken.

— Chad Deal

**Best Coast up next (April 24) at Hard Rock’s free Soundcheck shows.**

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**Wednesday • May 2**

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**HAR HAR SUPERSTAR**

**Thursday • May 3**

**TENNIS**

**Friday • May 4**

**DEER TICK**

**Saturday • May 5**

**CINCO DE MAYO - TRANSFER**

**THE HOWLS • BLACK HONDO**

**CHAD DEAL**

**Take Me I’m Yours.** While some artists choosing to open a tour in San Diego might do so for the scenery or weather, Squeeze cofounder Glen Tilbrook’s reasoning for his band coming to town on April 10 at the House of Blues was perhaps a little less obvious. “We opted to start there chiefly because it’s the home of the wonderful Steve Poltz,” Tilbrook said.

Poltz will open this single show on Squeeze’s U.S. tour before heading to Australia for a month-long road trip. A mutual admiration society has developed between the two songwriters since Poltz opened a solo U.S. Tilbrook tour in 2001. The pair cowrote a song.

(continued on page 72)
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2012

FRIDAY, APRIL 27: Incubus
SATURDAY, MAY 26: Dwight Yoakam
FRIDAY, JUNE 22: Melissa Etheridge
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“Hot Shaved Asian Teen,” which appeared on Tilbrook’s 2004 album TRANSATLANTIC PING PONG, but lost touch for several years. They reconnected in Chicago in early 2011 and quickly made up for lost time.

Poltz spent the last quarter of the year opening for Tilbrook and his band on a seven-week tour of England, Scotland, and Wales. Furthering the connection, Poltz took local sound engineer Chris Modl with him to work sound for both performers.

Poltz finds a friend, collaborator in Squeeze founder Tillbrook

Jaye doesn’t mind the stereotype — she’s all into variety shows. for singing about one of their Veejay’s vajayjay.

Local duo Pony Death Ride (“Breaking Up with You Is Gonna Be Fun”) is recording a new full-length, with songs concerning fans of anthropomorphic funny-animal sex (“Furries”) and the former lead singer of the Smiths (“I’m My Boyfriend’s Gay For Morrissey”). “I do worry about being pigeonholed as a ‘novelty’ act,” says Joe MacAskill, “because people sometimes underestimate the amount of thought because I’m a big fan of old-school variety entertainment, like vaudeville and burlesque in the pre-WWII era and TV programming like the Carol Burnett Show and the Muppets. It’s difficult to stand out as a performer among so many other people doing more or less the same thing, like ‘rock’ or ‘country’. There’s more diversity within the novelty acts.”

Rob Deez is working on a new album, with planned tracks to include “Self Deprecating Love Song,” “Check Into Cash,” and “Hairy Palms.” “All I’m trying to do is entertain people. And everyone loves to laugh,” says Deez, who appears April 14 at the Lazy Hummingbird in Ocean Beach.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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**Thursday 12**

Tinnitus will unite us when masters of the psych-rock universe Acid Mothers Temple land at Soda Bar. Led by guitarist Kanabata Makoto, the freakout rock ‘n’ soul collective this year released a jazz-chopped wink at Miles Davis, the freakout rock ‘n’ soul collective this year excited to check out openers Carnation guitarist Michael McMahan. PFH last year released a gem in the country-goth more than one music scribe Carnation guitarist Michael McMahan. PFH last year released a gem in the country-goth will be downtown at Ché Café, which’ll stage rockers Monsters from Mars with the Natives... If you’re sitting up the big T’do in the desert this year, the Griffin is putting on a couple Coachella cover bands, as Radioheads join the Blackest Keys at the Bay Park bar. Knock back a couple a shots and squint—see, it’s just like being there, except for the indoor plumb-... Else: up-and-coming rock ‘n’ soul quartet Hills Like Ele-phants lumber into Whistle Stop behind the Barrows... while Sac-town punk-rock trio Boats dock at Tower Bar after Shark Blood and Shiva Trash.

**Friday 13**

*“Bustin Up a Starbucks,” singer-songsmith Mike Doughty, the bar- toned bard behind trip-hop hits Soul Coughing, will play Anthology Friday night. In January, Doughty released double-live disc The Question Jar Show (2012), which compiled the best taken from his Question Jar tour, wherein Doughty played acoustic sets as a duo with cellist “Scrap” Livings- ton, covering requests and answering questions fans dropped into a jar.... Keeping it old-school, you got ’80s new-wave radio staples Bow Wow Wow out at Brick by Brick... and from Huntington Beach, roll-back skate punk’s Guttermouth down at Casbah with Atoms/Watusi bassist Bran- den Paris’s new joint Sculpins. Jay got the down- low on Sculpins in Blurt a couple weeks back, if yer interested: sandiegoreader.com/news/2012/ mar/21/blurt533/.... And it wouldn’t be a Friday the 13th if we didn’t have a few rocky-honor shows ‘round town. You can get down with the Creepy Creeps’ haunted Hammond at Bar Pink or roll up to Chi Café, which’ll stage rockers Monsters from Mars with the Natives... If you’re sitting up the big T’do in the desert this year, the Griffin is putting on a couple Coachella cover bands, as Radioheads join the Blackest Keys at the Bay Park bar. Knock back a couple a shots and squint—see, it’s just like being there, except for the indoor plumb-... Else: up-and-coming rock ‘n’ soul quartet Hills Like Ele-phants lumber into Whistle Stop behind the Barrows... while Sac-town punk-rock trio Boats dock at Tower Bar after Shark Blood and Shiva Trash.

**Saturday 14**

San Diego son Billy Shaddox has been up in Salt Lake City, playing and recording solo-like, but he’ll be back home for a bit, which means one of our favorite roots-rock outfits and 2008 SDMA winners for best Americana record (Don’t Get Your Hopes Up) Billy Midnight’s going to find a stage some- place. Looks like they’ll land at Ruby Room in Hill-crest with that other reunion-ready indie-rock act, their friends and cohorts Rookie Card.... From NYC, DFA discounps the Rapture hit the Irene in North Park. The trio’s tourning in support of last year’s In the Grace of Your Love, which conjures “both the cheery and dense sides of early-’80s new wave,” according to the Onion’s AV Club. Beehive and the Barracudas go first. These greezy garage-rock SD staples are worth the price of admission at the all-ages show.... Else: Goth-pop bassman David J (Bashaun, Love & Rockets) will play Brick by Brick behind his latest, Not Long For This World. Valentino Frankenstein up first... dance-pop plays Rafter will be downtown at the El Donado, where DJs Gabe Vega and Keith Sweaty will be spinning ‘round sets... hardhore hits Coda Reactor and Oddball split a CD-release bill at Eleven... Skillet’s North county ska-pop band Oceanside Sound System will pack the stage at Shakedown... and Nashville folkies David Mayfield Parade march into the Loft at UCSD.

**Sunday 15**

Early at Eleven (5p), you get barbecued food and barnoon rock by Phonetics, Jet Kill Radio, and the Cutaways. All for the low, low price of free.... Then, SanFran electro-pop band the Frail will be at North Park hot spot Bar Fink.... Harlem-based blues great Henry Saint Clair Fredericks, aka Taj Mahal, opens the show.... More ‘90s? Back at Casbah, bending (and keeping the brassy big band, and from tour reports, they still kill it live. 

**Monday 16**

If not, that new-wave prof. Thomas Dolby will be blind- ing them with science at Little Italy supper club Anthology, while a gypsy-swinging-serenading-firebreathing Caravan of Thieves brings sideshow rock to the Griffin. 

**Tuesday 17**

If not, that new-wave prof. Thomas Dolby will be blind- ing them with science at Little Italy supper club Anthology, while a gypsy-swinging-serenading-firebreathing Caravan of Thieves brings sideshow rock to the Griffin.
SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

TUX 'N TENNIES SUMMER BASH: Tribute to The Beatles
SAT, JUNE 23 Gala 6pm; Guest Artist and San Diego Symphony, 8:30pm

STAR SPANGLED POPS with MARVIN HAMLISCH
FRI, SAT & SUN, JUNE 29, 30 & July 1, 7:30pm

ROBERTA FLACK - Killing Me Softly
FRI & SAT, JULY 6 & 7, 7:30pm

DOC SEVERINSEN & THE SAN MIGUEL 5
SUN, JULY 8, 7:30pm

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: Symphony of the Goddesses
THUR, JULY 12, 8pm

THE TEMPTATIONS & THE MUSIC OF ABBA
FRI & SAT, JULY 27 & 28, 7:30pm

DAVE KOZ AT THE MOVIES
SUN, JULY 29, 7:30pm

BROADWAY ROCKS! Hairspray, Rock of Ages and more!
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 3 & 4, 7:30pm

1812 TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR!
FRI, SAT, & SUN, AUGUST 31 & SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 7:30pm

BURT BACHARACH - What’s It All About
SUN, AUGUST 5, 7:30pm

NEIL SEDAKA - Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 10 & 11, 7:30pm

POPS GOES CLASSICAL - Passport to the World: A Night In South America
SUN, AUGUST 12, 7:30pm Guest Artist Sponsors: Norman Foster and Bill Griffin

WILSON PHILLIPS - Hold On
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 17 & 18, 7:30pm

DISNEY’S PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: The Curse of the Black Pearl
SUN, AUGUST 19, 7:30pm

THE MUSIC OF MICHAEL JACKSON
THURS, AUGUST 23, 7:30pm

THE MUSIC OF THE EAGLES
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 24 & 25, 7:30pm

All prices are subject to change without notice. All artists, programs, dates and times are subject to change without notice.

SUBSCRIPTIONS START AT $75!
TICKETS START AT $18!

FRIDAY 4/13 • 9 PM
STEEL PULSE
WI BLAZE MOB AND GARTH DENNIS

SATURDAY 4/14 • 9 PM
PIE N MOUNTAIN LOGS
WI CHARLIE VAUGHN AND THE DAILY ROUTINE

SATURDAY 4/15 • 8 PM
MADHOUSE (music, art, dance)

FRIDAY 4/20 • 9 PM
40 OZ TO FREEDOM
WI GOOD INTENTIONS AND SO CAL VIBES

SATURDAY 4/21 • 9 PM
CAT EMPIRE
WI STRIPES AND LINES

SATURDAY 4/22 • 7:30 PM
THE STEELY DAMNED
WI SANDOLLAR AND OTTLEY MERCER

THURSDAY 4/26 • 9 PM
STEPPING FEET
DAVE MATTHEWS TRIBUTE
WI GUEST

THE WHITE BUFFALO
WI DEAD FEATHER MOON

SATURDAY 4/28 • 9 PM
THE WILDKATTS
WI SABIAN DRUMS AND MATT MARRIOTT

Matinees
Sat 4/14 Mar Dels Benefit Show 1:15 PM
Sat 5/19 The Paul Cannon Band 3 PM

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San Diego Reader • April 12, 2012
Maze Master

“Instead of wasting $30,000 a year to go to an overrated music college, buy some great gear.”

Even if you haven’t heard of Mario Quintero’s bands Sleep Lady (whose bassist is his wife, Sarah Quintero) and Hialeah, if you’re a San Diego music fan, you probably own something produced at his Black Box Studio in Golden Hill.

A partial list of his local clients includes Transfer, Modern Rifles, Japanese Sunday, the Long and Short of It, the North Atlantic, Goodbye Blue Monday, Marasol, Sirhan Sirhan, A Scribe, amidst the lions, Swim Party, Fever Sleeves, and the newest from the Beautiful View, with whom Quintero just finished showcasing at Austin’s South By Southwest music fest.


“It was originally conceived as a wired concert venue, where we could record live performances,” says Quintero. “We had bands like Goblin Cock and Ilya come in to play shows, and all while we were building this maze of soundproof rooms and collecting equipment [to do] more sophisticated full-service recording.” The studio is now also home to Quintero’s record label, Requiemme.

Quintero feels it’s important to maintain his hand in at least one or two working bands. “The studio doesn’t leave me a lot of free time…with Sleep Lady, I mainly play guitar. I also play drums in a band called Great Like Cake, which is more of a post-punk-type thing. Much of what I do now, musically, is more on the recording and production side of things. I do a lot of session playing and arranging with the other bands.”

WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

“Immovable Objects, East of Sweden, D/olves, and, if I’m lucky and there’s still time on the clock, some Helmet.”

WHAT’S YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

“I tend to use my phone as my main music-listening device, but it’s rare these days that I get a chance to listen to music because I’m usually too busy working with music. So mostly I’m listening to either demos of the bands I’m working with or playing rough mixes to get mixing and production ideas.”

ANYONE YOU WERE EMBARRASSED TO MENTION?

“Even though I actually like this song, and it’s over ten years old, it would have to be ‘Nothin,’ by a hip-hop group called N.O.R.E.”

FAVORITE LONG-GONE LOCAL VENUE?

“I really used to enjoy the free shows at Scolari’s Office, back in the day.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?

“Greg Allman practiced at Black Box in 2009 before his show at Humphrey’s. He packed a bowl [with marijuana], so I couldn’t say no.”

OUTSIDE THE STUDIO?

“When I was the manager at Sushi Deli 2, I did a shot with Johnny Rotten.”

BEST CONCERT?

“Seeing Jawbox reunite for the first time in a dozen years to play on the Jimmy Fallon show in December 2009. It was great, because I never got to see them before they broke up and I was in New York City with my best friend, who’s now my wife, and it was their Jawbox!”

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL THE YOUNGER YOU?

“Instead of wasting $30,000 a year to go to an overrated music college in Boston, take that money and buy some great gear, because you’re gonna own a studio in the next four years and you’ll go broke buying gear. Oh, and grow the F**k up, quit blaming your lack of success on others, and work harder on your own shit.”

WORST INJURY?

“When I was seven and living in Bogotá, Colombia, I busted my face and two teeth out on Mother’s Day while I was riding a bike that was too big for me. They used to close a main street on Sundays for people to ride bikes and skate, and I got run into by some guy. I had to wear a fake tooth and a retainer-thing for a few months, which added countless insults to my injury.”

EVER BEEN ROBBED?

“I got my identity stolen when I was 21, and it really f**ked up my life for the next eight to ten years. When I was living in Boston in 1998, I started getting bills in the mail for places I’d never heard of. Come to find out that a guy in California had six credit cards, two delinquent bank accounts, and a car repossession under my name. I still sometimes get calls from creditors.”

SOMETHING TRUE ABOUT YOU THAT FEW WOULD BELIEVE?

“I got beat up by the ghost of a small child when I was 16. I swear!”

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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.

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/

THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Thursday, 10pm — Zeds Dead and Araabmuzik.
Friday, 8pm — Victor Manuelle. Salsa.
Tuesday, 9pm — Nero.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
Friday, 9pm — DJ RUE and Audio Addiction.
Saturday, 9pm — The Concrete Project.

Friday, 8pm — Ian Tordella Group. $10.
Saturday, 8pm — Lyndon Pugeda. $10.
Sunday, 6pm — Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers. $10.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891.
Thursday, 7:30pm — Oz Noy Trio.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
Tuesday, 7pm — Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds. With Mona. $35-$75.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
Friday, 9pm — The Creepy Creeps.
Saturday, 9pm — The Milkcrate DJs.
Sunday, 9pm — The Frail.
Tuesday, 9pm — The Secret Samurai.
Wednesday, 9pm — Stevie & the Hi-Stax.

Beaumont’s: 5662 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-0474.
Saturday, 9pm — Slower. Free.

Composer and multi-instrumentalist Taj Mahal, a two-time Grammy winner, plays the Belly Up Tavern on Sunday, April 15.

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

**San Diego Reader** April 12, 2012
79

**Flying Elephant:** 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. Friday, 8pm — Cash’d Out.

**Gallagher’s Pub & Grill:** 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5380. Friday, 9pm — Groove Session. Funk/jam.

**Flying Elephant:** 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. Saturday, 9pm — The Chad Scott Band. Rock/reggae. Free.

**The Griffin:** 1310 Morena Blvd., Linda Vista, 619-684-1816. Saturday, 9pm — Radioheads and Jimmy Lewis’s Blackest Keys. $5.


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79

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BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Peter Wolf Crier is a duo consisting of singer-guitarist Peter Pisano and drummer Brian Moen, and you might guess they sound like the Black Keys, The White Stripes, or other retro-minded guitar-drums duos. But Peter Wolf Crier takes some of the same elements as their peers — beat-up, vintage instruments, minimalist arrangements, traditional American music styles — and comes up with something very different.

Pisano and Moen met in Minneapolis after playing in other bands and made their debut as Peter Wolf Crier in 2010 with Inter-De. A couple of tracks were titled “Untitled 101” and “Demo OL,” suggesting that the band was still getting its act together, but in the catchy “Crutch and Cane,” they sounded fully realized. In that song, Pisano plays a one-chord guitar riff and sings earnestly in a high-pitched melody, double-tracked with falsetto vocal harmonies, on top of Moen’s jazzy drumming.

The duo toured heavily behind the debut, playing 100 shows in six months. When they released the follow-up, last year’s Garden of Arms, it sounded profoundly altered. The guitars still sound like obscure old arch-tops played through ancient tube amps, but now they have a lot more kick. The vocals still hit the high notes, but the songs are vague, haunting, and atmospheric. The drums skitter instead of shuffling. The roots-rock elements are still there, but everything seems to be run through a computer and rearranged like a puzzle. One reviewer likened the result to ambient electronic music, Berlin-era David Bowie and Radiohead’s Amnesiac. The Black Keys may have mixed things up on their past couple of records, but they haven’t come close to this.

Damien Jurado also performs.

PETER WOLF CRIER: Soda Bar, Sunday April 15, 8:30 p.m. 619-285-7224. $10.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDR教研.com/notes

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Title Fight
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San Diego Reader, April 12, 2012 81
UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
April 19 — Hip-Hop Showcase.
April 20 — Redman.
April 21 — Stoneface & Terminal.
April 22 — Y&T.
April 27 — Ramon Ayala.
May 4 — Latin Rock Festival.
May 5 — Portugal. The Man.
May 12 — Dead Man’s Party.
May 21 — Rezeks.
710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
April 20, 21 — Natural Vibrations.
98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-570-1100.
April 20 — Horton Hears A Who?
April 25 — Horton Hears A Who?
May 3 — Horton Hears A Who?
May 10 — Horton Hears A Who?
ADAMSconcerts: 4650 Mainsfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
April 19 — Inmoe Dale Gilmore.
April 26 — Marshall Crenshaw.
Adams Avenue: 35th Street & Adams Ave., Normal Heights.
April 21, 22 — Adams Avenue Unplugged.
Alexander Salazar Fine Art Exhibitions: 1060 Seventh Ave., Downtown, 619-531-8996.
April 28 — Lucky and Wild.
Anthem: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891.
April 19 — Los Lobos.
April 20 — Jon Cleary’s Philtsty
Phew.
April 21 — Howard Hewett.
April 26 — Eric Roberson.
April 28 — ConFunkShun.
April 30 — Griffin House.
May 2 — Sara Watkins.
May 8 — Jay Nash.
May 11 — Rachel Platten.
May 12 — The B-52s.
May 21 — Cathouse Thursday.
May 24 — Toad the Wet Sprocket.
May 27 — George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic.
Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
April 20 — Anoushka Shankar.
October 17 — Jethro Tull.
Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
April 20 — The Styletones.
April 21 — Neon Beat.
Beatonty: 5662 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-0474.
April 19 — Simeon Flick.
April 20 — The Jones Revival.
April 21 — Greasy Petes.
April 22 — Brent Curtis.
April 26 — Mike Oleta.
April 27 — Scratch.
April 28 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.
April 29 — Matt Commerce.
Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
April 19 — The Horrors and the Black Angels.
April 20 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.
April 21 — Cat Empire.
April 22 — The Steely Damned.
April 27 — Stepping Feet.
April 28 — The White Buffalo.
May 3 — Lindsey Buckingham.
Brick by Brick: 1130 Buena Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
April 20 — “d”, Bravo Delta, Simple Mantra.
April 21 — Alive! A Tribute to Kiss, Hey!, Ho!, Let’s Go!, Simple Mantra.
April 28 — “d”, Bravo Delta, Simple Mantra.
Carvers Steak & Chops: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.
April 20, 21 — Laguna.
April 19 — We Were Promised Jetpacks.
April 20 — Guitar Wolf.
April 21 — Huxx & His Puns.
April 25 — Girl in a Coma.
April 26 — Joe Pug.
Bernardo, 858-566-2400.
April 20, 21 — Laguna.
April 20 — Simeon Flick.
April 21 — Brent Curtis.
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BY DAVE GOOD
When asked, the Hives will say that they are the best rock band in all of Sweden, maybe even the planet. For sure, they are the biggest smartasses. “First, you will clap,” singer Howlin’ Pelle Almqvist once demanded of a Street Scene audience. “Then and only then will there be music. And if there is not enough clapping, there will be no more music.”

The rock press is infatuated with the Swedish rockers. In 2006 they made #8 on Spin’s list of the 25 Best Current Live Bands, sandwiched between heavyweights Green Day and Prince. Two years before that, the Hives made the cover of Spin, posters of which are still available for $19.99 on eBay. Not bad for a band from a Swedish town with a population less than that of Lakeside’s. But here is where it gets weird: after all is said and done, the Hives — dapper in their matching bellhop’s suits — are in truth a smoking-hot garage band doing a parody of a smoking-hot garage band.

In 2000, the New Rock Revolution was a tense scene that dumped a lot of self-involved post-punk acts on global pop culture all at the same time. Consider the Vines, the Strokes, the White Stripes, and jet. The Hives were two albums old by then but hadn’t yet been invited to the bigger stage. When they finally did, they were easy to tell apart from the rest: the Hives were amusing, and they played tighter, brighter, and quicker than anyone. As a rock unit, they embodied neither angst nor vices. They were badass musicians but seemed that couldn’t care less. Most important? To have a good time, to screw with an audience, to avoid understatement at all cost. In this way the Hives, unlike their hackneyed contemporaries, grew to become larger than life — if only for brief moments, onstage.

THE HIVES: Belly Up, Tuesday, April 17, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $23.

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

1130 Buenos Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.
May 11 — Channel 933’s Summer Kick Off.
May 12 — Vicente Fernandez.
May 25 — The Beach Boys and Foster the People.
May 31 — Sugarland.
July 20 — Big Time Rush and Rachel Crow.
August 9 — Toby Keith.
August 12 — KISS and Motley

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Train of Thought
April 24

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From San Diego County and Riverside County: Take I-15 to Hwy 76, go east 5 miles.

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Charles Lloyd and Maria Farantouri
Andrew Hamlin

Charles Lloyd, American, is not only the most lyrical but, frankly, he is the most conversational of jazz saxophonists, a musical orator and curator of quiet fire. Maria Farantouri, well on her way to legend in her native Greece, is a singer who delved into protest but went deeper, when times allowed, into politics, surviving murk and compromise with her contralto intent. Lloyd’s quartet made its way to the Herod Atticus Odeon at the foot of the Acropolis. Farantouri was accompanied by Socrates Sinopoulos on the Greek lyra and Takis Farazis on occasional backup piano to Lloyd’s main man Jason Moran. Inevitable that these friendly but disparate parties should form their own distinct weather system, but first, an exchange of gifts: Lloyd brought lyrics and music to his “Blow Wind,” invocation to the flow that blows love — and Farantouri, singing in English, sent it downwind into evening stillness. The singer counters with a 3rd-century Christian hymn. Everyone agrees on terms, and by the second disc, distinctive zephyrs fulminate. Moran picks out notes pointillistically, letting short, sharp pings suggest the star-filled skies, then lets loose a legato cascade for a land-lembering river. Farantouri’s on the songs she knows, from ancient traditions to modern classics, but Lloyd, Moran, bassist Reuben Rogers, and drummer Eric Harland stick with and around her like they’ve learned this language, too. Harland finally pounds the crowd to attention. It’s time for a ritual toast, to friendship, and to melding.


McCrea Music Company: 8361 Allison Ave., La Mesa, 619-698-7272. April 20 — Gary LeVox and Joe Don Marillo.


Buy Up to $100 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic.
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April 12, 2012
Reader
San Diego
Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
April 20 — Wayne “the Train” Hancock, Behind the Wagon, the Avenues.
April 21 — Filthy Still and Cyclone Rangers.
Soda Bar: 3515 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
April 19 — Zammuto.
April 20 — Country Mice.
April 21 — Black Elk.
April 20 — Escape the Fate.
April 21 — In Fear & Faith.
April 27 — Enter Shikari.
April 28 — Oh, Guardian.
Spanish Landing Park: 4077 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown.
May 11, 12, 13 — Gator by the Bay.
April 21 — Ricky Scaggs.
May 1 — Mariachi los Camperos de Nati Cano.
May 12 — Don McLean.
May 19, 20 — The Turtles.
June 16 — Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers.
July 24 — Howard Jones.
Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey St., Pacific Beach, 858-794-9044.
April 21 — Mundell Lowe.
Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington, 619-516-4746.
April 20 — Sister Nancy.
April 20 — The Almagamated.
April 21 — Interrobang.
Tio Leo’s: 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.
April 20 — Serious Guise.
April 21 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.
Typhoon Saloon: 1165 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-373-3474.
April 20 — Ease Up and Project Out of Bounds.
April 24 — Mana.
April 28 — So Cal Reggae Festival 2012.
May 13 — Roger Waters.
May 22 — Morrissey.
September 23 — Red Hot Chili Peppers.
Viejas Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Dr., SDEL, 619-954-6947.
June 8 — One Direction.
June 14 — Van Halen and Kool & the Gang.
Walnut Grove Park and Barn: Olive Street at Sycamore Dr., San Marcos.
June 9 — San Marcos Rock, Blues, and BBQ Festival.
Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
April 20 — Piracy and South Bay Walriers.
April 21 — Perro Bravo and Tommy Dub.
April 21 — MC Yogi, Dave Stringer, Simrit Kaur.
UPCOMING SHOWS

4/12 OZ NOY TRIO ft. Darryl Jones & Dave Weckl
4/18 JODY WATLEY
4/20 JOY CLEARY’S PHI'LTHY PHEW
4/13 N’DAMI

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Aqua Terra: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3 domestic, $9 pitcher, $4 imported, $12 pitcher, 1/2-off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

Granteville

JT's Clubhouse Pub & Grill: Monday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: 254 wings. Tuesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $3 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $1 sliders. Thursday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. $3.25 1/2 lb. burger with fries. Saturday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 4pm-9pm: 1/2-off all food. Sunday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints.

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas & well drinks; $5 select appetizers including tacos, hot dogs, fries.

Harbor Island 

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

C-Level: Monday-Friday, 3-5:30pm: $3.50 Bud Light, Karl Strauss, Stone IPA, $5 specialty drinks, well. $5 crispy calamari, abalones, $15 poke, steamed Fox River mussels.

Tom Ham's Lighthouse: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 house wine, domestic/import.

Hillcrest 

The Alibi: Daily, all day: $3 dipper, item.

Bangkok Thai Bistro: Daily, 4-7pm: 1/2-off wine, beer, appetizers.

CJ's Club: Daily, 5-7pm, 9pm-midnight: All wells $2.95.
The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-close; $4 margaritas. Tuesday, 7pm-close: $2 kamikazes. Wednesday, 7pm-close: $3.50 premium drafts. Thursday, 7pm-close: $2.50 wells, domestic beers. $7 domestic pitcher. Saturday, noon-7pm $3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm $3 bloody marys.

MISSION BEACH
Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.

MISSION HILLS
The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: $0.50 off select beers.

MISSION VALLEY
Postcards American Bistro: Monday, 5pm-end of football game: $3 local craft beers. $5 burgers. Tuesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $4 draft beers, house wine, $8 wines. 20% off appetizers.

MIRA MESA
Mira Mesa Lanes: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic pints, 87 pitchers. $3 import pints, $10 house margaritas. $5 house wine, $15 house beer.

NATIONAL CITY
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2 domestic drafts. $1 off drafts and calls.

NORMAL HEIGHTS
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursdays, 11-3pm: $1 domestic pint, $2 domestic pitcher. $1 off draft beers.

NORTH PARK
Baja Fish & Beer: Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm: $2 domestic pint, $4 domestic pitcher.

Old Town:
Happy Hour: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $0.50 off all drinks.

$2 TACO TUESDAY
Margaritas Tacos Tequila

The Office: Daily, 5pm-2am: $2 two-for-one on all drinks.

Redwing Bar & Grill: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles.

The Smoking Goat: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: 1/2-off select bottles of wine.

MOISTURIZING CIGAR ACCESSORIES

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The Smoking Goat: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: 1/2-off select bottles of wine.
**OCEAN BEACH**

Blue Parrot: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: All drinks and appetizers 1/2-price (all day Monday).
Sunshine Co.: Daily, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all pitchers.

**WINSTONS**

Monday-Saturday, 1-9pm: $3.50 wells, $4 off all appetizers.

**OCEANIDE**

Firewater Saloon: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm; 10pm-midnight: $3/lager bombs, Long Islands; $2 off all pitchers, $1 off drafts & wells.

The Flying Bridge: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 beer, $4 wine. 20% off appetizers.

Hana Japanese Restaurant: Daily, 3-7pm: $3 beer, 1/2-off cocktails.

Pier View Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off pitchers.

Show Palace: Thursday, 6-9pm: $2.50 wells, $20 beer bucket all night.

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 wells, house wine. $1 off all beer.

**OLD TOWN**

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 1/2-price appetizers; $1 soft taco, $3 draft beer, $3.50 well, house wine, $3.95 house margarita.

Alamo Mexican Cafe: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: 1/2-price drinks, food specials.

Casa Guadalajara: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Free appetizers. $3.50 well drinks, margaritas.

Old Town Mexican Cafe: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 11pm-close: Drink & beer specials. $2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish, carnitas); $2.50 margaritas, Tecate, tequila.

**PACIFIC BEACH**

710 Beach Club: Daily, 4-7:10pm: 1/2-off food & beer.

Sinbad Cafe: Daily, 4-8pm: $1.50 draft, $3 well, house wine, $3.50 house margarita.

Tony Roma’s: Daily, 1-4pm: $3 wells, $3 off appetizers.

**POINT LOMA**

Sail Ho Golf Club: Monday-Thursday, 4pm-close: $3.50 wines, $4 wells. Tuesday, All day: $2 wells. Wednesday, All day: $3 Pacifico drafts. Sunday, All day: $3 drafts, $3.50 wines, $4 wells.

**POWAY**

Kaminski’s BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: 11pm: $1 off all wells, drinks, bottles, wine.

RAMONA

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

**RANCHO BERNARDO**

Capri Blu: Daily, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drinks, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

**RANCHO PENASQUITOS**

Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

**RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

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

Da Boyz Pizza & Pasta: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2-6pm, 9pm-close: $2 draft, $3 glass select wine.

**RANCHO SANTA FE**

Delicious: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

**SAN MARCOS**

Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines; $1 Taco Tuesday, 50¢-a-Wing Wednesday, $1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday.

**SANTÈE**

Landre’s Sports Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks. $5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

**SCHIFFS RANCH**

Stone Flats: Daily, 3-7pm, 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.

**SHELTER ISLAND**

Blue Wave Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off drinks; $3-$5 appetizers, including jumbo shrimp cocktail and crispy fried calamari.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

**SOLANA BEACH**

Chief’s Burgers and Brew: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.50 domestic, $3.50 microbrew. 1/2-off appetizers.

**SORRENTO VALLEY**

All Baba’s Cave: Daily, 3-7pm: 22 oz. beer ($4 including tax); $12 bookahs, $5 refills.

**SOUTH PARK**

Hamilton’s Tavern and Cafe: 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.

**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, 3-7pm: $4 drafts and well cocktails.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**

Apertino 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**

Vista Entertainment Center: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic and $3 premium drafts; $3 wells.
Taboo Territory

“No man or woman has ever crossed the line and lived to tell the tale!”

During intermission at New Village Arts’ opening night of Buried Child, a patron said, “I’m confused.”

Another replied, “Don’t worry. You’ve been paying attention.”

Asked to describe what some have called a masterpiece, Sam Shepard joked, “It’s sort of a typical Pulitzer Prize-winning play.” He was half-right. In 1979, Buried Child won the Pulitzer for drama. But typical? Not a chance.

Some characters resemble others: Halie, the mother, sounds like Amanda Wingfield recalling jonquils and gentlemen escorts in The Glass Menagerie. Her half-mute son Tilden — who has either “lost his marbles” or just misplaced them — acts like a cross between Lennie in Of Mice and Men and Biff, the jock gone to seed in Death of a Salesman. Associations flicker behind other characters. But they serve, at best, as entries to a play that severs all ties with the familiar and with attempts to pin its mysteries down.

The first stage direction’s a dead giveaway: Shepard wants stairs going “up to the wings with no landing.”

Like a tour through the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose (where Mrs. Winchester ordered carpenters to build, nonstop, in all directions), Buried Child thrives on contradictions and cul-de-sacs. In fact, it’s as if Shepard hands you the script and says: “Here are the elements of a Pulitzer-worthy drama. You write it. Good hunting.”

Dodge, the decrepit patriarch, says his family has lived on the farm — in Illinois? — 57 years. Long ago, an event entombed the clan in collective amnesia. Dodge, Halie, and sons Tilden and Bradley refuse to remember, but can’t forget, an unthinkable horror. “Everything canceled out by this one mistake,” says the aptly named Dodge (an unartful dodger who can’t escape his past). The family’s so squelched emotionally, they often don’t recognize each other.

Tilden’s son Vince, who’s been away for six years, stops by with girlfriend Shelly. Given his yummi descriptions of the family, she expects Norman Rockwell: “turkey dinners and apple pie.” Instead she stumbles into American Gothic — and beyond. “This is taboo territory,” Vince yells at her toward the end. “No man or woman has ever crossed the line and lived to tell the tale!” And as he shouts the warning, you can almost see an unseen hand yank Vince back into the vortex.

Shelly, the outsider, vows to sleuth the mystery. Something was buried out back, where corn or carrots haven’t grown since 1935 — and are suddenly sprouting. In a sense, she becomes Shepard’s playwright. Good hunting, Shelly.

Taboo Territory

San Diego’s Longest Running Interactive Mystery Theatre

Crimes Pays

written by Michael Ari Wolfshart
produced & directed by Bud Goodwin

Crime Pays is a live radio game show brought to you from the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. Join the excitement and become involved with “the family” who run more than just a game show, let’s just say it’s a mob scene and the hottest ticket in town!

Help solve this hilarious mystery!

EUGENE O’NEILL’S
ANNA CHRISTIE
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Eugene O’Neill’s Anna Christie

San Diego Reader April 12, 2012

FINAL SIX SHOWS! MUST CLOSE SUNDAY!

CRITIC’S CHOICE!

“In Daniel Goldstein’s affecting (and well-cast) Globe production, the hard-won humor of the Pulitizer-winning work comes through — as does a surprisingly modern sensibility behind its wounded yet defiant female lead.”

—T San Diego

“IMPRESSIVE!

An intimate, audacious rethink. Daniel Goldstein’s staging deploys striking in-the-round tactics. Jessica Love’s deadpan comic timing and chemistry with Bill Duke’s affable, bombastic Chris and Austin Durant’s vivid, voracious Mat are fascinating and ultimately poignant. There’s plenty to admire about the vitality on tap here.

—Los Angeles Times

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In Sam Shepard’s Buried Child, his people improvise like jazz soloists.
what they’re doing for real reasons, usually avoidance.”

The acting at New Village Arts ranges from some under palpable stress, to some trying desperately to seem crazy. Of the former, Manny Fernandez earned a Craig Noel Award for his portrayal of Lennie in New Village’s Of Mice and Men. As Tilden, Fernandez does an interesting thing — he is Tilden first and foremost: lost, most, trying to honor the family’s Gag Rule. But he shows flashes of what they’re doing for real reason and relentless mugging look as planned in advance as the through-line, and composed by Tilden, out from real to none at all. The parts sake and costumes suggest a goofy second banana.

New Village Arts stages Sam Shepard’s Pond. They Primmer about a severe family secret in the heartland. Lisa Berger directed. Many theaters offer discounts to inquirers about ticket availability. Along with many of the songs is performed with a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.”

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.”

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. MUKI’S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-544-1000. 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH APRIL 15.

Buried Child New Village Arts stages Sam Shepard’s Buried Child. It’s about a family serious secret in the heartland. Lisa Berger directed. Many theaters offer discounts to inquirers about ticket availability. Along with many of the songs is performed with a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.”

Deconstruction of a Drag Queen Circle Circle dot dot presents “a one-stop gender bending performance based on the story of local Drag Sensation Grace Tow.” (Contains strong language and adult content.) THIRTEEN TENTH AVENUE, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 21.

Greater Tuna The Epicentre hosts a production of the two actor-hoot about Tuna, Texas, where Lio’s Club is the largest production to date across the biggest ensemble. The production is a deconstruction of the “myth of the American Everyman.”

Renegade Princess In a solo piece, Ann Marie Houghtaling performs her undoing of the “myth of the American fairy tale” — recommended for mature audiences. TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

Respect: A Musical Journey of Women A musical look at the lives of women as told through top 40 songs including “I Will Follow Him,” “Stand By Your Man,” “These Boots Are Made for Walking,” and “I Will Survive.” LEYCEM THEATRE, 79 KORTON PL. 2A, DOWN TOWN. 619-544-1000. 2PM AND 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 29.

Once Upon a Mattress Looking Glass Theatre stages a musical adaption of the Princess and the Pea. J. Marcus Newman directed.

Mandeville Auditorium

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Student $10 I Faculty | Staff | Alumni $11 | Door $12

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The Grand Ship Sails Again

“You either like this stuff or you don’t. I do.”

 Titanic
My most surreal preview was in December, 1997. I sat alone in San Diego’s single-screen Cinema 21 in Mission Valley, surrounded by what seemed like 10,000 empty seats. The vast Titanic rolled over me, on its way to its fabled finish and a global gross of $1.8 billion. I recall thinking later that the movie should be revived on the centennial of the ship’s sinking — which comes this Sunday, April 15.

I’ll bet a billion that director James Cameron already had the idea in mind. Cynics will say that he is greedy, even after having a bigger gross of $2.8 billion, though that reflects a decade’s inflation. But if Titanic proves much beyond Cameron’s acumen, it is that he is a sentimental man. He wants to show off his $18 million rehab, with added 3-D and “4K digital remastering,” sentimental man. He wants to show off his $18 million rehab, with added 3-D and “4K digital remastering,”

...and when his bicycle is a companion of the fake oil study for Picasso’s Les Demoiselles d’Avignon, Bill Paxton’s noxiously cute assistant (Lewis Abernathy) making dumb cracks, too much misty memory from dear old Rose (Gloria Stuart), some corny close-ups and creaky lines. I never quite bought the framing device about a gaudy jewel, and Kathy Bates presses her folksy gusto a little hard as Molly Brown (still, I’ll take her over Debbie Reynolds in The Unsinkable Molly Brown).

Those are all bubbles in the backwash. Titanic is a great boat show and a great star show. The dynamic staging of the doomed vessel is often exquisitely designed. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are splendid as the nautical Romeo and Juliet. Jack from steer-age and first-class Rose. I invoke critic John Leonard’s comment about Norman Mailer’s work: “You either like this stuff or you don’t. I do.”

Cameron’s genius was not in the effects, which is why the new doo-dads are only extras. It was in finding the perfect young stars to install a heart into the ship, the romance, and the tragedy. Rose tops Jack’s “King of the world!” with her “I’m flying!” In one of the best foreplay scenes ever, he draws her in the nude (gutsy for Winslet at 22). The love scene that steams up a car, on the boat, was inspired.

There comes the stunning disas-ter, including the poignant instruc-tion to the musicians: “Nice and cheeky, so there’s no panic.” Poor Captain Smith (Bernard Hill) is doomed. So are many. I skipped out, this time, on watching gallant Jack go under (inevitable, for romance must pay homage to tragedy).

In Titanic, DiCaprio and Winslet are splendid as the nautical Romeo and Juliet.

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The Kid with a Bike

It captures the time in a boy’s life when his bicycle is a companion and a ticket to freedom, but The Kid with a Bike is not sentimental. No surprise, for it is from the brilliant Belgians, Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne. Again their theme is youth and family life in peril. Again we are pulled into their lucidly beautiful, often hand-held shots.

Thomas Doret is excellent as Cyril, 11, abandoned by his single father to a state home. He lucks into Samantha (Cécile De France), and the hairdresser becomes a vir-tual, then real foster mother. She is instinctively humane and willing to offend a boyfriend to help the child. But Cyril is a tough, wary, tricky, willful kid. His speedy legs, on and off the bike, are driven by a fierce, almost feral desire to join his father.
Dad, however, is shallow and selfish (actor Jérémie Renier was once the boy on a bike, in the Dardenne’s 1996 marvel La Promesse). And our hearts tense when Cyril draws the interest of a sly punk (Egon Di Mateo), a modernized Fagin. We realize how fast Cyril could fall and how close his bravery is to despair. The Dardennes know how to insert an adagio passage from Beethoven’s Emperor concerto and, raised Catholic, they know how to thread themes of charity and forgiveness.

For all its “found” realism, this is sophisticated work. Cyril’s red shirt echoes the lofty but vulnerable theme of charity and forgiveness. Cyril’s red shirt is sophisticated work. Cyril’s red shirt is sophisticated work. Cyril’s red shirt is sophisticated work. Cyril’s red shirt is sophisticated work. Cyril’s red shirt is sophisticated work.

But comparisons to movies (The 400 Blows, Oliver Twist, The Bicycle Thief, even Pee-wee’s Big Adventure) are less valuable than the urgent pressure of Cyril’s life, as the hinge of fate turns on the whirring chain of his beloved bike.

Bully

The ratings system finally awarded Bully a PG-13, after threatening an R because of some f-words, so now kids can see how the shy ones, the loners, the non-sports, the odd-ballers are made to suffer. Some school administrators in the movie are too worried about possible litigation to do much about anything. You know the alibi: kids will be kids, boys will be boys, sadistic boys will really be sadistic, so what can we do? Well, pay attention, help the victims, punish the bullies.

For me the hardest scene in Lee Hirsch’s documentary is akid crying as he helps carry the coffin of his gentle friend tormented into suicide. And there is the girl ostracized in her town because she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay. And the string bean who was pushed around until she came out gay.

Hirsch has the TV-news impulse to wait for the tears. He caught some bullying with hidden cameras and some adults who ought to lose their jobs. By finally resorting to a rally and speeches and more tears, he falls into the arms of obviousness. But if the movie has to bully its points a little to make people see the problem, so be it.

American Reunion

The first American Pie comedy anticipated, I now realize, Minny’s special, analy retentive pie in The Help. Now comes the fourth pun-gent slice, American Reunion. The “old” gang (pushing 30) returns for a high school reunion. The men find their inner 18, the women are more like 22 facing 40. From the rectal joke to the porn joke to the gay sex joke to the masturbation joke to the penises-in-a-glass-pan joke, it’s all downhill. Maybe the bare-breasts sequence counts as family humor.

Jim (Jason Biggs) is still cute. Stiffer (Seann William Scott) is still a party animal and obnoxious bone-head. As Jim’s dad, Eugene Levy still flashes tiny facets of his talent (few fans of this series know his great comedy work on SCTV). The one suave buddy (Eddie Kaye Thomas) cracks a line about The Brothers Karamazov. Hey, dude, say it in Russian! This moron movie is for diehard fans; the rest of us die watching.

Newsread: Marco Bertozzi joins the panel after his new documentary screens at 7 p.m. Friday (April 13) at the Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park. Perfughi a Cinecittá (Refugees in Cinecittá) is about the refugee center before being reborn as one of the greatest film factories. Donation for the event, sponsored by the San Diego Italian Film Festival, is $5.

Reviewed in the movie capsules: The Cabin in the Woods and Damselfs in Distress.

— David Elliott

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 are archived, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Act of Valor — The Navy granted “filmmakers” Mike McCoy and Scott Waugh permission to play with their audience and the result is a gun-ho recruitment film that’s as incompetently acted and slapped together as it is propaganda. If the two former stunbucks could direct as well as they fight, the film would kill. Instead we are asked to cheer on a fear-inducing video game made by and for war lovers. 2012. — S.M.

American Reunion — Reviewed this issue.

Bully — The overly clever script by Joss Whedon and director Drew Goddard eventually falls victim to its own satirization, but not before sufficiently broadsiding the genre. Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford steal the show as a pair of monastic geeks calling the shots from the director’s booth. With Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth. 2012. — S.M.

Bad Ass — Danny Trejo picks up the old Charles Bronson bat as a Vietnam War veteran looking for righteous urban revenge. With Ron Perlman, Charles S. Dutton, Joyful Drake. (GASLAMP 15; FROM 4/13)

Blue Like Jazz — An indie comedy with Portlandia vibes. Don (Marshall Allman) flies his broken, stolidly religious home in Texas, then finds his faith tested at Oregon’s most liberal college. Steve Taylor adapted and directed the popular Christian-themed book by Donald Miller. With Claire Holt, Jason Marsden, Tania Raymonde. (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; FROM 4/13)

Bully — Reviewed this issue.

Cabin in the Woods — Terrorized teens in a desolate location become unwitting participants in a faith-based reality TV show. For 40 minutes we’re treated to an encyclopedic visication of everything wrong with contemporary horror movies. The overly clever script by Joe Whedon and director Drew Goddard eventually falls victim to its own satirization, but not before sufficiently broadsiding the genre. Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford steal the show as a pair of monastic geeks calling the shots from the director’s booth. With Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth. 2012. — S.M.

Carmel Mountain 14; Escondido 16; Fashion Valley 18; Grossmont Center 10; Horton Plaza 14; La Jolla 12; Miramar 18; Mission Valley 20; Mission Valley Hazard Center 7; Oceanside 14; Vista 12.

D.E.
Casa de Mi Padre — Will Ferrell

The Deep Blue Sea — Another masterwork of British nostalgia, again hamstrung but more urgent than before, from director Terence Davies. Adapting the play by Terence Rattigan, he gives Rachel Weisz one of her finest roles as Hester. Buried in dreamlike sequences to a stuffy judge (Simon Russell Beale) ruled by his prig-snob mother, she finds passion covertly with a lusty charmer (Tom Hiddleston). He drinks, pulls moral rank, and yearns for the recent joys of war. Hester is the only one with a hungry force of life, but the class system and male privilege, having survived WWII, can still squeeze hard. Davies works his stylish magic with dowdy interiors, starchy manners, pun sing-alongs, pop tunes, ruins, and Samuel Barber’s violin concerto. In the cast ruled by Weisz, no one is more subtle than the prim, sunken husband. 2012. — D.E.

Damsels in Distress — Writer and director Whit Stillman (Metropolitan, Last Days of Disco) fumbles in his renewed quest to be our WASP Woody Allen. On a generic college campus, prim coeds at a suicide-prevention center exchange snippy witticisms and contend with fraternity boys. Attitude prevails, and the almost private (about men, depression, tap dancing, the Cathars, etc.) are like cartoon balloons looking for their frames. Lousy lighting and crude editing climax in a painful, sub-Astaire dance number. Beautiful Megalyn Echikunwoke has verbal tang; the more feebly used include Greta Gerwig, Analeigh Tipton, and her romance with a handsome hunk before he dies, the better to grasp the numb paralysis that follows. The restoration that follows that is the work of time and a bearish Swede. Nobody understands what she sees in him. But we do, and so we’re willing to wait and watch as he hunts for the humanity inside his mouthing angel. 2012. — M.L.

Darcy, who “goes rogue” with his team of agents to tell a story. Unskilled at depicting from Tony Kaye (American History X). Lean, saint-faced Adrien Brody plays a school teacher rightly cynical about the dismal system. He compounds the daily crisis by encouraging the fantasies of a neurotic girl and nurturing a hypnotic drug who (Sami Gay), as a pretentious mess from Tony Kaye (American History X). Lean, saint-faced Adrien Brody plays a school teacher rightly cynical about the dismal system. He compounds the daily crisis by encouraging the fantasies of a neurotic girl and nurturing a hypnotic drug who (Sami Gay), with a bitterly broken leg and post-traumatic stress disorder. “I have seen him.”

What Happens in Vegas 2008. The romantic comedy stars Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher. Wednesday, April 25, 8 p.m.

Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax — Color

In the future, a lawyer-turned social entrepreneur who appears slightly dislodged from its subjects, filmmakers Jay and Matthew Lillard, Beau Bridges, Laird Hamilton. 2011. — D.E.

MUSIC AND Silent Film

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

What appears when a submissive wife (Catherine denounces) “Don doesn’t step in to run his husband’s umbrella factory after employees rebel against a tyrannical manager? This comedy set in 1977 screens at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Gaslamp 15.

DANCE-IN THEATRE

The Kid with a Bike — We realize how fast Cyril could fall and how close his bravery is to despair.
ing a fantasy universe in which their man-children can cavort. With Jason Segel, Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon. 2012. S.M.
★☆☆☆ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST; LA PALOMA)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi — David Gelb’s documentary about Jiro Ono, a sage master chef of sushi in Tokyo, has the quick art, fine detailing, and lucid skill that Jiro shows in his kitchen and when serving. Lucky are the diners, envious are we voyeurs. The sea life has gone to heaven. 2012. — D.E.

John Carter — Disney reaches back to Edgar Rice Burroughs’s Barsoom series for its newest adventure saga. The fuzzy 3-D is a nuisance, but the artwork is competent and the interaction of live actors and digital images is nearly seamless. Taylor Kitsch plays a disgruntled war hero from Virginia (circa mid-1800s) who is transported to Mars by means of a magic medallion and forced to contend with all manner of ruckus: a civil war, some divine overseers, and a sultry princess. Ultimately, the potential for enjoyment is overwhelmed by the bombast of the plot. 2012. — J.R.
★☆☆☆ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

The Kid with a Bike — Reviewed this issue.
★★★★ (KEN; FROM 4/13)

The Lady — Michelle Yeoh plays Aung San Su Kyi, the Burmese freedom leader long under house arrest, with David Thewlis as her British husband. Directed by Luc Besson. Reviewed next issue. (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; FROM 4/13)

Life Happens — Gal pals are tested when one has a baby. Kat Coiro’s comedy stars Kate Bosworth, Krysten Ritter, Rachel Bilson. (FASHION VALLEY 18; FROM 4/13)

Lockout — Tough guy, falsely accused, must spring the President’s daughter from an outer-space hellhole. With Guy Pearce, Maggie Grace, Peter Stormare. Reviewed next issue. (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 MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY PALM 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 4/13)

Mirror Mirror — Tarsem Singh brings his flair for visual composition to the fairy tale genre, and the modesty of scale reins him in to good effect. But the star of this Snow White adaptation isn’t the scenery, nor the workaday comedy, nor even Snow White herself (an adorably silly Collins), even if she is still the heroine. No, this is Julia Roberts’s film. Her haughty, glammed-up Queen discovers what every woman knows: magic or otherwise, the mirror doesn’t lie. A brave role for an aging beauty. 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 MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY PALM 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 14; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Miss Bala — Mexico’s official entry for the recent Oscars competition is Gerardo Naranjo’s drama about an aspiring beauty queen (Stephanie Sigman) whose hopes are threatened by a crime cartel. (GASLAMP 15)

Norwegian Wood — A fall below past form for ex-pat Vietnamese visionary Tran Anh Hung (The Scent of Green Papaya). His visual elegance and delight in deep moods are tangled in the murky weeds of Haruki Murakami’s novel. A nice, dull, passive student (Ken’ichi Matsuyama) fixes on a suicidal friend’s sexually neurotic “lover.” People fret, stew, pine, and pose in handsome Japanese settings, and the Beatles song is no help at all. It is like watching soap operas brood at a Zen spa. 2012. — D.E.
★ ★ ★ (GASLAMP 15)

October Baby — Hanna’s parents finally get around to telling their 19-year-old daughter, the survivor of a failed abortion, that she was adopted. Forget what side of the debate you’re on: a bad movie is a bad movie, and this escapee from the Hallmark Channel is strictly amateur time. If you’re not sure what to think or how to react, Andrew and Jon Erwin’s by-numbers storytelling and Paul Mills’s treacly score will guide you. With Rachel Hendrix and John Schneider. — S.M.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Pina — An elegant, heartfelt, never-sap- py salute to the late German choreogra- pher Philippina “Pina” Bausch and her dancers. Veteran fan and auteur Wim Wenders uses 3-D superbly to put us inside intensely kinetic, body-stressing dances (most in short form). They can be a little retro-vanguard but are always vivid, witty, and/or beautiful. This is a great tribute by one art form to another, as both stretch admirably. 2012. — D.E.
★★★★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Project X — Somebody took a perfectly good black comedy and grafted a fairy tale onto it. The results aren’t pretty. What could have been a delicious dissection of the moronic bastard’s attempt to become cool by whoring out his upscale home for party-fueled destruction winds up as an affirmation of true love and human gratitude. “Hey man, thanks for letting us trash your folks’ place!” Plus, a dog mates with a drunk dude’s face. Directed by Nima Nourizadeh, with Thomas Mann and Oliver Cooper. 2012. — M.L.
★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

The Raid: Redemption — Sordid action sludge, pumped for dumb payoffs. Indonesian SWAT cops, with no plan but “kill,” utilise a drug kingpin’s high-rise full of ambush traps and collateral (civilian) damage. Giving death and enduring pain are the measures of machismo. The reunion of opposing brothers is ludicrous, and redemption is nowhere to be found. 2012. — D.E.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Rampart — Built like a bullet, yet with his mind a cage of worym lust, greed, and bigotry, cop Dave Brown (Woody Harrelson) is far below the LAPD’s finest. Oren Moverman directed as if fiercely merging Colors and Bad Lieuten- ant, while chief writer James Ellroy plays his slumming role for lowcultural kick. Backed well by Brie Larson, Sigourney Weaver, Ned Beatty, Cynthia Nixon, Robin Williams, Ben Foster, Anne Heche, Ice Cube, and Steve Buscemi, Harrelson achieves more than moxie presence as this sick loser. But the story, losing mo- mentum, sags into pulp. 2012. — D.E.
★★★ (GASLAMP 15; FROM 4/13)

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen — The charm stretches but does not break in Lasse Hallström’s odd, gentle comedy about a visionary sheikh (Amit Waked) who devises a dam, river, and imported salmon in dry, hot Yemen. Caught up in his crazy but moving scheme are two Brit dreamers (Emily Blunt, Ewan McGregor). It has some of the old Ealing Studios–grace of lovable silliness, though Kristin Scott Thomas is pushy as a political opportunist. One imagines Lawrence of Arabia looking at this from the desert under his eyes, and dream- ing of a salmon steak. 2012. — D.E.
★★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; TOWN SQUARE 14)

A Separation — Another Iranian mov- ie steeped in humanity, with nuances that accentuate the virtues of a tight budget. The daughter doesn’t want her parents to split, but Islamic and sexist issues intervene, as does grandfatherly Alzheimer’s. The cast is splendid (Sara Behnoud especially), the scenario, the direction deft and lucid. Without rhetorical hammer, creator Asghar Far- hadi makes us see, intimately, how the Islamic Republic has entwined the war
**THE THREE STOOGES** — The Movie

An irreverent tribute to their greatness, with the boys played by Sean Hayes, Will Sasso, Chris Diamantopoulos. Find your yucks in Stooges savant Scott Rudin’s analysis on the Reader’s Big Screen blog. (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; PARKMEN 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 16; SAN CARLOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 4/13)

**Titanic** — Reviewed this week.

(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 16; SAN CARLOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**The Trouble with Bliss** — Morris Bliss, who lives at home, gets involved with the barely legal daughter of an ex-classmate in yet another coming-of-age comedy about a slouch in his 30s. This one works, thanks to a charming and highly observant screenplay and a great cast. Director Douglas Light and director Michael Knowles. Michael C. Hall leads an all-star cast. (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 8:05, 10:20; Sun. (10:50, 1:20, 3:45) 5:15, 8:15, 10:45. — M.L.

**ValleY 20; Mission Valley Hazard Center**

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 16; San Marcos 18; Temecula Tower 10; Town Square 14; Vista Village.

**Witchcraft** — A new “update” to the ’80s television series, this time involving a high school poltergeist (the dumb jock and the smart geek) who are recruited for an undercover assignment to pose as high school students and infiltrate the supplier of a new “super drug.” (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 11:50, 1:45, 6:15, 9:15.

**La Jolla Village** 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-419-0236) The Box (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50; Sun. 10:10, 12:25, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets (*). The Hunter (R) Opens Friday, April 20. The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) “With craziest Imaginations” Shady Cast. Plays Saturday, April 21.

**American Reunion** — A moron movie for diehard fans

(619-419-0236) The Big Screen blog.

**La Jolla**

10731 Westview Parkway (800-326-1264)

Call theater for program information.

**Mission Valley**

**Fashions Valley 18; Glamslip 15; 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 16; River Village 6; San Marcos 18; Temecula Tower 10; Town Square 14; Vista Village.

**Witchcraft** — The Long —ago.

Zeus used the Spear of Something or Other to defeat his father Cronos, now imprisoned in Tartarus. But now people have stopped praying, and the god’s work — Tartarus included — is coming undone. What to do? Reassemble the Spear, of course, and make sure human Perseus handles it this time. Apparently the indomitable human spirit is all we really need — plus magic gloves, of course. Familiar foes — brother vs. brother, father vs. son — get tossed in for drama, like bacon bits on a ranch-style Greek salad. (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 11:20, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45.

**Landmark La Jolla Village**

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-419-0236) The Ides of March (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50; Sun. 10:10, 12:25, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets (*). Monsieur Lazarh (PG-13) Opens Friday, April 20th at Nightbird 21.

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Call theater for program information.

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MOVIE SHOWTIMES

San Marcos

The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri Sun: 10:45, 12:05, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45. 10:45, 12:05, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45.

San Diego

Three Stooges (PG-3) Fri Sun: 10:30, 12:15, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00.

三个 PG-13; 日: 10:30, 12:15, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00.

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MOVIE SHOWTIMES

San Marcos

The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri Sun: 10:45, 12:05, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45. 10:45, 12:05, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45.

San Diego

Three Stooges (PG-3) Fri Sun: 10:30, 12:15, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00.

三个 PG-13; 日: 10:30, 12:15, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00.

Casa Del Rio North (888-262-4386)
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2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle 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. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .PGP format. They will be scanned. 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:
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5) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across
1. Play of 1606
8. Eavesdrop, perhaps
11. Criminalize
14. Turtleneck, e.g.
15. Young man
16. Anka’s “____ Beso”

Down
1. Counselor’s deg.
4. Kind of soda
5. Summers in France
6. Thence, to a pharmacist
7. Old Eur. realm
8. Secondary strategy
9. Driving _____
10. Fabric amts.
11. Takes the top off
12. WikiLeaks founder Julian
13. Peacenik’s slogan
14. Civic center?
15. Stock mkt. debut
16. Teutonic war god
17. Hall of Fame NFL coach who won Super Bowl III
18. French Carmichael
19. Fence alternative
20. T-shirt: S _____ M _______  L _______  XL _______
21. Grade school subj.
22. Glaze, when it melts
23. Put _____ writing!
24. Prefix with athlete
25. Snitch
26. “____ the fire?”
27. Microphone sound
28. Fire starters
29. Boy toy?
30. “Rugrats” dad
31. Some ER cases
32. Info for some captains
33. T-shirt: S _____ M _______  L _______  XL _______
34. Dodger City
35. Dudley Do-Right’s org.
36. “Rest easy, man!”
37. “____ the word!”
38. Average of 1606
39. “All My ____ Live in Texas” (1953 #1 country hit)
40. Proslav
41. Haven students
42. To the _____ degree
43. Ave. relatives
44. “Brr!”
45. Had the hots for
46. Hurricane of 2011
47. Opening words of the U.S. Constitution ... or a hint at solving 17-, 24-, 35- and 47-Across
48. Prefix with athlete
49. Subtype, e.g.
50. To the _____ degree
51.养育者, of  ____ Beso
52. “____ the word!”
53. Suffix with ball or bass
54. Slink
55. singers who’s the descendant of a Japanese emperor
56. Sink, e.g.
57. “Put ____ writing!”
58. Snitch
59. “____ the fire?”
60. Neither Dem. nor Rep.
61. singer who’s the descendant of a Japanese emperor
62. “Rest easy, man!”
63. “Rugrats” dad
64. Boy toy
65. Fire starters
66. “Put ____ writing!”
67. Neighbors, e.g.
68. “Rugrats” dad
69. “Rugrats” dad
70. fourth planet from the sun
71. Organ doing pat-downs
72. “____ the fire?”
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Name: ________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: ________________________________________
State: ________________________________________
Zip Code: ________________________________________
Personal Message: ________________________________________

Please check one:
Cap: ________________________________________
T-shirt: S _____ M _______  L _______  XL _______

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Cindy Fisher, San Clemente, 6. If we were carnivores I’d think, “So many politicians, so few recipes.”
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 6. We print the winning messages in the paper and online.
Dale Diffala, Bird Rock, 6. Last week’s winners weren’t all that puns!
Conway Redding, La Mesa, 6. Clever is as clever plagiarizes.
Carolyn Clark, Lakeside, 6. If we were carnivores I’d think, “So many politicians, so few recipes.”

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS: (All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

Need an apartment short term? As low as $300 / week plus tax

$300/week plus tax for 1 queen bed
$350/week plus tax for 2 double beds
Month to Month lease starting at $1,295
6 month or 1 year lease available starting as low as $950/mo

California Suites Hotel
Apartment prices with hotel perks
www.californiassuiteshotel.com

*Some hotel amenities included. Please call for details.

Affordable Central Location!

2 bedrooms starting at $1,050
Bright, airy units with ceiling fans, carports with storage and remodeled laundry room on-site. Minutes from everything!

Patio Village Apartments
Call Penny for availability:
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8501 Glenhaven St. • San Diego
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**DOWNTOWN, 900 & UP.** Newly renovated. 646 A Street. Call Bill, Michael, 619-232-1517. baymanor927@yahoo.com.

**BAMBOO FLOORING**

Enjoy the convenience of city living and the incredible location of Point Loma, only minutes from the Beach, Downtown, Old Town and the San Diego Airport.

- Bamboo flooring	- Heatd, resort-style pool
- Oversized hot tub	- Fitness center
- Firepit, lounge and BBQ area	- Custom game room
- Fitness center	- Stainless steel appliances
- Covered parking available	- Pet friendly

3801 Marquette Place San Diego, 92106
619-223-6577 • www.gables.com

**RENTALS REGION MAP**

**BEACHES**

La Jolla • Mission Beach • Ocean Beach
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
Cempo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley
Jamul • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

**CENTRAL SAN DIEGO**

Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont
College Area • Del Carro • Grantville
Keamy Mesa • Linda Vista • Miramar
Mission Valley • San Carlos
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Terramar • UTC

**OLD TOWN & UPTOWN**

City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights

**NC COASTAL**

Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

**SOUTHBAY**

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

**Pacific Beach Luxury from $950**

Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 Basketball Courts, 5 Lighted Tennis Courts, Clubhouse and BBQ area, Business Center, on-site Laundry facilities, heat & A/C, Cats and Dogs welcome, close to freeways and much, much more!!!

**Up to $500 Off**

1st Month’s Rent (OAC, on select units) **studios $950**

1 bedrooms $1250

2 bedrooms/2 baths $1725

Select units, OAC.

Bay Pointe Apartments

3866 Ingraham Street in Pacific Beach • 888-451-8713
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A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level: Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the first person whose name is drawn and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND got to it by 1:00 PM Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) 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 best messages in the paper and online.
4) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online, in the paper and will be awarded every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-223-7097 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8583, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdrreader.com.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

This weekend’s puzzle:

PLEASE MARK THE BOXES WITH INK.

EASY:

MEDIUM:

HARD:

EVIL:

Submit your entries to the puzzle each week using the information below:

EASY:

MEDIUM:

HARD:

EVIL:

Submit a completed puzzle of any difficulty level: Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil. The first person whose name is drawn and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get to it by 1:00 PM Monday. Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

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We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ____________________________
State: ______ Zip Code: ______

Personal Message: __________________________

Cap: __________________________
T-shirt: __________________________

We are temporarily out of T-shirts. Winners will receive caps.

THE WEEKS WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

DON BOWMAN, Santee, 3. How did the dictionary cross the road? It brought alphabet along.

LAURA OWEN, City Heights, 2. A Puzzler and a Writer? Thanks for the boost to self-image. Sure beats "Cat Lady." Be on your way to win cap!

CINDY FISHER, San Clemente, 6. A journey of a thousand miles begins when the first one decides to move.

WANG TANG, San Diego, 2. Ask not what Reader can do for you, ask... .

LILY SUN, Carmel Valley, 1. No hat, no shirt, no problem.

DOWNTOWN.


From downtown.


SOUTH PARK, $535.


SHERMAN HEIGHTS, $975.


GOLDEN HILL, $850.


LA MESA, $775 & UP.


LA MESA, $950 & UP.


LA MESA, $1050 & UP.


LA MESA, $1150 & UP.


LA MESA, $1350.


EL CAJON, $795.

2BD+1BA apartment. 1/2 off 1st month’s rent! Central heat/ air, 1-car garage, washer/ dryer. 5500 Morro Road, El Cajon. Entrance of Lake Murray Walk. Deposit. 619-747-4964.

EL CAJON, $995.

2BD+1BA apartment. 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds with lots of open space, laundry on premises, large windows. 332 Complex Street #A, People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, peoplehelpingpeople.org.

EL CAJON, $1400.


EL CAJON, $795.

2BD+1BA, 1 month free! No application fee. Pool, BIQ A/C, electric stove, dishwasher, on-site laundry, parking. Section 8 OK. TM McCune Street #18. 619-735-3855.

LA MESA, $975.


LA MESA, $1150.


LA MESA, $1250.


LEADVILLE, $1300.

2BD+1BA apartment. Utilities included. 5810 Amaya Drive. vistaamaya@gmail.com. 619-697-3285.

LEMON GROVE, $1550.


LEMON GROVE, $1650.


LEMON GROVE, $1750.


LEMON GROVE, $2150.


LEMON GROVE, $2450.


LEMON GROVE, $2500.

Kari Smith
Temecula, dance instructor
I'd probably live in the first Costo I could find. There are limited and secure entries and exits and there's most everything you need to live for a while.

Steve Nash
Software engineer
I would get to my car as quickly as possible. I keep a gun there with seven rounds, which should be enough to get me home where I keep the other 200. My house is secure enough, plus I'd rather die at my home than anywhere else.

Ian Carty
Sacramento, PG&E
I would smack 'em! All the zombies get smacked. But, seriously, I'd start running toward my car, then straight to TJ Maxx. Actually, first I'd find a drink, then I'd do the rest.

Cinnamon Allen
Sacramento, student
I'd make sure to trip everyone else on my way out so the zombies wouldn't eat me, just all the fallen bodies. You don't need to be faster than the fastest person, just faster than the slowest. That would give me more time to escape.
Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

High Marx
We've put Groucho glasses on several famous personalities whose initials appear below.
See if you can match them up.

Hd T-L, W.S.  M.T.  E.L.P.  L.D.V.  A.E.


BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit completed puzzle to Reader each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle 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 92138-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: Puzzles@sdreader.com.
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) Entry per person per week or per month is not accepted.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:
More holes
7 scissors
11 egg slicer
3 shoe (wing tip)
11 egg slicer
7 scissors
6 spatula
3 shoe (wing tip)
11 egg slicer
8 electrical outlet
5 radio speaker
13 slotted spoon
11 egg slicer
4 coin-op washer
9 pretzel
1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:
(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)

___________________ M.L.
___________________ R.R.
___________________ T.R.
___________________ W.S.
___________________ J.B.
___________________ B.C.
___________________ T.M.
___________________ L.v.B.
___________________ R.R.
___________________ T.R.
___________________ W.S.
___________________ L.v.B.
___________________ B.C.
___________________ T.M.
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___________________ T.M.
___________________ L.v.B.
___________________ R.R.
___________________ T.R.
___________________ W.S.
To the Guy In This Cafe Who Is Staring Right At My Computer Screen, There’s an almost infinite supply of places that you can stare which are not my computer, fella. The window. Your shoes. Your coffee. The wall. The insides of your closed eyelids. Any of these are perfectly acceptable staring-spots. Unlike my computer, none of them is currently being used to write a personal email. Unlike my computer, none will later create an angry comic about you. FYI.

Sincerely,
Privately Typing

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OPEN LETTERS

by Jory John & Avery Monsen ©2012


CITY HEIGHTS, $900. 1BD+1BA, top floor apartment, 3862 Georgia Street. Great new, 1 assigned parking. laundry room. Month to month. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-249-2770.


HILLCREST, $1,400. 2BD+1BA, quiet, lower unit apartment. Laundry! Large bedrooms! Living room. All new kitchen, new flooring, carpet, laundry! No application fee. 4655 35th Street #3. 619-842-2588.


NORMAL HEIGHTS, $1,050. 2BD+1BA apartment. Just renovated! Must see! 4542 Cherokee Avenue #11. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, $1,275. 2BD+1BA apartment. Just renovated! Must see! 1012 Chickasaw Avenue #1. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.


NORMAL HEIGHTS, $1,200. 2BD+1BA, quiet, lower unit apartment. Laundry! Large bedrooms! Living room. All new kitchen, new flooring, carpet, laundry! No application fee. 4655 35th Street #3. 619-842-2588.


**TVs, bathrobes, breakfast, snacks.**

**CUPID’S CASTLE B&B.**

**Vacation Rentals** 5525.

[stevenleeproperties.com](http://stevenleeproperties.com). 619-295-

now. 2420 Adirondack Row #3. www.

flooring. No refrigerator. Available

PARADISE HILLS, $1550.

required. 624 East 24th Street.

No SDG&E deposit or hookup is

apartment. Low $150 deposit.

ALIGNMENT cer-

tifi cate. Retest free when repair

older $10 extra.

European cars extra. 1995 and

necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only.

2 machines. No appointment

done on site. VIP service,

CHECK $1695

The Fastest SMOG CHECK in San Diego!

Get in and out fast! 2 smog machines & No waiting

SMOG CHECK $1695

FREE DIAGNOSTIC FAILED SMOG and

“CHECK ENGINE” LIGHT with on-site scan. FTS value.

FREE BRAKE & LAMP CERTIFICATE $85

$59.95 each certif. Most 4-cyl. cars

MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K

Includes:

* Oil & filter change
* Diagnostic scan
* Catalytic converter inspection
* BRAKE & LAMP CERTIFICATE $85

OIL CHANGE $16

With diagnostic and/or tire inspection. Most 4-cyl. cars. Plus $2.50 disposal fee.

COOLING SYSTEM SERVICE $19

Drain system and replace up to 1 gal coolant. $10 extra for other cars.


Music Rehearsal Studios

Quality 24-hour studios for quality musicians. (Ask about monthly shared space low as $200.)

Call or contact studio, Collage Area. Please call Al, 619-335-8455.

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At Japanese Auto Plus we specialize in Japanese vehicles exclusively. This will save you both time and money because we have the expertise to diagnose and repair your vehicle quickly and economically.

We honor most extended warranties.

**Brakes**

Free brake inspection. Front or rear.

Includes labor, new parts and semi-metallic pads. Includes labor and parts.

Inspect calipers, hydraulic systems, seals, rotors or drums. Most cars and light trucks.

**Timing Belts**

60,000-mile replacement recommended. Oil, coolant,belts and filters due to expensive engine damage. Some cars and trucks extra.

**Brake Pads!**

Get a free set of safety stop ceramic brake pads with the purchase of installation & machining rotors ($60 value)

1 FREE STRUT! Buy 3, Get 1 Free!

Premium Oil Change Service

with Synthetic Blend Oil

• Up to 4 qts oil
• Check charging system
• Check fluids
• New oil filter
• 64 pt inspection
• Check Brakes

$1995 E APA

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From $229 plus labor

Performance exhaust systems available. Call for prices.

Computerized Alignment

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$49 Most 4-cyl.

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**Music**

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE / WANTED

KARAOKE ENTERTAINER WANTED. Looking for local entertainer with karaoke experience for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Own equipment. For more information, please call 619- 420-4891.

**PRODUCER/COMPOSER** seeking versatile players. All instruments, ages. Styles: ska, Latin, avant-garde, hammond, improvisational, folkloric fusion. Forming acoustic ensemble.

**Video**

For Leaks

For Tears

Coolant System

For T2 Clutchs. Free & unlimited area.

A/C SERVICE $95

- AC Hose
- A/C Leaks
- Condenser System
- T2 & T2 Clutch. Free & unlimited area.

Music Recording Services

The Producers

For more information, please call 619-


 מכון וייס

Audiorecording.com

Cupid’s Castles.


Wineries. Wedding facility. Cupid’s

Voted most romantic getaway! Near

Vista, Carlsbad, San Diego. $$$

Voted most romantic getaway! Near

Vista, Carlsbad, San Diego. $$$

**The Dinette Set**

by Julie Larson ©2012

NATIONAL CITY, 6825.

180+ fully furnished apartments. $150 deposit.

No SDG&E deposit or hookup is required. 244 East 24th Street.

Office open daily. Call 619-474-

3783.

PARADISE HILLS, 1550.


stevensproperties.com. 619-295-

6525.

**Vacation Rentals**

CUPID’S CASTLE B&B. Fairytale bed and breakfast castle near Hemat’s Casino. Jacuzzis, balconies, TVs, bed/bathrooms, breakfast, snacks.


**Music**

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE / WANTED

**KARAOKE ENTERTAINER WANTED.**

Looking for local entertainer with karaoke experience for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Own equipment. For more information, please call 619- 420-4891.

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**Video**

For Leaks

For Tears

Coolant System

For T2 Clutchs. Free & unlimited area.

A/C SERVICE $95

- AC Hose
- A/C Leaks
- Condenser System
- T2 & T2 Clutch. Free & unlimited area.
**RENAI WITH BILEY: Rani is a transferrence of healing energy from the practitioner to the client. Half-off first session Located in Carlsbad. Call toll-free 888-484-7768.**

**$35 Foot Bath**
Release Toxins and heavy metals through your feet!Relax and energize with this impressive, non-invasive procedure. Increase your whole body wellness! Donna. 619-542-3617.

**TAXI ON & OFF! Classes.** First class is free. TaxiStunt, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 52103, 619-692-1055 or www.taxiassociation.org.

**STAGE NOTES**

**Ability Through Training**

**Actors: A new class opening!**

**A new class opening!**

**“Until we had our own chickens, we just felt left out in the cold—Military-Poor Complex thing.”**

E.J. Pettinger’s Mild Abandon

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FREE TANGO LESSONS in exchange for assistance with simple job of registering attendees and collecting students. Just 7-8pm on Monday-Friday. Please e-mail colletes@tango2hollins.com.


CANNABIS PATIENT ACT. Seeks caregiver/patient interns with experience in this section include licensed medical practices, unlicensed counselors and support groups.


CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve. All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

RED MEAT
peeled together from excavated comedy shreds

Dan, could you step into my office for a moment?

Of course, sir. What’s up?

Do you know anything about those dirty pipe cleaners all over the top of my desk?

Oops. My apologies, I was cleaning out a clogged nozzle from the milk bottle sanitizing unit last night.

Nope, it wasn’t too bad. I just had them handy so I figured I might as well clean my pet ant eater’s infected snout as well.

These things are all coated with slime and brown crud. That unit must have been filthy.

BREAD & FOOD DISTRIBUTION.
NOTICES
ers in this section include licensed medical practices, unlicensed counselors and support groups.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

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CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve. All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

FREE TANGO LESSONS in exchange for assistance with simple job of registering attendees and collecting students. Just 7-8pm on Monday-Friday. Please e-mail colletes@tango2hollins.com.


LEAD STORY — Newspapers in Sweden reported in January that two of the country’s most heinous murderers fell in love with each other behind the locked doors of their psychiatric institution and, following a 26-day internet-chat “courship,” have decided to marry. Mr. Isak Jonsson (“the Skara Cannibal”) was convicted of killing, decapitating, and eating his girlfriend, and Michelle Gustafsson (“the Vampire Woman”) was convicted of killing a father of four and drinking his blood. The pair will almost certainly remain locked up forever, but Gustafsson, on the internet, wrote that she could sing better if she tried it naked. Gauspehoul told an investigator of his excitement about experimenting at the “hum- an level” to determine how sexual arousal affects vocal range. The girl complied with “Gauspehoul’s” requests but finally balked and turned him in.

— Rock Dagenais, 26, pleaded guilty recently to weapons charges after creating a siege by bringing a knife, a sawed-off rifle, and 100 rounds of ammunition to a Quebec elementary school. He eventually surrendered peacefully and said he was only trying to send the kids a message not to dis- respect each other by bullying.

Latest Human Rights — Librarians typically can shush patrons whose conversation disturbs others, but, at least in San Diego, that such a practice is illegal. San Diego school librarian Jesus Aragon said that he was told that he could sing better if he tried it naked. Gauspehoul told an investigator of his excitement about experimenting at the “human level” to determine how sexual arousal affects vocal range. The girl complied with “Gauspehoul’s” requests but finally balked and turned him in.


PROBLEMS TORMENTING YOU? Residential or commercial, free estimates on all. San Diego County, CA. Provide pets@SDReader.com.

CHIHUAHUA MIX. Breezy, 25931195. 619-852-0984.


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PERSONALS

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WASHER/DYER. Matching Frigidaire washer/dryer for $200. 619-420-1028. White wash/Dryer. Washer is in good condition. But, he added sheepishly, “Whether this is actu- rally art is the big question.”

Bright Ideas — South Korea’s Customs Service arrested eight men in January for a 2010 scheme to smuggle gold into Japan without paying import fees. The smugglers allegedly broke down gold bars into small beads and brought them in in their underwear.

— In an advertising campaign in December for a new line of extreme push-up bras, the Dutch design house says it would win. Said a spokesman, “Previous paint- ing experience is not essential.”

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Di- ego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNews@yahoomail.com.

LEAD STORY — Newspapers in Sweden reported in January that two of the country’s most heinous murderers fell in love with each other behind the locked doors of their psychiatric institution and, following a 26-day internet-chat “courship,” have decided to marry. Mr. Isak Jonsson (“the Skara Cannibal”) was convicted of killing, decapitating, and eating his girlfriend, and Michelle Gustafsson (“the Vampire Woman”) was convicted of killing a father of four and drinking his blood. The pair will almost certainly remain locked up forever, but Gustafsson, on the internet, wrote that she could sing better if she tried it naked. Gauspehoul told an investigator of his excitement about experimenting at the “human level” to determine how sexual arousal affects vocal range. The girl complied with “Gauspehoul’s” requests but finally balked and turned him in.

— Rock Dagenais, 26, pleaded guilty recently to weapons charges after creating a siege by bringing a knife, a sawed-off rifle, and 100 rounds of ammunition to a Quebec elementary school. He eventually surrendered peacefully and said he was only trying to send the kids a message not to dis- respect each other by bullying.

Latest Human Rights — Librarians typically can shush patrons whose conversation disturbs others, but, at least in Washington state, librarians are powerless to pre- vent another “disturbance” — when a pornogra- phy user’s computer screen dismounts other library patrons who inadvertently glimpse it. A visitor to the androgyous (but fl at-chested) superstar Angelina Jolie became the most recent litigant to challenge a state law that regards pets as “property” (and that, thus, the owner of an injured or disfigured pet is entitled to no more consideration than for a defective appliance).

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