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**UNDER THE RADAR**

San Diego State’s mouth-piece-in-chief San Diego State University’s $400,000 man, president Elliot Hirshman, is looking for a $45,000- to $50,000-a-year ghostwriter to be his “presidential communications manager,” according to a recent post by the university on the career networking site LinkedIn. The job calls for “drafting and editing a high volume of diverse correspondence, remarks, talking points, e-mails and speeches for internal and external audiences; and proofreading copy for accuracy, consistency of message and appearance.” The aide is also expected to “maintain a library of resource materials” and gather “relevant information well in advance of each speaking opportunity.” One of Hirshman’s most important tasks is hitting up fat cat contributors for cash, in part to justify his record salary. To that end, his aide is to research and prepare “briefing materials and remarks for the university President when meeting with top donors and prospects.” A few more requirements of the gig: “Thorough knowledge and professional work experience in expository or journalistic writing, including story development and editing” and “Ability to write for a senior level executive and understand the difference between writing for publications and writing for speakers.” The successful applicant will also have an “Understanding of SDSU’s unique history, people and stories.”

**Bill Gore looks to get smart**

Attention all spies: San Diego county sheriff Bill Gore, himself an ex-FBI special agent, is in the market for those schooled in the dark arts of espionage. “The Sheriff’s Department is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide highly trained intelligence analysts who are subject matter experts in counter-terrorism, domestic terrorism, international terrorism, critical infrastructure, as well as all crimes/all-hazards,” says an April 16 request for proposals. The county’s spy center, the document adds, is the so-called Fusion Center, according to the request, “as they analyze the patterns, trends, and evidence of organized criminal activity for use by first responders and public safety executives.” In particular, “The intelligence analysts should have analytical work experience on the Southwest Border and work experience involving products developed from High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area initiatives.” It also doesn’t hurt to have worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, notes the document. And, of course, a security clearance is mandatory. But even espionage requires regular breaks: “Intelligence analysts will be permitted paid time off under this Agreement for all the County holidays.”

**John Moores, scandal magnate**

Ex-San Diego State University athletic director Jeff Schemmel exited Aztec Mesa back in November 2009, ejected by then-president Stephen Weber after it came to light in a divorce case that Schemmel had spent state funds visiting an alleged mistress in Alabama. He later landed on his feet as head of the college division of San Diego’s JMI Sports. As we reported last fall, the company was set up by Padres owner John Moores to consult with sports interests, both amateur and professional, about how to develop stadiums and handle management issues, including “gender equity evaluation” and “NCAA infractions representation.” Now comes word that Schemmel, a Moores protégé when he was at SDSU, has played a major role in getting a new job for a veteran of another legendary athletic scandal.

Colorado State University announced two weeks ago that Larry Eustachy would become the school’s new head basketball coach, thanks in part to the search efforts of JMI and Schemmel, hired in March by the university for $75,000 to serve as chief coach handler for Colorado athletic director Jack Graham. (An account of the hiring in the Fort Collins Coloradoan didn’t mention Schemmel’s San Diego State history but did note that he “is the brother of Colorado Rockies radio broadcaster and former CSU play-by-play voice Jerry Schemmel.”)

**Alameda-born Eustachy was bounced as head coach of the Iowa State Cyclones in 2003 after the Des Moines Register ran photos of him partying with attractive female students at a beer bash.**

Simon: Commissioner with a Past

*By Don Bauder*

On September 9, 2010, a Pacific Gas & Electric natural gas pipeline exploded in San Bruno. Eight people were killed and 38 homes destroyed. Early last year, Bay Area assemblyman Jerry Hill told the California Public Utilities Commission that its lax regulation was greatly responsible.

Michael Peevey, president of the commission, indignantly huffed that a panel had been named to study the tragedy, so the assemblyman’s remark was “contemptible.”

Intonted Timothy Alan Simon, a commissioner, “I find it personally offensive for the member of the legislature to come before this body and try to even imply or indicate the slightest scintilla that we have been complacent in this area.”

Peevey had shown some humility right after the disaster, but in mid-2011, after the panel came out with the study lashing the utility for its incompetence and the commission for its weak-kneed regulation, Peevey gulped down a big helping of humble pie. He pledged that the commission would improve enforcement. Then, that year, he took four overseas trips paid for by utilities — to the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, and Australia. Simon went along on the Swedish and Italy junkets. His fiancée, San Francisco port commissioner Kimberly Brandon, went on the Sweden trip. Assemblyman Hill said the trips were shameful.

The California Public Utilities Commission continues to be marked by arrogance, ineptitude, bureaucracy and anti-consumer bias, blindness to conflicts of interest, and the publishing of misleading information about its commissioners. The utilities the commission regulates are just as... well... contemptible. Pacific Gas & Electric wants its customers to pick up a significant part of the tab for future improvements in its pipelines. This smacks of San Diego Gas & Electric’s outrageous attempt to get its customers to pay for uninsured costs of the 2007 wildfires, for which the utility was found negligent. And the local utility wants customers to indemnify it against costs of future fires.

So what is the commission doing? The administrative law judge handling San Diego Gas & Electric’s attempt to fleece its customers is Marieth Bushey, a former lawyer for — you guessed it — San Diego Gas & Electric. In 1993, her husband, then an inventor for a company 80 percent owned by SDG&E, owed the utility $110,000.

The commissioner handling the wildfire case is Timothy Alan Simon, who was appointed five years ago amid controversy. Simon’s biography on the commission website says he is “a former securities and banking industry attorney” who serves on several nonprofit boards, particularly ones tied to the Roman Catholic Church, and “is engaged and is the proud father of three children.”

But documents from other sources raise many questions about that Simon biography. Unfortunately, he did not respond to a request for information.

He is a son of the legendary Joseph “Bunny” Simon, who owned eight nightclubs in San Francisco. One, the Play Pen, was adjacent to the former campaign headquarters of political powerhouse Willie Brown, who later recommended Bunny’s son for the commission post.

In his younger years, Timothy Alan Simon used the name Sultan Muhammad Al-Nasser, according to a report by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the nongovernmental securities regulator known as FINRA. He and his wife, Kamilah Al-Nasser, had three children: Suphia, Nahel, and Jamal. The marriage ended in divorce. On September 24, 2002, he filed for divorce. 

continued on page 44
Let’s Assess the Assessments

By Dorian Hargrove

Residential property owners throughout San Diego might be finding an additional charge on their annual property-tax bills if a local businessman gets his way. The extra assessment would pay for enhanced services such as trash and graffiti removal, sidewalk cleaning, and promotional events, provided in specific neighborhoods through community benefit districts.

Since 1978, when Prop 13 was passed, declining tax revenues have forced cities across the state to cut programs and scale back on services. The trend is evident in San Diego’s neighborhoods, where street trees go untrimmed and abandoned couches clutter alleyways for weeks on end.

In response, beginning in the 1990s, some residents and community leaders have taken matters into their own hands, searching for creative ways to fund local improvement projects and prevent blight.

One popular tool is a maintenance assessment district, an area where an annual tax is levied on each property to fund maintenance services such as landscaping. Currently, the city of San Diego has 55 maintenance assessment districts, with more neighborhoods such as Barrio Logan looking to join the list.

But assessment districts have come under fire in recent years. Reports of flawed assessment engineer’s reports and allegations that the districts were illegally formed and ill conceived have made some residents rethink the benefits that maintenance assessment districts offer. In February, a judge ordered the dissolution of the maintenance assessment district in Golden Hill and South Park. Last year, residential and commercial property owners in North Park defeated a proposal to create a second maintenance assessment district.

And downtown, after three years of waiting, residents still have not been refunded hundreds of thousands of dollars they paid in miscalculated assessments.

Marco Li Mandri, whose for-profit company New City America has formed 61 districts across the country, hopes to change the local law that regulates assessment districts so as to make it easier to establish them in San Diego neighborhoods.

The current law requires that to initiate the process, a petition must be signed by property owners who will be paying more than 50 percent of the total assessment. And once established, the district must be renewed by a vote of the property owners after five years.

Li Mandri proposes to create a new type of assessment district, a “community benefit district,” whose life would be extended to 20 years. And instead of a petition signed by property owners who will be paying more than 50 percent of the total assessment, a community benefit district would require

Neal Obermeyer

There’s an important lesson to be learned from Bob Filner’s political origins. I was insulted and infuriated by the actions of the school board. That led me to get involved in politics and now 34 years later, here we are!

In 2014, a few million people will be running for mayor. So I was insulted and infuriated by the actions of the school board...

Continued on page 44

NEWS TICKER

Protesters Stop Demolition

Community Leaders Speak Out Against Walmart

Sherman Heights — A crowd of Sherman Heights residents gathered this morning in front of the historic Farmers Market building on Imperial Avenue to hear a host of activists and local politicians speak on action recently taken by site lessee Walmart to demolish the building, a move that blindsided locals, many of whom said they’d been making efforts to communicate with the company about how to help it successfully enter the area.

While protesters successfully stopped the demolition on Wednesday morning, a large amount of debris appeared to have been removed from the site by Friday.

Perhaps the strongest words of the morning came from state senator Juan Vargas.

“Walmart is literally ripping the community apart,” charged Vargas. “They cut corners every step of the way. They’re cutting corners here today.”

“We shouldn’t stand for it. We should fight back!” he continued.

Community members will appear before a judge on Monday morning seeking a temporary restraining order blocking further destruction of the building.

By Dave Rice
Friday, April 20

Community members sought a restraining order against Walmart.

I Don’t Want to Shake Your Hand

Sweetwater Boardmember John McCann and recall activist Stewart Payne took place in the parking lot after the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, outside, the committee to recall Sweetwater boardmembers McCann, Jim Cartmill, and Arlie Ricasa began their signature drive. In the wake of the countless Sweetwater stories of disrepute, the group is seeking to recall the three boardmembers who are not up for reelection November.

Following the meeting, McCann went out to the parking lot and gave an interview to KUSI, after which he turned and advanced toward the group he had criticized, and with an outstretched hand, said, “I just want to shake your hand.” Payne replied, “I don’t want to shake your hand. What are you going to do? Have them shoot me?” Payne gestured to the armed security guards who had followed McCann to the parking lot. (Security has been hired to police the board meetings.)

On April 17, the U-T reported, “Police responded at 10:26 p.m. to a call of threats being made in the parking lot of the district’s administration center… Sweetwater Trustee John...
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In Control
I applaud you, Barb, for having the courage to take back control of your life (“Diary of a Diva,” April 19). I have been on Lexapro as well as a dozen other drugs. I understand the draw of the mania and the raw emotion. It is thrilling! Just know your “triggers” and when to ask for help. Lean on your husband, that is what he is there for. Breathe through the panic attacks, and know it will pass in a few seconds. That being said, please don’t feel as if you have failed should you decide to take another medication to help you settle down and be more stable. I am bipolar and a rapid cycler. I am currently on four meds, and for me that is just the way it is. I fought for years to get control and get off meds, but my condition is too unstable. However, on meds I feel really good, a part of the world. I am still me, and my condition does not define me.

I wish you the best of luck and happiness. Stay strong.
Kathy Stevens via email

Pill Free, Rich Life
Barbarella, thank you so much for your wonderful, insightful columns. I know a lot of people mock what you have to say, and they think that you’re not writing about anything very significant. They call you selfish; they think you’re self-absorbed. Well, what you’re doing is you’re sharing your personal life with a lot of readers. And sometimes it really hits a special chord, like your last article about getting off Lexapro (“Diary of a Diva,” April 19). Thank you so much for that.

I’d like to share my experience with you, too. A few years ago, after suffering from lifelong bouts of fear and anxiety due to a terrible, destructive childhood, I went to the doctor and told him that I couldn’t handle my anxiety, and he promptly put me on Paxil. Well, my experience with Paxil lasted about three days. I was so exhausted. I couldn’t even get up off the couch. So I threw the bottle out the window, and that was the end of that. So, now what I do is I live with my occasional bouts of anxiety. I try to practice Buddhist meditation; I occasionally will talk to my mate or talk to a friend about what’s bothering me — so I just try other things. You sound like you have a wonderful husband in David, a very understanding man.

Anyway, thanks for your wonderful columns, for sharing about your life. You are helping more people than you will ever know. And continue the good, brave work of trying to stay off the Lexapro. Life is so much richer without all the psychiatric drugs, as you’re finding out now.

Thanks for everything.
Name Withheld via voice mail
continued on page 47
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Do you not see this light blinking?” David squealed in the same voice he uses when impersonating Vizzini from *The Princess Bride*, a character best known for the line, ”Inconceivable!””

“No,” I shrugged. ”Phone’s behind the TV, why would you see it unless I walked around the side like you just did?”

“Were you home today?” This was rhetorical — I’m always home, especially when David takes the car to his studio. I stared at him blankly. ”Why didn’t you answer the phone?”

“Why didn’t you check it?”

It’s kind of rude to call someone these days,” I said as David was clearing the messages and glaring at me. ”You know? It’s, like, intrusive.”

David held up his hand, an indication for me to wait while he jotted down a number. As soon as he was done, I continued. ”At least with an email or a text you can respond in your own time. But the phone is, like, ’Now, answer me now!’ It’s so impatient and urgent...it stresses me out.”

”When I was growing up, we didn’t have caller I.D. or answering machines,” David said. He’d hung up the phone and had taken a seat in his chair. ”The phone would ring, and you wouldn’t know who it was. You just answered it. Then again, I don’t recall there being any telemarketers. It was either someone you knew or a wrong number.”

I slapped David on the arm and said, ”See? I’m not just making this shit up. There’s a generational divide when it comes to how people handle their telecommunication.”

Later, I found myself considering what David had said and tried to imagine a world without caller I.D. or voicemail. Then I went even further back and tried to picture what life was like before phones. Probably boring, but it also seemed relaxing, so long as I didn’t consider the lack of all the other modern comforts...like indoor plumbing.

The phone was a great invention, but once it went mobile and we became tethered to it all times, it became as much (if not more) of a nuisance as a convenience. Maybe the latest generation to grow up with the technology has figured out a way to grab hold of the electronic leash, rather than allowing themselves to be jerked around by it.

My father has had a mobile phone for only a few years. When he returns one of my missed calls (I don’t leave him messages; I figure he’ll see my name and call me when he gets a chance), he begins with an apology for not answering. ”I’m so sorry, I was on my motorcycle,” or ”I couldn’t click over, Aunt Carol was in the middle of a story.”

”Dad, you don’t have to apologize for not answering your phone,” I say, ”Just because it rings doesn’t mean you’re beholden to whoever’s calling you.” But my father is rubbing off on me. The last time I missed his call, I found myself apologizing right back: ”Sorry, I had my phone on silent.” It’s a bad habit to get into, apologizing for not answering one’s phone. You’re either available or you’re not, and if you’re not, that’s nothing to be sorry for.

The less time I spend talking on the phone, the more time I spend talking with friends and colleagues in person. The phone has become nothing more than a tool to keep in touch via the occasional funny text and to arrange when and where to meet up in the flesh. Maybe, as with slow food, speakeasy-style bars, and handlebar mustaches, a growing faction of hipsters has found yet another way to embrace a simpler time: talking face to face.
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**Straight from the HIP**  
by Matthew Alice

Matty:  
Where do ants go when it rains?  
*— Anonymous, San Diego*

Starbucks? Grandma sez they come to our house. But bugologists say, nay, nay. We have so many different styles and flavors of ants living everywhere except our coldest knobs, there is a variety of answers to your question. So let’s stick to ants in our particular ‘hood, most of which build above-ground cones with a pretty complicated network of underground tubes and rooms and drainage piping. In an ordinary rainfall, the loose soil around the mouth of the ant hole can absorb much of what hits the place. Some runs off because the surface tension on each droplet isn’t broken. If water gets inside, some of it is diverted into a system like storm drains. And some ants can close the opening in the top of the anthill and keep water out more effectively. At any rate, ordinary rains drive ants back into their nests, where they’re pretty safe. But if a hard rain’s gonna fall, ants that are able to bail out of the hill will head for higher ground and protection, like Grandma’s kitchen. Deluges will kill a bunch of ants, it’s true, though they’ll never hit the endangered species list.

The bug that laughs heartily at rain? Flies on, chuckling arrogantly, flicking the drops away? Mosquitoes. You’d figure a mosquito hits with a hearty drop would spin to the ground in flames. Well, maybe not flames. But again bugs say, nay, nay. Everything you know about bugs is wrong, to put a finer point on it, according to Firesign Theater wisdom. This science-guy research comes from Georgia Tech, in the heart of the humidity-and-bug belt of our U.S. Why, one Tech engineer puzzled, can mosquitoes survive a downpour, when they weigh maybe a couple of milligrams and a raindrop can be 50 times heavier? He held a mosquito roundup in his backyard, put them in a box of some sort, squirted them with a simulated rainstorm, and turned on his high-speed video camera. Turned out the dang bugs flew right into the drops. Didn’t dodge and evade. Didn’t hide out. No cowering, sniveling. Just flew straight ahead, and damn the torpedoes. A mosquito’s mass is so small that virtually none of the momentum from the falling drop is transferred to its body. It bobbles a little and buzzes on. Mosquito Man opines that big ol’ bees wouldn’t be so lucky, which is why they seek shelter. He’s busy figuring that out as we speak.

Hey Matt:  
Perhaps it was just propaganda from some spud farmer, but I once read/heard that a diet of just milk and potatoes would provide all the vitamins and minerals we need to survive. Is this so?  
*— A Potato Lover, via email*

There’s no booster like a spud booster. Who doesn’t love ‘em? The masterpiece of vegetables, to be sure. Tater lovers do go on and on, especially because the veggies do have a bundle of vitamins and minerals. And if you knock milk, I think you can be prosecuted for treason. This potato-and-milk factlet has been knocking around for so long, it’s been debated to shreds. Consensus is that you can blunder along fairly well on eight pounds of potatoes (without garnish) and two gallons of whole, vitamin-D-fortified milk a day. That’s pushing 6000 calories. For a living, I hope you fell trees with an axe or push large rocks up steep hills. But true, nutrition-wise, you’ll only be lacking a bit of vitamin E and a mineral called molybdenum. Lots of home-building tools are made of molybdenum, so perhaps you can add a drill bit to your milky potato diet. Or just add oats and legumes.

Heymatt:  
**Why is Antarctica a continent, but the Arctic isn’t?**  
*— Windsor Castle, via email*

Geographers made up the idea of continents but had a little trouble convincing the full membership how to divide up the globe. Some say there are six continents, some say seven, Europe and Asia two continents, or just one, as in Eurasia? The argument has something to do with tectonic plates. But anyway, one thing they do agree on is the definition of a continent as a large land mass. The Antarctic, though a squiggly white patch on the map, is actually a land mass. It’s connected to the earth’s crust. Under all that ice are rocks and stuff. The Arctic, a region of the globe, not a country or a continent, is just ice. So, no land? The doormen won’t let you into the club. But sometimes big land masses are admitted to clubs you might not expect. Greenland is part of the North American continent. All the land crumps too small to form their own continents get swept into some nearby qualifying large land mass.
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U.S. Secretary of the Interior Visits San Diego Brothel in Push to Promote American Sex Tourism

San Diego — At the San Diego Petting Zoo, a North County brothel wherein both the rooms and the girls are decorated in wild animal themes, secretary of the interior Ken Salazar stroked a “cheetah,” patted a “snake,” and shared a platform with a “peacock.”

After that, he met with local sex tourism and adult business leaders to get some feedback on the Obama administration’s push to create jobs by growing American sex tourism.

Salazar wants more foreign visitors to come to the Petting Zoo, as well as the rest of America’s sexual playgrounds. He was in San Diego yesterday to gather facts about promoting sex tourism (and maybe have a little naughty fun while he was at it).

Salazar said his goal was simple: to make the U.S. the top travel destination in the world for well-heeled sexual adventurers.

“For too long,” he said, “cities like Thailand’s Pattaya, Bahrain’s Manama, and Brazil’s Rio De Janeiro have been the go-to locations for the world’s rapacious rich. America, once the acknowledged world leader in gorgeous, talented escorts, has seen its international standing slip.”

“In some cases,” he continued, “we have even seen our abundant natural resources leaving the country through outsourcing, or ‘sex trafficking.’ The sad fact is that today, if you want to experience a really good Venus Flytrap, you’re probably better off slipping over the border into TJ.”

Salazar says $150 million has been set aside to promote what he called “American Sexcellence.” “So, from the San Diego Petting Zoo to New York’s notorious Manhattan Club to New Orleans’ Bourbon Street Beauties to Hollywood’s Struggling Actress Depot,” he said, “we are a place people want to come to satisfy their unholy fleshy desires.”

Salazar is part of a task force that will soon report to the president. Preliminary goals include finding ways to loosen age requirements and attracting tourists from developing countries like China and Brazil.

“We have to accept that we are part of a global economy,” he said. “We can no longer afford to just go it alone, setting the age of consent at 18 and ignoring the demographic and economic realities of the developing world. I’m not saying we need to be putting 12-year-old boys to work, but I am saying that there is room for innovation and the free exchange of ideas — the kind of innovation that made America great.”

Barack Obama’s sex tourism initiative was first announced in January at Walt Diznee Fantasy World in Orlando, Florida.

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San Diego Reader April 26, 2012 17
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**Watch Yourself!**
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**GET THE PICTURE?**

This really should have stayed there.

I heard milk is good for the bones.

Had hope?

**THE CAPTION:** You better not be on the naughty list.

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**From the Southland**

*From the Southland* is the non-fiction debut from award-winning poet, Thomas Lux, author of more than eleven books of poetry.

*Lux is sui generis, his own kind of poet, unlike any of the fashions of his time.*

—Stanley Kunitz

**From the third chapter:**

Bill Johnson, the manager and head of the Chula Vista PD crime lab, has collected twenty or so crime scenes, each represented by a few, and sometimes only one, photograph, in what he calls “The Red Book.”

He has dozens of other black binders filled with crime scene photos. But The Red Book is the crème de la crème.

Bill and his colleagues arrive after the deeds are done. He’s worked as a crime scene investigator and forensic specialist for twenty-five years, so this collection is a fraction of what he’s experienced in his career. Some of the pictures are grisly; some are sad, some even funny, and some just nutty-tragic.

The Red Book is a distillation, with a rhythm and implicit narrative, of the cruelties and foibles, the numbness, the bent passions, the selfishness, and the breathtaking violence we humans do to ourselves and/or to each other. The things these men and women who work here see, with some regularity, can tear your spine from your body.

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.

$14.95 Available from Marick Press • www.marickpress.com
Miguel Herrero is just another Mexican.

Six days a week you might drive by him anywhere in the Carlsbad/Oceanside area. You’d see him building fences, planning drainages, wiring timers, and caring for trees. But the most interesting thing about him is what you can’t see.

In his off hours, Miguel is a community banker, an insurer of last resort, and a fixer of problems. A whole community turns to him for advice, and for money. There are even people deep in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, almost all the way down at the border with Guatemala, who give him a call when they have a personal problem, or when, say, the local church needs re-stuccoing but can’t afford the necessary scaffolding to do the job.

On his best day he might hit 5’6”, even counting the virile mass of wavy black hair atop his head. He is a neat dresser. The day I meet him for an interview, he’s wearing a stylish black T-shirt with some kind of heavy-metal-looking skeleton design on it.

We meet at Oceanside’s L&L Hawaiian Barbeque. I have no idea why we’re meeting here, except that my brother, who has known Miguel for a decade and a half and who has agreed to translate, told me to show up at 4:30 on a Sunday afternoon.

The mall parking lot is half empty. Actually, a
good part of the mall itself is empty. Not only empty of customers, but of tenants. The old Mervyn’s a few doors down from L&L just sits there, empty, month after month. The frozen-yogurt shop is gone. So is the card shop is gone. The Hallmark frozen-yogurt shop is gone. The Hallmark card shop is gone. So is the car dealership across the parking lot. The neighborhood’s shopping mall that has stood across the street for years is empty. Not only empty of customers, but of tenants. The Hallmark frozen-yogurt shop is gone. The Hallmark card shop is gone. So is the car dealership across the parking lot.

All over Oceanside, probably all over America, gaps have formed in consumer society. Dead spots. A lot of people are living through their own private financial hells.

Miguel is standing outside the L&L when I get there. My brother is late, so we go inside, order a couple of sodas, and talk in my poor Spanish and Miguel’s poor English about his financial work.

I ask what this money thing he does is called.

“Tandas [or cun-...dinases],” he says, “it’s the same thing.”

What word does he prefer?

“Tandas.”

He explains that, right now, he is in the second week of a 12-week tanda. Its structure could not be simpler — each member agrees to contribute $100 per week for 12 weeks. They will give the money to Miguel, who will hand it each week to one of the members. When the 12 weeks are over, a new tanda starts. Miguel says membership varies from 10–20 people each time.

Before the first week of each cycle, members choose numbers. The number chosen signifies the week the member will get paid $1100 (and will not have to contribute the weekly $100).

Members can buy one week, two weeks, even partial week arrangements such as one and a half weeks.

Some members ask for an early number, “because they need the money right away,” Miguel says. Such a request is perfectly acceptable.

“Some other people can wait to take their money,” he adds. Such a person can ask for a late number. The member might ask to go last, for example, so that each week constitutes, essentially, a payment into a 12-week savings plan.

In an emergency, a member can tell the group that he or she needs the money on any given week, and the group will rearrange paydays so that the member with the emergency can get paid immediately.

In this way, the tanda acts as a system of savings, even if a person has already been paid in, say, week one, and they have an emergency in week nine, they can get paid again immediately, so long as they agree to give up their number in the next round.

“You know the people,” Miguel says. “It’s okay.”

Most of the people in Miguel’s tanda live in or near Oceanside’s Crown Heights neighborhood.

The tightly packed quarter is a short walk to the beach, to Oceanside High School, to the strip mall that has stood across from the high school for ages, and even to the new Fresh & Easy market on Oceanside Boulevards. There are plenty of spots nearby to shop and bank at, but a good percentage of the neighborhood’s banking goes on right here, just as a good percentage of the neighborhood’s shopping is done off the backs of trucks that park for hours along Division Street, or around the corner on Grant Street, down by the community garden.

For as long as there has been an Oceanside, this has been “the barrio” — one of those little Mexican hearts that beat near the center of nearly every beach city in Southern California. Once a seedy spot, Crown Heights today is mostly free of graffiti; the streets are clean and the sidewalks relatively busy. But the little houses and apartment buildings are much more crowded than is typical of Southern...
California.

You can get vegetables, baked goods, beverages, candies — almost the whole grocery array — off of those trucks. And you can get it without venturing out of Crown Heights, which is important if you don’t have a car or much English vocabulary.

Despite its outside reputation for crime, Crown Heights is a family place. Most of the small communities that make up the neighborhood are peaceful clusters of families, each with its own regional flavor. Miguel’s flavor, like many people in Crown Heights, is Oaxacan. He figures there are probably 1000 Oaxacans in Oceanside, one only has to understand a phenomenon that migration researchers call “sister communities.”

Dr. Ramona Pérez, director of the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, has worked in Oaxaca for two decades. She says, “You could go into any community in Oaxaca at this point and ask them, ‘Where’s your sister community?’ And they’ll say, ‘We go to Los Angeles,’ or ‘We go to San Diego,’ or ‘We go to Vista,’ or ‘We go to Chicago.’”

Many of these sister community relationships date back to the Bracero Program, a U.S. government program from the World War II era, in which Mexican laborers were given a chance to work in the U.S. where homegrown labor was off fighting in Europe or the Pacific. The program lasted until the early ’60s. Many Mexican participants put down roots in the U.S., later serving as helpers for family members and townsfolk who wanted to come to the U.S.

“Once you get a few people that have settled in an area and know the lay of the land, they serve as a hub for other people coming in,” says Dr. Pérez. “Some of them have been able to acquire linguistic skills. Where that doesn’t exist, they still understand transportation, they understand where jobs are, they know where healthcare is, they know where housing is, which landlords will allow them to come in with limited documentation, that kind of thing.”

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Near the Corner of State & Date
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“Once you get a few people that have settled in an area and know the lay of the land, they serve as a hub for other people coming in.”

have gone to Las Vegas, where they plant flowers and ferns around the big casinos in the morning, then tear out those same plants come and the daily cycle of dressing one of the hottest and driest cities in the world in a coat of tropical plants starts all over again.

But if you live in the town of El Trapiche, the people you know, the people you grew up with, they go to Crown Heights.

El Trapiche is a dirt-road farming town just off a sharp bend of highway about 40 miles south of Oaxaca City, which is, itself, about 1400 miles straight south of San Antonio Texas, or about 400 miles southeast of Mexico City.

I’ve never been there, but on Google Maps and Google Earth, El Trapiche compares to Oaxaca City, a city of about 250,000, in the way that Bonsall might compare to San Diego.

Before he first came to the U.S., Miguel was at one time a 12-year-old bull-riding champion from El Trapiche, winning prizes at rodeos all over the area. More than 20 years later, he recalls the bull-riding fondly, but, with three children, he says he would never get on a bull now.

When my brother arrives at L&L, we are able to get into a deeper discussion. I ask Miguel why members of his fanadas don’t just go to a bank and start saving that way.

In the past few decades, Miguel says, more and more Oaxacans
He doesn’t have much of an answer to this. In fact, the question seems, at first, to make little impression on him. In his view, it’s not that the Mexicans — and a few Guatemalans — who are in his tandas are afraid of the bank or unwilling to pay bank fees. They stay out of banks simply because banks are not something they are familiar with. They do not feel confident about walking into a bank, filling out a lot of paperwork that means nothing to them, and handing over their money to people they do not know and whose motives they cannot guess.

In the part of the world they come from, he tells me, loans are made by local patrones, rich men who loan money because they can make a tidy profit by making lots of small loans to their neighbors. And they know they can find you if you don’t make your payments.

“They act like it’s a favor to you,” Miguel says about these local patrones, “but they charge a lot of money.”

Are they like mafiosi, I ask him, searching for a word in my limited Spanish vocabulary, “bandidos”?

“No,” he says, kind of taken aback, they are just “patrones.”

So, without any inclination to walk into a bank, and with an already well-established habit of private financial dealings, many immigrants just naturally bank with Miguel, or with one of the many, many people who play a role like Miguel’s in immigrant communities (and even in some well-established Mexican-American communities) all around the U.S.

This kind of banking has a formal name among the IMF and World Bank types, it’s called ROSCAS: rotating savings and credit associations.

Academics have been studying such associations since the 1950s. The Global Development Research Center says they “can be seen in almost every society around the world, and have been in existence for a considerable period of time. They are flexible and adapt themselves easily to rural and urban peculiarities as well as existing community patterns of grouping/organizing. This flexibility is one reason for their worldwide popularity.”

Despite their informality and flexibility, or maybe because of it, rotating savings and credit associations are powerful little engines of economic activity, ingenious, really, in that they allow for people who either do not want to or cannot access established banking to make and get loans, to build up savings, to help out neighbors who may be facing an emergency, to keep community and family ties intact amidst a foreign culture, and even to maintain ties between members of a community like El Trapiche, who have come to the U.S., and those who have stayed or returned home.

Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez wrote the book on these U.S.-based Mexican associations: An Impossible Living in a Transborder World. Part of his thesis is that the entire southwest of the North American continent is becoming one big, integrated economic region; the associations help facilitate the flow of goods and services within the region. They help Mexican nationals, who tend to be poorer and have less access to power, to function efficiently and effectively within this transnational economic reality.

His book is filled with academic jargon, and some Americans might categorize his thinking as the kind of squishy academic denial about border reality that has led to the lawlessness we now see along practically its full length.

For example, Vélez-Ibáñez often puts the word “citizenship” in quotes, as if to suggest that the concept is less than real, a figment of the right-wing imagination, perhaps.

His research offers fascinating insights into a profound financial and social reality that, while it is literally right next to...
things with Americans. Many Americans are oblivious to the financial ingenuity of Mexicans in America, part of a broad denial of the personhood and creativity of the Mexicans in our midst. But it could also be simply that linguistic barriers do not allow Mexicans in the U.S. to talk about these things with Americans.

The upshot of the Mexican habit of private, even secret, banking is that an individual who may appear to Americans as just another poor Mexican laborer is responsible, at any given time, for large sums of other people’s money and for facilitating the banking needs of families, clans, even whole neighborhoods.

**Tandas** may be the most common and obvious of the various off-the-radar financial tools available to Mexican immigrants, but it is only one among many.

Miguel, as a leader among the Oaxacans of Oceanside, provides an example of some other ways that Mexican financial interdependence works in the U.S.

He has made alliances with Americans who are willing to help poorer Mexicans. He has found Oceanside dentists, for example, who provide special rates to Mexicans lacking insurance. He has a well-off American business associate who sometimes puts up money, to be paid back in installments, when a member of the community needs help with an immigration issue or to get a car out of impound or some similar crisis.

Miguel, himself, now has the financial means to act as a patrón for families with medical bills or other sudden needs. And the entire Oaxacan community will help in a pinch by making lots of small donations, as they did when a Oaxacan family recently had a sick child who needed hospital care.

Back in El Trapiche, when the church needed that new stucco job, it was Miguel who got the call and organized the

---

**Do you or someone you know have Hepatitis C?**

**eStudySite** is conducting a research study on an investigational medication in patients with Hepatitis C.

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**Depressed**

Low energy
Uninterested
Suspicious

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE...**

1 in 6 people experience depression

**Symptoms include:**
- Depressed mood, sadness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in things you normally enjoy
- Trouble sleeping or low energy
- Problems with concentration, memory or making decisions
- Feeling suspicious or that others are against you
- Having unusual experiences such as hearing voices or sounds, or seeing things that aren’t real

Medical researchers in your area are currently enrolling participants in a clinical research study evaluating an investigational drug for individuals with a severe form of depression. Participation must be 22-75 years old and be experiencing symptoms of depression. Participation will include an evaluation by a psychiatrist, all study related visits, lab tests, study-related medications, compensation up to $2,300, and required inpatient stay.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:**
760-639-4378
Miguel came north about 20 years ago, when he was 14. His family is a farming family, and during some of the dry years, the fertility of their land did not match the fertility of Miguel’s mother and father. They sent the boy north with an uncle, so that they could be sure he would eat. The pair took a bus to Mexico City, a train to Mexicali, another bus to Tijuana, and made what was then a fairly easy crossing into the U.S.

In the U.S., the uncle got Miguel into a taxi and up to Oceanside, where he boarded with Oaxacan cousins.

He went to work for an Encinitas flower grower because he thought he would not only find steady work but also a chance to learn the business of horticulture. He moved from job to job, always getting both a paycheck and an education from his employers, until he was ready to start his own landscaping business.

Today he has eight employees.

Certainly, his intelligence and confidence fundraising to pay for the scaffolding. Asked how he acquired this responsibility, Miguel smiles and shrugs innocently.

“He’ll never tell you how important he is in the community,” my brother says.

A habit of financial interdependence is what we might call the Mexican way of money.
### Medical Center for Clinical Research

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### HEMORRHOIDS

...Bleeding??

...Pain ???

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

**Participants May Receive At No Cost:**

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

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### GET BLADDER INFECTIONS?

....burning....pain...frequent urination

A 2-visit clinical research study is underway for women, 18 years and older, with symptoms of a bladder infection, including pain and burning, which will address both the infection and bothersome symptoms, with antibiotics and an investigational oral medication. Receive study-related medication, labs, cultures, and compensation at no cost to you.

**Call the Medical Center for Clinical Research at 619-521-2841, available 24 hours a day to serve you.**

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### After A Meal ....

...Got To Run To The Restroom?

...Diarrhea, Bloating and Pain?

A 10-Week Medical Research Study is underway to evaluate an investigational, oral medication for diarrhea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). If you suffer from the symptoms of IBS - diarrhea, bloating and abdominal pain and cramps you may want to consider this research study.

**Participants May Receive all study-related:**

1. Consultation and Exam By Board-Certified Physician
2. Labs, Ekg, Colonoscopy (if necessary) and study medication at no cost
3. Compensation up to $325

---

### Constipation

... ARE YOU TIRED OF STRAINING?

... ARE YOU JUST NOT GOING?

A 12-week Medical Research study is underway to evaluate an oral investigational medication for chronic constipation. If you have infrequent bowel movements, straining, and inadequate sense of feeling empty when you do have a bowel movement, you may be suffering from chronic constipation and you may want to consider this study.

**Participants May Receive At No Cost:**

1. Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
2. Labs, Ekg, colonoscopy (if necessary), and study medication at no cost
3. Compensation to $450.00 for time and travel

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### After A Meal ....

...Got To Run To The Restroom?

...Diarrhea, Bloating and Pain?

A 10-Week Medical Research Study is underway to evaluate an investigational, oral medication for diarrhea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). If you suffer from the symptoms of IBS - diarrhea, bloating and abdominal pain and cramps you may want to consider this research study.

**Participants May Receive at No Cost:**

1. Exam and Consultation with a Board-Certified Physician
2. Study-Related Labs, Ekg, Colonoscopy (if not done in the last 5 years), Study Medication or Placebo at No Cost and requires No Insurance
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Compensation and Transportation may be available for those who qualify.
make him an unusual person and have made much of his success possible. But he could not have made it to where he is on his own. Without a network to tap into when he came north, and without systems that aided in his financial success, there is no telling where he would be.

This habit of financial interdependence is what we might call the Mexican way of money, and, along with the many Mexican dishes that have become ubiquitous on American menus, it could be one of the lasting benefits Mexicans have brought into the U.S. Some of the financial tools that Mexican families have at their disposal might, in fact, be the envy of many lone, struggling, and relatively financially isolated American households.

That is to say, financial cooperation and mutual assistance are far more the norm among Mexican immigrants than among Americans, and this cooperation and mutual assistance offers considerable benefits. For many Mexicans, money troubles are community troubles. The community has, therefore, developed modes of helping people with money troubles. In contrast, an American with money troubles tends to become more isolated, putting up a brave public face while suffering and worrying alone.

Faced with the need to save and the need to have some insurance for emergency situations, Mexican men and women enter into rotating savings and credit associations together. They help each other save and make allowances for each other in emergency situations. Maybe this kind of thinking about money will one day be thought of as a contribution to American society, a prompt for Americans to be less isolated and more interdependent in terms of finances.

Since 2002, when he started sponsoring tandas for his community, Miguel has collected money hundreds of times, maybe thousands, and only twice has any-one failed to pay. In both cases, the person fled the area. Miguel called family members, seeking help in recouping the money, but none was able to help or to locate the absconders. In time, Miguel did find one of those who failed to pay, and the young man simply said, “I don’t have the money.”

So Miguel covered the losses himself. “As the person in charge, I didn’t get the money, so I had to pay it,” he says, seemingly without resentment.

Thus, no member of Miguel’s tandas, except Miguel himself, has ever lost money. It is this kind of personal responsibility that makes tandas go. “Confianza” — trust in the community — allows for a savings and credit market to be created and sustained.

Miguel says he has no need for tandas anymore; he runs the tandas because other people want him to. It is important that he do so because the trustworthiness of the tanda leader is an essential component of its success. For example, when Miguel was new to RESEARCH STUDIES

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**Acute Shoulder Pain troubling you?**

San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center is conducting a research study of an investigational pain patch for treatment of acute shoulder pain.

- Patients must be age 14 years or older
- Pain onset must be between 24 hours and 7 days prior to clinic visit

If you qualify, study-related exams and study patch are provided at no cost. Study participants may be compensated for time and travel.

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the U.S., he began participating in tandas. My brother asks him if he knew the people in the tandas. Miguel says no. “But I knew the guy in charge,” he says. That contact was enough to allow him entrée into the tanda and allow him to feel confident that no one would rip him off.

Of course, there are Americans who are sick of people like Miguel and his 1000 Oceanside Oaxacans. They take American jobs, they soak up American social services, and if the flood of them is not turned back, they will overwhelm American culture.

But that story may be more about the past than the future. Little by little, a more up-to-date narrative is finding its way into media reports. As Newsweek pointed out in 2010, most Americans are missing the truly current story of the Mexican immigration problem — that it has become short-term. Writer Arian Campo-Flores argues convincingly that Mexico will not be producing enough offspring to keep sending its young to the U.S. In fact, it has not been producing enough offspring for years: “The fertility rate in Mexico…has undergone one of the steepest declines in history, from about 6.7 children per woman in 1970 to about 2.1 today…. That makes it roughly equal to the U.S. rate....”

In fact, the inflow of Mexican immigrants may have reached its peak several years ago. In the year 2000, apprehensions of people attempting illegal crossings from Mexico was more than 1.6 million, while in recent years, even with improved methods and equipment for catching illegal crossers, such apprehensions have barely topped 600,000. Apprehensions don’t tell the whole story, of course, but other indicators seem to point in the same direction. Fewer Mexicans are coming. Fewer Mexicans are being born per capita. The Mexican economy is in better shape than most other Latin American nations. And Mexico has relatively rosy prospects in the coming years.

The Mexican economy, with a gross domestic product in the $200–$400 billion range throughout most of the 1980s and ‘90s is today more than $1 trillion and growing at a more than 5 percent annual rate.

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The New York Times assessment, the economic slowdown and increased law enforcement in the U.S., combined with changed demographics and improved economic, educational, and political prospects in Mexico, have brought down the total annual increase in Mexican immigrants to the U.S. to about 100,000 as of 2010. Some researchers insist that, as of 2011, the real number is zero.

The numbers work this way: slightly more than 400,000 Mexicans leave the U.S. year after year. That number changes very little. So, as the number of Mexicans taking up residence in the U.S. dropped to perhaps 500,000 in 2010, the total increase of Mexicans in the U.S. for that year was just 100,000. If, when the figures come out from the Department of Homeland Security this summer, we find that the total influx in 2011 was in the 400,000 region, we’re finally at a net zero gain.

And the demographics suggest that we will never again see an influx from Mexico of the kind experienced over the past 30 years.

People have been saying for ages that illegal immigration was a “systemic” problem that could not be solved until the U.S. got serious about law enforcement and Mexico became able to take care of its own. Turns out, that’s exactly what happened.

It may take a few more years for most people to notice, and there are disasters or setbacks that could, at least temporarily, change the trend, but it is now likely that the great migration of Mexicans into the U.S. — which has been a central feature of U.S./Mexican relations for almost the entire post-war period — is past its high-water mark.

What that flood-tide will have left behind is two transformed nations. For now, it’s left millions of Spanish-speaking, culturally out-of-water Mexicans needing institutions to help them function in a foreign land. (This is, of course, unless we decide to physically remove the Mexicans who are already here — a prospect no political party is currently supporting and would be too expensive.)

Whether the financial habits that Mexicans have brought into the U.S. will survive is an open question. The Mexican way of money may be dying out — even in Mexico.

Miguel says that things are changing in El Trapiche. In former days, farmers worked more cooperatively, maybe banding together to buy a tractor that they could share. Today tractors are more affordable, people have more money, and there is less sharing.

“As people get money, they don’t want to participate in the community stuff anymore,” Miguel says.

Perhaps as Mexico grows wealthier and more urban, communal financial arrangements such as tandas will fade away. A well-established middle-class Mexican may want no more to do with his neighbor’s finances than today’s middle-class American does.

Or, perhaps, the Mexican way of money will persist in some new and creative mode. Time will tell.

For now, tandas make it possible for Mexicans to become self-sustaining in America. Understanding how they work clarifies how a Mexican migrant is not just a lone fieldworker or a landscaper, but a member of a greater whole that puts down roots, builds communal bonds, and establishes systems and practices that bring something new and vital to the U.S.

Miguel, like many who migrated to the U.S. in those peak years, now feels a bit stuck. He hasn’t been to El Trapiche to visit his mother for ten years. He says he won’t cross the U.S./Mexico border illegally again. It has become too difficult and too dangerous.

Noting that he spent the first 14 years of his life in Mexico and the last 20 in the U.S., I ask him whether he considers himself a Mexican or an American. For a moment, he seems to stumble for an answer.

“No sé,” Miguel says. Then, quietly, with a smile and a shrug, he says, “I don’t know.” — Cyril Jones-Kellett
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What We Do for Our Kids

I don’t claim to be a competent speaker of anything other than English, but when I hear Mandarin spoken, I’m often able to discern at least the topic of conversation.

Thus, when I’m strolling past a group of Chinese moms at the playground in our neighborhood park here in Carmel Valley, the overheard phrase “1.2 million” is enough for me to know they’re discussing the market value of homes.

A million bucks for a tract house, a personal residence — even now, after the meltdown! I’ve resided here for seven years and still shake my head at such prices. Previously I lived in an older, much less affluent part of San Diego and had been there more than two decades. My neighbors were mostly college students, small-business owners, and a few corporate factotums such as myself.

Here, the neighbors tend to be physicians, dentists, scientists, and elite engineers from India and China. The median family income in this neighborhood is enough to give me an inferiority complex, if I were disposed to having such a thing. (Sometimes I am.)

Our house is at the lower end of the spectrum in this enclave, and we’re only renting. So to those who criticize Carmel Valley for being homogenous, I offer our household as an exception.

On the other hand, we came for the same reason that drew the other families who have kids: the schools. Seven years ago my wife and I had a little girl who would soon start kindergarten. For years, thanks in part to my sister, who was a teacher, I’d been hearing horror stories about the San Diego Unified School District. From what I could gather, the superintendent had an oppressive management style that was wrecking morale and a misguided focus on test scores at

Author: Stephen Gallup
Neighborhood: Carmel Valley
Age: 61
Occupation: Technical writer

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

Deadline for the next contest is April 30, midnight.

To post your entry, go to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.
the expense of real education. We wanted no part of that.

Our daughter’s teachers here have ranged from being very good to superb. Her elementary years have been a great success. This is not to say that a good education isn’t available elsewhere or that there’s any escape from bad politics at the school-board level. I doubt whether the quality of the teachers varies much from one place to another. But there seems to be some kind of calculus at work when an area gets a reputation for “good schools.” Maybe it attracts the kind of parents who use workbooks to keep their children ahead of what is being taught in class and that in turn reinforces the factors that originally lured them in.

Time will tell whether these kids derive a lasting advantage from this setup and if the advantage justifies the sacrifice involved. My guess is that the results will be mixed.

I think most kids growing up here enjoy a sense of security and stability. That’s important. I had it when I grew up, in another era. A lot of kids miss out on it, and across the country I think more are missing out now than when I was little.

Probably, sustaining that elusive feeling for as long as possible is more critical than the education part. That feeling, and the matrix these kids move in — the environmental soup, the kinds of relationships they’re forming — these are the things more likely to justify the cost of living here.

A little background: My daughter’s birth occurred as my first child, a disabled son, was midway through his teenage years. A hard-fought campaign aimed at improving his options in life had pretty much run its course by then, and I was summing up what I’d learned from that in a memoir.

One obvious les-
Bad Thoughts for Bad People

Everyone believes that he is a good person and that what he does in life is done, most of the time, with honor, purpose, and noble conviction.

This belief is true of almost all people, the good and the bad, the saints and even the psychopaths, because evil people don’t know they’re evil — their motivation and the things they do, in their minds, have reason and relevance.

I, however, know I am not a good person. So, am I a bad person? I hope not. I put a genuine effort into not being one. I want to believe I’m simply like most people: neither good nor bad but somewhere in between. Sometimes I congratulate myself when I have a genuinely “good” thought. For example, when that 16-year-old girl that was sailing solo around the world was lost at sea but found alive and safe the following day. (I still wonder what parent would allow his 16-year-old daughter to sail around the world — through Somalia-pirate-infested waters or, for that matter, anywhere near the African coast — by herself! It really did seem as if the parents craved the prestige more than the girl did.)

Thank God, I thought. Thank God that poor girl was found unharmed. And then I immodestly thought about how good and unselfish my preceding thought had been. What a good thought, Quill, a distant and smarmy voice that I knew was my own echoed.

Perhaps you are an admirable person after all. But of course I know differently.

I have a friend, Sammy, who, at 16 years old, was hit by a drunk driver as he walked down the street one night. At the time, a drunk
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Driver was probably the furthest thing from his mind. After he was struck, he lay in a coma for months. Eventually he came out of it, but at a severe cost.

He is now blind, with virtually no recall beyond the first 16 years of his life. When conversing with him, he usually forgets a great deal of what was just said and has to continually be reminded of current circumstances for the conversation to move along. As the stream of time moves onward, it’s as if Sammy were a small stick caught in a whirlpool, spinning and spinning and never moving as time and life continue to rush by. In spite of this, Sammy is glad to be alive and manages to maintain an optimistic view of his years to come.

Since the accident, I’ve seen Sammy about a dozen times, but not at all in several years. I am essentially choosing to ignore him. He used to live with his mother, but she probably isn’t even alive anymore. I don’t know where Sammy is now, and even if I did I’d probably create reasons not to visit him. The few times Sammy and I did get together, I found it frustrating to have to keep reminding him of what we just said. The whole thing was sad, and then I felt guilty for pitying Sammy.

While he was in his early 20s, Sammy held a job folding cardboard take-out boxes at a Pizza Hut. Since I haven’t stayed in touch with him, I don’t know if he still has this job or if he’s moved on. It couldn’t have been a very satisfying occupation, but it undoubtedly fulfilled a fundamental human desire in Sammy to feel needed and to actively participate in society. With Sammy’s limited cognitive capacities, box-folding may have been as good as it was going to get for him.

So I ask: Is bringing Sammy happiness by visiting him more important than the discomfort I feel being in Sammy’s presence? I did visit Sammy when I really didn’t feel like it. Ultimately, however, I did allow Sammy to drift out of my life.

I believe that in most cases, when a newly handicapped friend or relative is introduced into your life, your life basically continues at a normal pace. The handicapped person’s life, on the other hand, is dramatically changed forever. He is now dependent and must rely on others for assistance.

I sometimes think about what it would be like to drift out of my life. While he was in his coma, Sammy managed to maintain of incredible. You all made my absolute trust in your hands.” - S.S.

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like if the proverbial shoe were on the other foot. What if I were the newly handicapped individual? How would I like to be the one that hoped my old companions in life would think of me? I would daydream that when they got together they would mention my name and even consider visiting me. I would fall asleep each night praying that this would come true, and when it did — because my friends are fine people it did — because my friends are fine people I would be ecstatic. I would mention my name and even consider being their visitor. If they got together they would do this. I would love them for their normal lives. But I would envy them for their normal lives. I would love them for being my friends, but silently I would resent them because I would know that after they left they would go to their home to be with their families and tell their wives how glad they were that they had never suffered injuries similar to mine, and if they had, they would rather be dead than face a pointless destiny like Quill’s. And then, alone again, I could be sure that their next visit would be far in the future, and perhaps it would not occur at all. Let’s be honest: I am now a real downer. For me, however, it might be a little different. I love my family and friends, but for the entirety of my life I’ve been very comfortable with my own company, oftentimes preferring it over socializing. Being alone is nothing new. Maybe the tragic accident that handicapped me won’t be so bad, after all. Maybe it’s even better that it happened to me than to someone else, who wouldn’t be able to manage it as well.

Not to say that if I were suddenly blind, brain damaged, or left without the use of my limbs that I would accept it easily. Without the freedom to do what I want to, when I want to, and to be burdened with the knowledge that I am forced to rely on others, I’d feel dreadfully sorry for myself. I might possibly allow the inevitable values and oversights that complicate the tapestries of our lives to entangle and irreversibly shackles me, ultimately dragging me down to the bottomless pit of utter self-sorrow and desperation.

I might become bitter and shun my visitors, knowing that — as they put on cheerful faces to view my broken body and humbled spirit — they were there only to fulfill their moral obligation, which will taper off and one day vanish. It will happen, I know it will, and, deep down, so do they.

All of this, of course, is assuming that I would still have my intellect. If an accident left me mentally and emotionally reduced, perhaps severely, then I suppose everything that I previously proposed would be academic. I would then be that stick in the whirlpool, spinning and spinning, waiting for life to begin, every day, just waiting. As each uneventful day passed by I would be blissfully unaware that I was closer to the end, the clouds moving overhead, the discolored autumn leaves brushing against me in the wet vortex, all of it the sum of my life.

I think my present relationship with Sammy, my general understanding of how life works, and my rigorous unwillingness to change it for the better says whether or not I am a good person.
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Under the radar
continued from page 2

bashed only hours after his team was beaten by the University of Missouri. Photos and videos of similar conduct elsewhere also surfaced, and Eustachy’s divorce from both the university and his wife quickly followed. The new appointment was announced last week. Eustachy, now a recovering alcoholic, told the Coloradoan that his sudden downfall had “humbled” him. “I don’t think these things happen by mistake; they happen for a reason… I think someone stronger than me put me in that situation.” Colorado volleyball coach Tom Hilbert blamed the Web for his friend Eustachy’s problems. “He was the first person to get busted in the internet age. He didn’t do anything illegal; it was simply a little bit of immaturity.”

— 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.

Find more Under the Radar columns online at SDRadar.com/radar/

Simon
continued from page 2

for Chapter 13 bankruptcy “due to financial conditions imposed by dissolution of marriage,” he reported on his FINRA form. Alameda County records show that Timothy Alan Simon was hit by numerous liens and notices of default in the year. He was suspended for eight months that year for failure to comply with mandatory education requirements, according to FINRA records. He was suspended again in 1998, according to Oklahoma bar records, but was preparing to quit that bar, which he did the next year.

In 1989, Simon passed his Series 7 examination — the one taken by stockbrokers-to-be. In 2002, he passed examinations for a securities sales supervisor and for a compliance officer. “A brokerage’s compliance officer makes sure the firm is following industry rules.” From 2002 to 2005, he worked for a San Francisco firm called PreferredTrade. During that period, the brokerage got fined and censured by exchanges for not submitting accurate trading information; failing to have appropriate supervision procedures; failing to fund reserve accounts for customers; not adhering to good business principles; and the like, according to the regulatory authority’s records. The firm was sold in 2005.

In 2005 and 2006, Simon worked for Global Crown Capital in San Francisco, which is now out of business. In 2005, two customers charged one of its major owners, Rani T. Jarkas, with churning their accounts, putting them in unsuitable investments, and committing fraud and elder abuse. An arbitration panel found that Global Crown and Jarkas were liable to pay $512,000 to their accusers.

“The members of the San Francisco FINRA office have, and are, pursuing a vendetta against Global Crown Capital on the grounds that they have not met the standards of care required.” The firm believes the San Francisco office is corrupt and intends to pursue legal action against the members of that office.”

FINRA has no comment on the charge and doesn’t know of any lawsuit.

Let’s assess
continued from page 3

only 30 percent to start the process. Li Mandri’s proposal also broadens the services that can be offered to include such improvements as parking facilities and kiosks and such activities as promotion of community events and furnishing of music in public places.

On November 2, 2011, Li Mandri appeared before the city council’s Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee during public comment to pitch his new ordinance.

His proposal was met with a glowing reception from councilmembers. “Assessment districts of all shapes and colors have been transformational in my council district,” said Councilmember Todd Gloria, “and Mr. Li Mandri is nationally recognized for his work on this issue. If there are suggestions to make it better, then I am all ears.”

And as city councilmembers and other city officials looked over the proposal, the same proposal appeared in the state legislature as Senate Bill 949, introduced on January 4 by Senator Juan Vargas.

Vargas’s bill, however, was met with resistance from constituents and taxpayer groups. “As it stands, we are taking an ‘opposed until amended’ position,” David Wolfe, legislative director for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, said earlier this month. “We have concerns,
mainly how the assessment is implemented.” In mid-April, Vargas pulled the bill from committee, and last week his spokesperson in Sacramento confirmed that the bill is dead.

The same month that Vargas introduced the bill in the state legislature, Li Mandri was busy studying state law and working on the local ordinance. At the end of January, he submitted an invoice for $10,000 to the Downtown San Diego Partnership, which administers the Downtown Property and Business Improvement District, where Li Mandri serves as a consultant. On the invoice, Li Mandri listed among his accomplished tasks “Work on Proposition 218, Section 36600, MAD [maintenance assessment district], CBD [community benefit district], Golden Hill packets.”

Li Mandri did not respond to a request for comment about his proposal.

Vladimir Kogan, PhD candidate at the University of California San Diego and an expert on assessment districts, has looked over Li Mandri’s proposal.

“This is clearly a full-employment act for [Li Mandri], who would get a lot of new business as a consultant for forming [maintenance assessment districts],” wrote Kogan in an email.

 “[Maintenance assessment districts] are terrible ways of financing local needs. It’s incumbent on those of us who don’t like [them] to identify an alternative funding source. Currently, there is none. The city can’t afford to do it and will not be able to afford it unless its revenue structure changes.”

Kogan prefers funding mechanisms “that allow all residents, rather than just property owners, to participate and don’t require expensive consultants like Li Mandri to take a substantial cut of the proceeds. They are really the people that benefit the most from the status quo.”

McCan said he called police after he was threatened by a member of the community activist group Occupy Sweetwater, which is organizing the recall. McCan said he had just finished a TV news interview and was trying to shake hands with some Occupy members standing nearby, including Stewart Payne.

“I said, ‘I’m just trying to shake your hand,’ and he basically said he was going to knock me out,’ McCan said. ‘He was raising his arm and then a security guard stepped in between me and Mr. Payne and he was unable to hit me.’

In an April 17 interview, private security officer Sanchez, from JDS Exclusive Security Services, said his intervention between Payne and McCan consisted of “coming between their conversation.”

By Susan Luzzaro
Wednesday, April 18

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By Dave Rice
Friday, April 20

**CITY LIGHTS**

**NEWS TICKER**

continued from page 3

**CITY LIGHTS**
Pay First, Litigate Later
City Takes Defensible Posture on Disputed Tax Assessments
San Diego — City attorney Jan Goldsmith wants to “place the city in a more defensible posture” against those looking for refunds on tax assessments.

Goldsmith plans to do so by adding a new section to the city’s code that sets strict guidelines for residents who wish to challenge the amount or legality of a city tax, assessment, or penalty. The new section will prohibit residents from filing lawsuits against the city without having paid the disputed assessment first and before going through the proper administrative channels. Lastly, a group of claimants would not be allowed to file a class-action tax claim against the city.

Some recent examples of disputed local assessments have occurred in Golden Hill and South Park, where residents paid millions of dollars to an illegally formed maintenance assessment district before a judge struck the district down in court, or in downtown, where thousands of residents overpaid on their property and business improvement district assessments due to a flawed engineer’s report. No refunds have been issued in either case.

By Dorian Hargrove
Friday, April 20

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SurveyUSA poll conducted by 10News, district attorney Bonnie Dumanis hopes to see some of the same results. In the coming weeks, Dumanis plans to spend $82,901 to run more than 150 television ads on two of San Diego’s major stations.

By Dorian Hargrove
Monday, April 16

His Day Job Is Poetry
Reader Columnist W.S. Di Piero Wins Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize
San Diego — W.S. Di Piero writes a fine column on the visual arts for the Reader, but that’s just a sideline. His day job is poetry. Today, the Poetry Foundation announced that it had selected Di Piero as the recipient of the 2012 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. The award is given to a living U.S. poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition. Previous recipients have included such notables as John Ashberry, Gary Snyder, Richard Wilbur, and the recently deceased Adrienne Rich. It is, as they say, kind of a big deal.

By Matthew Lickona
Tuesday, April 17

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

Find more local news at SDReader.com/news/neighborhood-news/
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LETTERS

continued from page 4

Electric Slide
Re “San Diego Gas & Electric: Fat Profits, Fat Pay” (“City Lights,” April 5).

First, Don Bauder, you are simply the best!

Second, years ago I was working weeks of overtime and had basically overlooked paying monthly bills, one of which was the SDG&E bill. One evening, after working a 14-hour day, my only thoughts were getting home, throwing dinner into the microwave, and watching late-night news before heading to bed.

When I walked into my apartment, there were no lights, no TV, no air-conditioning, no radio, no alarm clock, and no microwave. A notice had been slid into my door saying SDG&E had terminated service due to nonpayment.

Honesty, I totally lost it. Having previously worked for the chief financial officer of a large company, I knew that certain businesses would get three months behind before SDG&E would call for payment. I also knew that Stephen Baum, chief executive officer of Sempra at the time, had taken home $13.5 million that year — $1 million salary, $2.1 million in bonuses, and $9.6 million in stock. Oh, yeah, my unpaid SDG&E bill saved you $100s. All treatments guaranteed.

In the years since, things have only gotten uglier for the consumer being forced to pay these unbelievable salaries and bonuses to this unregulated monopoly.

SDGE/ Sempra will say they are regulated. Hah!!! SDGE/Sempra has the California Public Utilities Commission in their back pocket.

And, regarding the wildfires, if Felsinger and Knight would decline their bonuses for only one year, all the costs associated with those fires would be completely resolved. But, that will never happen because we are the land of the brave and the home of the screwed!!!!

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Thursday | 26

WINGS OF FREEDOM
Take a tour of a B-17 or a B-24 and view a P-51 Mustang up close when the Collings Foundation (“Preserving Aviation History”) brings their vintage World War II aircraft tour to San Diego. You can even take flight in one of the restored planes. Walking tours are $12 for adults; $6 for kids (free for WWII vets). Flights begin at $425.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (also Wednesday and Friday, check for times)
WHERE: Gillespie Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon. 800-568-8924; collingsfoundation.org

Friday | 27

CALIFORNIA EARTH DAY JAM
This eco-festival is powered by solar energy and features educational speakers, “socially conscious exhibitors,” food and beverage samples, kids’ activities (mural painting, parade with “eco-costumes and eco-instruments” created by kids), cultural arts, an eco-fashion show, live entertainment, an electronic dance music festival, BBQ rib-eating contest, “Equinox laser tag,” and more.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (also Saturday)
WHERE: Chula Vista Center, 555 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-869-1901; californiacearthday-jam.com

Saturday | 28

A COURSE IN MINDFUL PARENTING
“Mindful parenting” is defined as being fully present in each moment with your child with kindness, consideration, and compassion. This two-hour workshop introduces the foundation of mindfulness practice and techniques for remaining present and responsive when engaging with children.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: UCSD Center for Mindfulness, 5060 Shoreham Place, La Jolla. 858-334-4636; mindfulness.ucsd.edu

Sunday | 29

THIS
Four close friends slouch toward 40-something in this comedy drama that, according to Jeff Smith, “boasts genuine humor.” Featuring the “stuff of real life,” This covers the gamut from friendship and marriage to bereavement. It’s billed as a “rueful comic meditation on love, adulthood, and adultery.” Directed by Kirsten Brandt.

WHEN: 2 and 7 p.m.
WHERE: North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach. 858-481-1055; northcoastrep.org

Monday | 30

SALAAM DUNK
This international documentary follows a college women’s basketball team in northern Iraq as the women (many of whom had never played sports) experience what it means to be athletes, from “the joy of their first win to the pain of losing the coach who started their team.” A discussion follows the screening. Proceeds benefit the International Rescue Committee.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Landmark La Jolla Village, 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive. 619-819-0236; rescue.org/films

Wednesday | 2

BALLET FOLKLORICO TIERRA CALIENTE
Enjoy the history of Mexico through the “exciting art of dance in costumes that reflect Mexico’s colorful traditional culture.” As part of WOW First Wednesdays, this performance is free and first come, first seated (limited reserved seats available for $7).

WHEN: 4 p.m.
WHERE: California Center for the Arts, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253; artcenter.org

Tuesday | 1

FATHER OF CHICANO THEATER
Spend “An Evening with Luis Valdez” when the playwright, activist, and director speaks in Clarke Room 113. Valdez is the founder of El Teatro Campesino, a bilingual theater group. His plays and films include Zoot Suit, La Bamba, La Pastorela, and I Am Joaquin. This is a part of Cal State San Marcos’ Arts & Lectures series and is free and open to the public.

WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. 760-750-8889; csum.edu/al

Saturday, April 28: A COURSE IN MINDFUL PARENTING
Gather No Moss

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Day Trip from Delhi
by Mary Spierling

The stunning architectural beauty of the Taj Mahal, built entirely of white marble, is particularly evident at sunrise and sunset. At sunrise, the changing light casts shadows, and at night it seems to glow — especially when there’s a full moon.

The Taj was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, in Agra, India, and houses the grave of the beloved queen.

The entrance fee to the Taj has increased to $20, but it’s worth it to visit this wonder of the world. You’ll find many guides who will point out (for a fee) the best spots for taking photographs. Ticket lines are longest at the west gate and shortest at the south gate.

After you’ve visited the Taj Mahal, take a 2.5-kilometer drive to the Red Fort of Agra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort was originally built with brick by Hindus; the Islamic Mughals later captured the fort and rebuilt it with red sandstone. Be sure to check out the Delhi Gate and the Lahore Gate when entering. Throughout the fort you’ll see the interesting mix of Hindu and Islamic architecture.

Most guidebooks recommend that you make a day trip from Delhi to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. The city itself is quite dirty and polluted, and there’s little else to warrant spending a night there. The Taj is closed on Fridays, so make sure to schedule your visit on a day you can visit both monuments.

You can see the Taj Mahal for free by climbing onto a hotel rooftop in the Taj Ganj neighborhood. Or, go to a small Krishna temple by the Yamuna River, where you can see the Taj; or, take a boat ride (100 rupees) to see it from the river. If you’re not a fan of crowds, have a guide take you across the Yamuna on a road bridge to Mehtab Bagh for another breathtaking view of the Taj at dawn.

After daytripping at the Taj and Red Fort, be sure to experience the famous Mughlai cooking before returning to Delhi.

Mojave Desert, California
by Ruth Newell

The Trona Pinnacles (not to be confused with Pinnacles National Monument near Steinbeck’s Soledad) is one of those natural geological wonders that awes. Set back five miles off SR-178, 20 miles east of Ridgecrest, CA, on a dirt road, the 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) peaks — some as high as 140 feet — stand out for miles. As with those in Mono Lake, these towers were formed underwater more than 100,000 years ago, when the surrounding area was at the bottom of Searles Lake, part of a chain of lakes that once stretched from Death Valley to Mono Lake.

The isolated “Cathedral City,” now a National Natural Landmark overseen by the Bureau of Land Management, is...
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SANTEE LAKES REGIONAL PARK
What do camping, fishing, bird-watching, relaxing hikes, and wastewater reclamation all have in common?

Distance from downtown San Diego: About 19 miles. Allow 25 minutes. From I-15 or SR-163, drive east on SR-52 and exit on Mast Boulevard and turn left (east). Drive for 1.4 miles, then turn right (south) onto Fanita Parkway. After 0.8 mile, the Santee Lakes entrance will be on the right (west).

Hiking length: Three trails of 1k (.62 mile), 3k (1.86 miles), and 5k (3.1 miles) that loop around the lakes.

Difficulty: Easy. Great for small children. Handicap access to one of the lakes and a playground. Facilities.

The lakes at Santee Lakes Regional Park were built on 190 acres by the Padre Dam Municipal Water District in the 1960s to handle the wastewater disposal issues of a growing suburban community. The way in which the problem was handled was unique and ahead of its time. What started out as a wastewater treatment facility became a series of seven man-made lakes that are clean enough and attractive enough for a public park and resort-like activities.

The lakes are on flat terrain and are paved around the lakes. Although not much of a challenge for the athlete, the trip is worthwhile for anyone with even a passing interest in birding. The lakes support a wetlands ecology, boasting 175 species of birds, both native and non-native. American coots, mallards, wood ducks, cinnamon teals, great blue herons, great egrets, and many other waterfowl can be easily spotted in the lakes. The coots and mallards are particularly tame and will approach people since the park office/general store sells bird food. The herons and egrets are less approachable, but good photography opportunities abound, even for those without a telephoto lens.

Take time to view the trees as well as the water for backyard birds such as jays, finches, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, goldfinches, swallows, and many others. For those new to birding, bring binoculars and a warm jacket if the weather is cool. Viewing birds often requires a bit of time standing still, so you are not likely to work up a sweat in cooler weather. The best time for viewing birds is early in the morning, so arrive as soon as the park opens (6:00 a.m., Friday through Sunday) for the most bird activity. Food and drinks are sold at the general store, and there are restroom facilities throughout the park.

Be on the lookout for native plants, as well. One end of the park sports a native plant garden, but throughout the park both native and non-native species can be found. Santee Lakes has many other recreational activities to offer. The lake is stocked with fish for the aspiring angler. Daily fishing permits, sold at the park, are required. There are camping facilities, including cabins on the lake, boat rentals, and playgrounds. Check the website for special events: santeelakes.com.

The park charges $3 per car during the week and $5 per car on the weekends. Camping, area rentals for parties and other activities also require fees. See the website for details. While bicycling to the park can certainly be done, you will likely find that you want to park your bike when you get there and walk around the lake to best enjoy the birds and avoid the many anglers. Pets on leashes are also welcome.

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/.

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

American coots, mallards, wood ducks, cinnamon teals, great blue herons, great egrets, and many other waterfowl congregate at Santee Lakes.

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San Diego Reader, April 26, 2012
Mojave continued from page 50.

conveniently located en route to the western entrance to Death Valley. It’s a popular location for films and commercials and is surrounded by almost 4000 acres of mud flats with mountain ranges visible in the distance.

Isolated in the western Mojave Desert, the lunar landscape is a little eerie. No wonder, then, that the Trona Pinnacles were used as a backdrop for sci-fi films, including Battlestar Galactica, Star Trek V: The Final Frontier, and the recent remake of Planet of the Apes.

The roads may have been a bit rough on my Celica, but the drive in was worth it. Hiking among the ancient pillars, I saw faces in stone at every turn. The ranger shook his head at me on the way in but stopped in his tracks, noddling, seemingly impressed, as I exited a few hours later after hiking into the heart of the Pinnacles. My car was not among those that had found its nose buried in the sand wash.

Primitive campsites set beneath the steeples are available for up to 14-day stays. I planned my visit during a full moon, but the clouds prevailed. Nonetheless, images of Charlton Heston in a loincloth hovering over the heavy-lidded Maryland beauty queen Linda Harrison — aka the mute ape slave Nova — came to mind.

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

OUTDOORS

April Is Landscape Architecture Month! American Society of Landscape Architects hosts walking tour led by Diana Bergen, UCSD’s senior landscape architect. Bergen discusses value of walking, a walking tour led by Bergen, April 28, 12pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Aubudon Society Bird Walk Outings may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions. 858-581-9944. Saturday, April 28, 8am; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMONT)

Birding Basics Learn five simple techniques to identify birds at a glance from birding guide Winona Sollock. Tips on using bird field guides; bring one if you wish. Saturday, April 28, 1pm; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Creek to Bay Cleanup 2012 I Love a Clean San Diego’s tenth annual cleanup takes place at 82 sites throughout San Diego County. Volunteers remove trash from local beaches, bays, parks, creek, canyons, and participate in a variety of projects to beauty, restore our shared environment. Saturday, April 28, 9am; free. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

Explore Balboa Park’s Trail System Landscape architect Mike Singleton, who was responsible for preparation of Balboa Park trail maps to guide visitors along the numerous trails, leads a group on one of these unique trails, talks about the design process. Meet at intersection of Hopkins Drive and Vogt Drive; park in Hopkins Parking Structure. 619-294-4477 x151 or 619-665-5981. Thursday, April 26, 12pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Kumeyaay in Nature Learn about Kumeyaay traditions, ecology, history, folklore during trail guide-led walk. Saturday, April 28, 9:30am; Sunday, April 29, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Walk Among Blooms California Native Plant Society leads adventure starting with steep ascent on west side of Lake Hodges. Wear sturdy shoes. 858-663-1497. Saturday, April 28, 10am; free. Del Dios Highlands Trail, 9860 Del Dios Highway. (ESCONDIDO)

Wildflower Wonders and History See golden yarrow, blue elderberry, Padre’s shooting stars during trail guide-led nature walk to historic Old Mission Dam. Saturday, April 28, 8:30am; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

“On the Waterfront: Little Italy’s Fishing History” San Diego Italian Film Festival hosts “movies, memories, and some talk about fishing culture, Italian culture, and local history.” Introduction by Pasquale Verdichiao. View “San Diego Waterfront Through the Eyes of a Child,” a photo journey through SD’s waterfront and Little Italy by Jim Bregante. Noah Tafolla’s Fishing from the Rock (2010) screens. Peter Halmy of San Diego Fishermen’s Working Group discusses SD’s “old and new fishing industry.” Verdichiao will introduce Confetti for Gino, a novel written in the late 50’s by Little Italy resident Lorenzo Madalena (novel available for purchase). Suggested donation: $5. 619-238-7559. Thursday, April 26, 7pm; Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Ramp It Up” Opens “Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America” exhibits opens with unveiling of indoor mini-ramp on south balcony. Professional skateboarders Augustin “Augie” Lerma III and Armando “Mando” Lerma, who are featured in the exhibit, demo the ramp (2pm). Exhibit curator Elizabeth Gordon shares “her experiences with the exhibition and the awesome world of Native American skateboarding” (1pm). Gordon leads tour of exhibit (3:30pm). Saturday, April 28, 1pm; $$$12. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Totem” Cirque du Soleil returns with cast of 52 performing artists from 19 countries under its blue and yellow grand chapiteau. The show “traces the fascinating journey of the human species from its origins to the manifest desire to fly.” Wednesday and Thursday, April 25–26, 8pm; Friday and Saturday, April 27–28, 4pm and 8pm; Sunday, April 29, 1pm and 5pm; Tuesday, May 1, 4pm and 8pm. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“Urban Farming” Spring garden festival promises “biggest plant sale of the year,” experts, workshops, exhibits to “empower consumers to create the drought-tolerant landscape of their dreams.” Animal exhibitors, musical guests, dancers, kids activities, international food court. 619-660-0614 x10. Saturday, April 28, 9am; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Guaymas College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Win a Tandem Skydive!

Enter to win a FREE tandem skydive from Pacific Coast Skydiving.

Win a Pair of Tickets to see Nobody Loves You at The Old Globe Theatre!

Enjoy music in an intimate setting where the distinction between artist and audience is blurred.

Enter by Thursday, May 3rd at 1PM

Win a Pair of Tickets to the Joshua Tree Music Festival!

Enjoy music in an intimate setting where the distinction between artist and audience is blurred.

More Chances to Win!

Win a Pair of Tickets to The 8th Annual Encinitas April Street Fair Roughly 450 vendors selling clothes, accessories, plants, household products, environmental products, art, antiques, home décor, food, a beer garden, and four live music stages. Encinitas Fire Department will hold their annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 28, from 7-11am. Music lineup includes Retro Rockets, Shoreline Rootz, Rhythm Method, Bill Magee Blues Band, Josiah & the Uplift Band, Rodello’s Machine, Bell Pepperz, and Blue Moones. 760-943-1950. Saturday, April 28, 9am; Sunday, April 29, 9am; free. Encinitas, Highway 101 between D and J streets. (ENCINITAS)

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Earth Day Festival 2012 Enjoy garden tours, children’s activities and games (10am-3:30pm), plants and art for sale, music and dance performances, food court, speakers, eco-vendors, gardening demonstrations, more. “Duchy of Brandenburg Medieval Village” promises display of costumes, arts, and skills of the period; storytelling for children; “stylized sword fighting demonstrations.” Saturday, April 28, 10am; Alta Vista Botanical Gardens, 1270 Vale Terrace Drive. (VISTA)

Get to Know the Philosophical Library The 9th annual open house promises book sale, seminars, readers. Speakers: Emily Just “Introducing Gong Meditation” (11:30am); Reverend Veronica Langer “The Key to Living Your Divine Purpose” (1pm); Wanda Binats (2:30pm); Beverly Brodky (4pm); 760-634-5051. Saturday, April 28, 11am; free. Oceanside Pier Plaza Amphitheatre, 200 North of the Strand. (OCEANSIDE)

Hanamatsuri Festival Enjoy Japanese and Buddhist cultural festival promising food and entertainment such as taiko drumming, demonstrations, Japanese candy sculpting, game booths for children, talks on Buddhism. 760-941-8800. Saturday, April 28, 12pm; Sunday, April 29, 12pm; free. Vista Buddhist Temple and Japanese Cultural Center, 150 Cedar Road. (VISTA)

House of Italy Lawn Party In Balboa Park at the International Cottages Stage. Free to the public. Free entertainment. Meatball and sausage sandwiches and drinks for sale. Bring your own lawn chairs. Come join the fun! For more information about House of Italy, visit www.houseofitaly.net. Sunday, April 29, 12pm; Balboa Park - Hall of Nations, 2191 West Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

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.queenbeessd.com. (619)225-5147. Friday, April 27, 7pm; $20-$25. La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Mamafest 2012 ‘Moms’ night out” benefiting Postpartum Health Alliance promises panel discussions on topics such as postpartum health. Hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, silent auction, gift bags, marketplace for shopping. 619-858-3532. Friday, April 27, 7pm; $20-$25. La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARMELBAY)

MindWalk Mission Federal ArtWalk 2012 celebrates visual and auditory arts, with more than 350 artists showcasing, selling work in wide variety of media on 17 city blocks. Music and dance performances on six stages; activities for kids. Saturday, April 28, 11am; Sunday, April 29, 11am. Little Italy, at West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Bridal Bazaar More than 200 exhibitors offer their wares, share “thousands of fresh ideas.” Fashion shows 11:30am, 1pm, 2:45pm. 760-334-5500. Sunday, April 29, 10am; $9-$12. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Build a Hydroponic Spring/Summer Garden Learn principles of applying hydroponics as a sustainable gardening method, then set up a kitchen garden with spring/summer vegetables and herbs during hands-on workshop. Fee includes materials. Required registration: 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, April 28, 9am; $70-$90. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

California Earth Day Jam 2012 Eco-festival powered by solar energy with educational speakers, 150 exhibitors, food and beverage samples, share “thousands of fresh ideas.” Fashion show, live entertainment, created by kids), cultural arts, eco-instruments (mural painting, parade with “eco-costumes and eco-instruments” created by kids), cultural arts, eco-fashion show, live entertainment, electronic dance music festival at Terra Firma (4:30-9pm). event@CaliforniaEarthDayJam.com or 619-869-1901. Friday, April 27, 8pm; free. Spring Valley Drive. (SPRING VALLEY)

Composting Workshop Want to create nutrient-rich garden soil from leftovers? Learn to make a compost pile during workshop at Spring Valley and East Communities Center, divulging “all you need to know to make terrific compost at home.” Saturday, April 28, 10am; free. Family Fitness and Fun Park, 3845 Spring Valley Drive. (SPRING VALLEY)

Cruisin’ Grand Summer-long Friday-evening car show hosted on Grand Avenue. The Royals perform. Friday, April 27, 6pm; free. Grand Avenue between Juniper and Kalmia Street. (ESCONDIDO)

Earth Day Festival 2012 Enjoy garden tours, children’s activities and games (10am-3:30pm), plants and art for sale, music and dance performances, food court, speakers, eco-vendors, gardening demonstrations, more. “Duchy of Brandenburg Medieval Village” promises display of costumes, arts, and skills of the period; storytelling for children; “stylized sword fighting demonstrations.” Saturday, April 28, 10am; Alta Vista Botanical Gardens, 1270 Vale Terrace Drive. (VISTA)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Postcard and Paper Collectible Show Almost half a million items displayed, offered for sale by 12 dealers. Shop postcards, paper collectibles, ephemera, advertising trade cards, cigar labels, travel brochures, matchbooks, more. Appraisals of old paper collectibles (included in admission). Saturday, April 28, 10am; Sunday, April 29, 10am; free $5. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (NEARLY MESA)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Flower Fields with 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for touring. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon ride ($5 general). Season passes available. 760-431-0352. Daily, 9am-6pm through Sunday, May 4. 18844 Paseo del Norte. (SOUTH PARK)

Renaissance Faire Queen Elizabeth I and her royal court, pirates, entertainers, food vendors, merchants, Renaissance reenactors gather for Renaissance Faire. Enjoy period music, battle pageants, Shakespearean theater, continuous entertainment, vendors, children’s activities. Weekend passes available. 805-496-6036. Saturday, April 28, 10am; Sunday, April 29, 11am; free $17. Felicita Park, 742 Clarence Lane. (ESCONDIDO)

Student Shakespeare Festival San Diego Shakespeare Society hosts performance, theater art, “sheer enthusiasm.” San Diego students perform ten-minute scenes from Shakespeare on outdoor stages along El Prado. Festival begins with procession from Spreckels Organ Pavilion to stages “led by Queen Elizabeth I herself.” Saturday, April 28, 12pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado. (BALSDA PARK)

Thursdays on the Coast Pick up a self-guided art walk map at information booth (on corner of State Street and Grand Avenue), then enjoy art, music, food, community fun. 760-434-2553. Thursday, April 26, 5:30pm; free. (CARLSBAD)

Train Song Festival — The Age of Steam Explore train yard of Poway Midland Railroad or board Old Cantankerous, the 1907 Baldwin Steam Engine, “as it chugs through the Wild West avoiding certain showdowns with Western gunsmingers.” Hear songs, stories of the rails as musicians and storytellers share accounts of railroad life. Learn to play banjo, other instruments in front musician camp. Arts and crafts offered at Boardwalk Craft Market. Food for sale. 858-668-4576. Saturday, April 28, 12pm; free. Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road. (POWAY)

Wings of Freedom 2012 Collings Foundation tour showcases vintage World War II aircraft. Walk-through tours of B-17 and B-24 offered daily; view a P-51 Mustang up close. Fee for tours and viewing: $12 for adults, $6 for kids, free for WWII vets. Flights begin at $425. 800-568-8924. Thursday, April 26, 9am; Friday, April 27, 9am; Gillespie Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon. Friday, April 27, 2pm; Saturday, April 28, 9am; Sunday, April 29, 9am; McClellan-Palomar Airport, 2192 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad. (EL CAJON, CARLSBAD)

Singles Rockin’ Party! Ages 45-65 Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles seeking for relationships, marriage and more, offers a dance/mixer with a live band, lock & key, chocolate tasting and more! Self-parking $5, valet $10. Classy dress. Price $10 prepay, $15 door. Thursday, April 26, 6:30pm - 10:30pm. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Fourth Thursday Open Mike —Jihyme Performance by Lizz Huerta. Host: Jim Moreno. 619-461-7100. Thursday, April 26, 7:30pm; free. Spacebar Internet Cafe, 7454 University Avenue, Suite A. (LA MESA)

Lost Art and Cultural Icons” Closes Tuesday, April 30. 619-278-8500. Thursday, April 26, 9am-6pm; free. Glorietta Bay. (BAY PARK)

“Bifocal” Opening reception for collaborative exhibit by painter Theressa Vandenbogen Donche and photographer Ian Cummings. www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com

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ART

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

“New Jewelry in a New Medium” includes individual beads and beaded objects of adornment (necklaces, bracelets), as well as polymer beads from the collection of the Bead Museum (formerly in Glendale, Arizona). On view through Sunday, June 17. Free. 8-7. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALSDA PARK)

“A Feeling of Transience” Opening reception for exhibition of new artwork by Boston native/Portland resident Jshlea, who “creates sculptures from the small discarded parts of forgotten gadgets and cultural icons.” Closes Tuesday, May 1, Friday, April 27, 6pm; free. Hellion Gallery South, 433 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

“Bifocal” Opening reception for collaborative exhibit by painter Theressa Vandenbogen Donche and photographer Ian Cummings.

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Rhyme & Verse
The Greatest
A poem by Robert Hedin

What I remember most about Muhammad Ali
Are not the fast hands and loose, graceful footwork,
Or Manila or Zaire. Or even what came after —
The slurred speech, the sad slow shuffle.
No, what I remember is a boy somewhere
In the foothills of the snowy Zagros Mountains,
A small Kudish boy in a long blue robe
Who gave us directions that day we were lost,
And how he knew nothing of America
But two syllables he sang over and over
In the high: unbroken voice of a girl —
Ali, Ali — then laughed and all at once
Began to bob and weave, jabbing and juking,
His robe flaring a moment like a fighter’s.
Ali. One word, two bright syllables
That turned to smoke in the morning air.
And he pointed down the long dusty road
To Hatra and Ur, the ruins of Babylon,
And the two ancient rivers we had read about,
Their dark starless waters draining away into fog.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry
Come Out and Play Sargent Art Group hosts exhibit of fine art and "artisan gift ideas," with work by local artists Rosemary Valente, Diane Cicci, Sue Paparisto, Terri Jackson, Don Palla, 760-448-5245. Saturday, April 28, 9am; free. La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Stereoscopic Art Show Enjoy "art in explosive 3-D" by Celeste. Reception includes walking tours of exhibit, music, refreshments. Saturday, April 28, 7pm; free. Twin Oaks Gallery, 757 North Twin Oaks Valley Road #3. (SAN MARCOS)

"When Worlds Collide" Art, music (Burning of Rome and Super Computer), and drinks, along with artists Pancake, Copio and Jason de la Torre. 619-238-7117. Friday, April 27, 8pm, free. The Propagandist, 835 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

BOOK SIGNINGS

A HalfMan Dreaming SDSU professor David Martin reads from his new novel, boasting "lyrical intensity and pyrotechnic prose." 858-456-1800. Saturday, April 28, 7pm; free. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Earth Is Your Sweet Spot Ellie Hanwood reads from, signs her new book, offering A Woman's Guide to Living Beautifully. She will "share simple rituals celebrating a feminine connection with Earth, and exchange ideas with those attending." 619-284-7684. Saturday, April 28, 2pm; free. Grove, 3010 Juniper Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Jonestown Survivor: An Insider's Look Laura Johnston Kohl discusses her memoir about life as a member of Peoples Temple in California and Guyana. Thursday, April 26, 7pm; free. Mission Hills Library, 925 West Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Novelist, Short-Story Writer, Essayist, Poet American author Sandra Cisneros reads from and discusses her work for 16th annual San Diego Writers and Editors Competition. Thursday, April 26, 7pm; free. Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive. (EL CASON)

Vanessa Diffenbaugh and Voices for Children The Language of Flowers author joins forces with Voices for Children to raise awareness of "the realities of foster care, the inspiration for her novel." rebecca@speakingnow.org. Lecture: 7pm; booksigning: 8pm. Thursday, April 26, 2pm general. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. (SOF- RENTO VALLEY)

"It's So Very Tango" Enjoy all-new Carmen arrangements by Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla, with "dynamic and exciting ensemble pieces...in service to the dramatic story told by the intimate, intense dance called tango." 619-231-3702. Friday, April 27, 7:30pm; $20-$25. St. Paul’s Cathedral, 2728 Sixth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

"Ten-String Music" Concert Hour series continues when Erica Erenty and Colin McAllister perform original music and transcriptions for cello and guitar by Friedrich Burgmüller, Manuel de Falla, Radames Gnattoni, Dusan Bogdanovic. 760-744-1150 x2317. Thursday, April 26, 12:30pm; free. Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10), 1140 W. Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

"The Fortepiano at the Time of Louis XVI" Marcia Hadjimarkos performs selections by Mozart, de Montgeroult, Johann Schobert, Draper Avenue. Among her books: "The Fortepiano at the Time of Louis XVI: Dances from 'The Three Fates’ Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

The Barber of Seville Opera closes season with Rossini’s “riotto musical comedy.” Cast includes American baritone Lucas Meachem, Spanish soprano Silvia Tro Santafe. Conductor is Antoello Alemandi; John Copley directs. Performed in Italian with English translations above stage. Reservations: 619-533-7000. Friday, April 27, 8pm; Sunday, April 29, 2pm; $50-$210. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Dedicated to Doomed Romance! San Diego Symphony performs Bernstein’s “Symphonic Dances from West Side Story.” “The Love” by Tan Dun, Chen/He’s “The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto” with violinist Cho-Liang Lin, and “Roméo and Juliet” by Tchaikovsky. 619-235-0804. Thursday, April 26,
Giant Rummage Sale
19th Annual Torrey Pines High School Foundation Rummage Sale
Saturday, April 28, 7-11 am
Gently used treasures, furniture, antiques, children’s items, clothing, tools & much more!
Torrey Pines H.S. Parking Lot
1 mile east of I-5 on Del Mar Heights Rd.
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9am to noon in front parking lot. Limit 3 standard (12x15”) storage boxes
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Hosted by the Fallbrook Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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7:30pm; Saturday, April 28, 8pm; $20-$96. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)
Spring Choir Concert “Celebrate song in a new and fresh way” during joint recital by San Diego Children’s Choir and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir. Offering. Sunday, April 29, 4pm; First United Methodist Church of San Diego 2111 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

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“An Exhortation to the Clergy in a Convocation”

Be not conformed to this world, but be you reformed by the renewing of your mind; that you may prove what is that good will of God, well-pleasing and perfect (Romans 12:2). This the Apostle wrote to all Christian men, but most chiefly to Priests and Bishops. Priests and Bishops are the light of the world. For he said unto them, you are the light of the world: and he said also, If the light which is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness? that is, If Priests and Bishops (who should be as lights) run in the dark way of the world, how dark then shall the secular people be? Wherefore St. Paul and the English cleric, was considered one of the early pioneers of Christian humanism. Along with Christian humanists Thomas More (1478–1535) and Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536), he helped launch the “new learning” that sought to synthesize classic Greek and Latin writings with the great minds of the Catholic Church and ushered in the European Renaissance. The dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral, Colet recognized the need for reform in the Catholic Church at a time when such concerns were coming quickly to a head, soon to explode throughout Europe as the Protestant Revolt. Perhaps because he remained Catholic throughout his life, Colet’s works are mostly lost — with a few prayers and one sermon, excerpted above.

Netzuhk Society, offers brief history of netsuke and agemono. Thursday, April 26, 1pm; free-$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BAJO PARK)

“My Affair With Art” Artist, author McNeil Sargent shares stories of lessons learned studying netsuke, sculpture & his work at the Printmaker’s Atelier. December 18, 1pm, 6pm. Mirada College San Elijo Campus, 333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDFI)

“Out of Asia: A Symposium” Panelists from across the country share insights on a diverse range of topics to contextualize museum’s diverse holdings in Asian art and the two new exhibitions, “Echoes of the Past” and “Dying Elegance.” Saturday, April 28, 9am; $10-$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BAJO PARK)

“Secrets of Steinway” Piano specialist David Farshaks shares “history behind the Steinway family legacy as well as the craftsmanship that goes into creating a hand-made instrument.” Reservations: 858-586-7000. Thursday, April 28, 11am; free. Greene Music Recital Hall, 7480 Miramar Rd., Suite 101. (MIRAMAR)

Don’t Sleep There Are Snakes Discuss linguistic Daniel Everett’s Life and Language in the Amazonian jungle with Humanist Fellowship book club, meeting in back of restaurant. Thursday, April 26, 6:30pm; free. Paesano, 3647 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

The Things They Carried Discussion of Tim O’Brien’s book, in which questions such as “What is meant by story truth and happenings-truth?” will be posed. Discussion precedes author’s May 1 appearance at USD. Saturday, April 28, noon; free. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Beginning Beekeeping Learn basics of keeping bees, encouraging bees to live nearby, and caring for “these black-and-yellow buddies.” Farmer Bill clarifies hive styles, colonies, harvesting and storing fresh honey. Sunday, April 29, 1pm; free. City Farmers Nursery, 4832 Home Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity John D. Feeley, Summit Coordinator for the U.S. State Department, will share the inside scoop on the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in mid-April, and attended by 34 presidents and prime ministers of the Western Hemisphere. Thursday, April 26, 6:30pm; $10. Institute of the Americas, UCSD, 10111 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

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

SPORTS
Board and Broom the Long Way Enjoy 50-mile bicycle ride with San Diego Bicycle Touring Society. Bring money for lunch during outing. 619-764-9304. Saturday, April 28, 8:45am. Doyle Park, 8715 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Del Mar National Horse Show Dressage Week Show continues with world-class dressage competition. “Evening of Musical Free-stylies” is April 28, ($18). Regular admission is free on weekdays, $10 on weekends. Thursday, April 26, 8am; Friday, April 27, 8am; Saturday, April 28, 8am and 7pm; Sunday, April 29, 8am; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Learn-to-Curl Clinic Curl San Diego hosts clinic for people who have never curled before. Learn basics of the game, ice safety, delivery, sweeping. Includes “fun practice game.” 760-489-5550. Saturday, April 29, 5-30pm; $25. Iceoplex Escondido, 553 North Tulip Street. (ESCONDIDO)

March for Babies Help March of Dimes raise funds for “research and programs that help babies begin healthy lives” during 3.5-mile walk (8am). Registration: 7am. 858-576-1211. Saturday, April 28, 8am; free. Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2135 Park Boulevard. (BAJO PARK)

Walk MS: NTC Park Help “raise funds and celebrate hope for the future” during family friendly event including fun run, carnival, entertainment, and a two- to three-mile walk. Saturday, April 28, 8am; free. NTC Park at Liberty Station, 2455 Cushing Road. (POINT LOMA)

Walk for Wishes Fundraiser for Make a Wish Foundation promises 1.5-mile course through North Embarcadero Park and along the waterfront. Saturday, April 28, 9am; $17-427. Embarcadero Marina Park North, 849 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

SHEEP and GOATS

The Sheep and Goats pages offer 50 words per ad, 5 cents per additional word. Call Andrea Ormerod: (619) 235-3000 ext. 206 or email her: aormerod@SDReader. com. Or — easiest of all — go to SDReader.com. SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

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UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH Nikki Wilkins and the Power of Music Saturday, April 28, at 5:11 pm in Koehler Hall. The power of music in our lives and our faith is the topic of this contemporary worship gathering featuring special guest singer/songwriter Nikki Wilkins. Child care is provided and refreshments served afterwards. UCUC.ORG UNIVERSITY CITY 2877 Governor Drive (858) 453-3444

CELEBRATION CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING Spiritual But Not Religious Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am for great music from our new Music Director, Christopher Spinks, who is a featured soloist at Agape International in LA. Conscious people. Enlightened Message. Come see our New Home! TheCelebrationCenter.org SORRENTO VALLEY 5744 Pacific Center Blvd. Suite 206 (858) 320-0090

ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Hebrews and James Epistles Catholic Scripture study for 28 weeks, written by Scott Hahn and Mark Shea. Presented by Fr. Ritch Paceco and Fr. Scott Courtney. Fridays, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. EL CAJON 1510 Greenfield Drive (619) 588-6881

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH Five Latin Masses Every Sunday: 8:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:05 chant Mass; 12:30 pm low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low Mass. LOGAN HEIGHTS 621 Sicard St. (619) 239-8253

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ServantSong Presents a sacred concert of jazz and gospel-infused vocals on Sunday, April 29, at 12:30 pm in our Sanctuary. Come! Experience worshipful excellence that radiates warmth, love, joy and enthusiasm. Ourredeemersandiego.com CITY HEIGHTS 1370 Euclid Avenue (619) 262-0757

UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH Come for the Music, Stay for the Heart! Sunday, April 29, at 10:30 am. The San Diego Women’s Chorus will perform several selections during worship service. Join us in welcoming this community chorus that was formed to encourage women’s creativity, celebrate diversity, and inspire social action. UCUC.ORG UNIVERSITY CITY 2877 Governor Drive (858) 453-3444

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN LA JOLLA Learn to Heal Yourself Spiritually A scientific approach to understanding how Christ Jesus proved that healing is natural. Sunday Services at 10 am. Wednesday evening testimony meeting at 7:30 pm. 1270 Silverado. LA JOLLA 1270 Silverado (858) 454-2807

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$15 Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages. 50 words for each additional word. Call Andrea Ormerod: (619) 235-3000 ext. 206 or email her: aormerod@SDReader.com. Or — easiest of all — go to SDReader.com. SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.
I’m nearly lost in the blizzard of clever stickers stuck to the wall on my right. “Lord, help me to be the person my cat thinks I am.”

Honestly, I think people here in South Park kind of are. Better than the rest of us, that is. They hand-pick garbage off the street, just because this is their South Park. They start circuses. They hold walkthroughs. It’s like they live on a better planet or in a better century. Come here, and you want to stop being your usual bitchy self and try and remember all those old ideals. Believe in, wow, something as squishy as... love?

Take this bright, sunny, breezy morning. I had to get off the #2 at 30th and Grape Street and head down to the Big Kitchen, to fuel up on the positive energy field of what people call Judy-World. Judy’s run this place since 1980. The good things she’s made happen in these two little dining rooms recharge you every time you come in.

I walk past sidewalk tables under the trees, into the room with the counter (there’s another with only tables and chairs). The place is bustling, buzzing. I sit up to the counter next to this guy Mitch. Actually, I think it’s his home fries wafting their aromas that make the decision for me. Oh, man. Rosemary, garlic, onion?

“I have what he’s having,” I say to Mark, the lanky guy behind the counter. “With poached eggs.”

Then I start reading... the wall.

“Hippies use the FRONT door,” says one sign. The handwritten word “FRONT” has been stuck over the original word “BACK.”

“What part of ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill’ don’t you understand?” says another. Yet another backs it up. “When Jesus said ‘Love your enemies,’ I think he probably meant don’t kill them.” A tag explains that the quote’s backs it up. “When Jesus said ‘Love your enemies,’ I think he probably meant don’t kill them.” A tag explains that the quote’s

I remember Whoo-pi, says a guy down the counter from Mitch. He’s eating a sandwich of bacon with melted cheese and onions, plus a pile of home fries. “In 1980, she was washing dishes, just after Judy opened. It was sure fun being here with those two carrying on.”

“Judy has a big heart,” says this guy to Lucy’s heading out. She’s been Judy’s friend for all 32 years this place has been open. “When I’m not here,” she says, “my heart is.”

Mitch sees me tripping on the first gulp. “They squeeze it when you put your order in, not before,” he says. “I can definitely taste the difference.”

Me, too. And it’s a big tumbler-full.

“Rudy started working here when he was 10. Now he’s 34 and the chef.”

“My son Rudy started working here when he was 10. Now he’s 34 and the chef.”

“I remember Whoo-pi,” says a guy down the counter from Mitch. He’s eating a sandwich of bacon with melted cheese and onions, plus a pile of home fries. “In 1980, she was washing dishes, just after Judy opened. It was sure fun being here with those two carrying on.”

That’s what everybody says. The Big Kitchen would have been just another greasy spoon except for Judy the Beauty on Duty. This fire-and-brimstone broad from New York City has done everything from employing guys straight out of the big house to helping start the Fern Street Circus, right here in this room. Heck, Sadie, one of her workers, is an acrobat in Cirque du Soleil. Tim, the guy doing Whoopi’s job these days, is lead guitarist in a death-metal band.

“Look at that: Lucy’s here!” Judy tells everybody as an art-lookin’ gal swings in through the narrow doors.

And then comes her trademark French phrase: “Très bien, très bien!” It’s not like she’s French, but the story is that her customers flew her to Paris once for a break, and when she came back, she had that phrase. Now it’s part of the lingo here.

“Judy has a big heart,” says this guy to my left. John. “I’m diabetic and have become legally blind. Judy has helped me so much. Taken me to the hospital, made sure I get good food, like this salad.”

He’s working his way through a chicken salad. “My son Rudy,” he says, “started working here when he was 10. Now he’s 34 and the chef. She gave him a good life.”

Whoopi’s breakfast ain’t cheap: it costs $13.95, plus $2.75 for an endless coffee. With tax, that comes to $18. Yes, if I’d looked, I’d have found cheaper choices — like, $4.75 for one egg, home fries or rice, and toast. Instead, I’ve shelled out $20 for breakfast (including tip). Sticker shock? Little bit. But I like to think some of it will go to Judy’s many good causes.

Lucy’s heading out. She’s been Judy’s friend for all 32 years this place has been open. “When I’m not here,” she says, “my heart is.”
Harbor’s Edge
Mother’s Day Brunch

On Sunday, May 13th, join us between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm to celebrate Mother’s Day in a stunning setting while enjoying Harbor’s Edge traditional Mother’s Day Brunch.

Our Mother’s Day Brunch this year includes an incredible selection of Breakfast favorites, Seafood & Salads, Ice Raw Bar along with a wide variety of Entrees, Pasta Creations, Carving Stations and Sweet Desserts. Entertainment will include guitarist Ryan Hiller. A complimentary rose will be handed out to all the mothers joining us on their day.

For reservations, please call 619 692 2255

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10% Off Total Bill
Early Bird Dinner
Mon.-Thurs. Before 6 pm
$2 off
Per person. Max 5 people.
Expires 05/10/2012. With ad. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays. Cannot be combined with other offers. Dine-in only.

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San Diego Reader
April 26, 2012

61
Couldnt Resist

For the latest blogs from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of over 1600 restaurants, please visit sandiegoreader.com/feast/

Salad Style: In the Chapel? Or Under the Green Umbrella?
Green noodles, red cabbage, lime umbrellas, blue sky. Who could ask for anything more? I couldn’t resist stopping at Salad Style (807 F Street), what with the sunny day and the cute, little ol’ low red-brick building. And this block (kitty-corner to the back of the post office) looking bright, like it’s an up-and-coming block.

Besides, on a day like today, you wanna be healthy, walk healthy, and — why not? — eat healthy. And, yes, I’m still on a campaign to get down to 200lbs. Doing okay. Three to go.

Of course, inside there’s a line waiting to order. I look at the salads menu on the wall. They start at $9 ($12 for the large) at the top with the grilled salmon salad and go down to the house salad at bottom (it comes with organic greens, cotija cheese, corn, and other good stuff) for $6, $8 large. Also at the bottom and also $6: Morning Glory, a mix of yogurt, strawberry, blueberry, pineapple, pear, granola, honey, and mint. That’d be good.

I almost go for that but then see the Moroccan Couscous salad ($7/$10). Oh, yeah. I remember having it once. Big molded chunk of couscous in the middle of a sea of greens, feta cheese, black currants, almonds. Great.

But then, also at $7/$10, there’s the soba noodle salad with green-tea soba noodles, shredded cabbage, grilled chicken, shiitake mushrooms, peanuts, all sorts of good stuff, plus a ginger-sesame dressing.

I go for that. The small. “Good choice,” says the guy behind the counter. Name’s Gy, spelled G-Y. The manager. “It has the lowest calorie-count of all our salads, 140.” If it tastes good, that’s a win-win.

I’m tempted to sit down here, inside, like most customers seem to be doing. It’s nice. Actually, it’s historic. The building could be 125 years old, says Gy. “And I was told this room was the chapel of the first Catholic church downtown.”

I can see that’s possible. The open timber rafters look old. The green wine bottle chandeliers don’t, but they kinda add to the atmosphere.

But today being what it is, I decide to go out in the sun under the green umbrella on the sidewalk. Gy arrives with a glass of water, napkin, and a heavy knife and fork.

The salad is pretty amazing. So much stuff. The pile of noodles is on the bottom...but then you’ve got spinach. Endless chunks of grilled chicken, those tasty little sliced shiitake mushrooms, shavings of red cabbage, carrot, scallions, lotsa peanuts, and that sexy infusion of the ginger-sesame.

Tandoori Hut is not trying to muscle in on the upscale Indian dining scene that the Monsoon Group has on lockdown. Perhaps this is just as well, as the affordability of the buffet may fill the “anything but a burrito” category of cheap eats.

The long-ish buffet table had rice, a few appetizers, a good selection of the house curries in meat and vegetable form, and a few morsels for dessert. Everything was in great shape and seemed not to have been sitting around too long. Indian food keeps well in a chafing dish, but truly ancient curry is never pleasant. Tandoori’s looked fresh.

The food was on the okay side of adequate, although a goat curry “with bones” was better than the other dishes and showed more deviation from the norm than the ubiquitous saag paneer and chicken tikka.

Some of the most important points were covered: the rice was good and fluffy, the naan bread that came out of the kitchen (freshly baked to order) was excellent, and there was plenty of protein in the curries. Even merely average curry is delightful over really good rice or hot, tender bread.

The menu extends beyond the buffet and is massive in scope. As is usually the case in the U.S., the dishes are primarily from the culinary styles of northern India, where meat consumption is more common and the savory flavors are more immediately recognizable to American taste.

The Counter: If they come, will they build it?

The Counter (695 Sixth Avenue, downtown), one of maybe three-dozen franchises, mainly in California and stretching from Times Square to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The make-your-own idea is great, and spreading (see Which Wich? the sandwich franchise). You come in, grab a clipboard, and start checking off all the stuff you want between the buns. That’d be half an hour for me right there.

The caution: You’d better have a Jackson in your pocket. The counter is being cute about prices, but it looks like it’ll be way more expensive than, say, In-N-Out. Maybe $11 to $12 for your burger with fries. Call it a burger assault on the bourgeoisie.

Standard burger will have a 1/3rd-pound patty, one cheese, four toppings. And, a la Burger Lounge, they promise the cows are humanely raised and handled. (Read: They just get a bonk on the head when they least expect it and are hormone and antibiotic free.) Didn’t see the word “organic,” though.

Meanwhile, sigh, two months and counting...

Counter Culture: Still Counting Down

“Arriving Early 2012.” We’re nearly May now. What’s happening, fellas?

The sign is stuck to the window of this new condo building at Sixth and G downtown. It’s beside an application for a “41,” the beer-and-wine license, and scrumptious pictures of three-foot-high mega burgers and the promise of a dozen craft beers on tap.

The idea here: build your own burger. The motto: “Let them build it, and they will come.” The claim: you have at least 312,120 combos you can make.

This spot is going to be the Counter (695 Sixth Avenue, downtown), one of maybe three-dozen franchises, mainly in California and stretching from Times Square to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The make-your-own idea is great, and spreading (see Which Wich? the sandwich franchise). You come in, grab a clipboard, and start checking off all the stuff you want between the buns. That’d be half an hour for me right there.

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Posted April 16 by Ed Bedford

Posted April 17 by Ian Pike
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San Diego Reader April 26, 2012 68
Calendar
Restaurant
Park House Eatery

The patio at Park House is excellent. Shading is sufficient, so it's manageable on sunny days, and the view on Park Boulevard in University Heights is pleasant. The interior of the restaurant is nice as well, but on an ideal day during lunch, the patio is a must.

Service was inattentive, though friendly enough when the servers found the time to check on the table.

A lamb burger ($12.95) featured a generous amount of gorgonzola cheese, a crusty bun, and an excellent tapenade. The olive spread was a bit of a surprise as a burger topping but proved to be the biggest delight of the sandwich. The side salad (served in lieu of fries) was a bit forgettable, as the dressing lacked distinction.

For lunch, a soup and half-sandwich deal ($9.95) included a cup of the Park House's delicious shrimp-and-potato chowder. Though the cup of soup misses out on the grilled shrimp that accompany the bowl, the body of the soup itself was rich and carried lots of flavor. An ahi tuna salad sandwich had a bit too much bread for the filling, and the fish could have been more plentiful. Still, what fish there was proved to be scrumptious.

Drinks were on the expensive side: $3.25 for a perfectly average glass of lemonade and over $5 for all the draft beer (none of which were breathtaking selections) makes a lunch bill balloon out of control quickly.

A small but irksome quirk of the Park House Eatery is in the menu printing. Lots of syntactical ambiguities created menu items that were confusing or misleading. For example, “Totally eggless Caesar salad, lots of garlic and focaccia croutons” could well contain lots of garlic and some focaccia croutons — or it might have lots of croutons that were made with garlic.

4574 Park Boulevard, University Heights.

Posted April 16 by Ian Pike

Ballast Point
Looking into Locations for Third Brewery

The world's reigning top Small Brewery (as awarded at the World Beer Cup, the next biennial iteration of which will occur in San Diego the first weekend of May) is looking to grow. Ballast Point Brewing and Spirits is currently searching for a 55,000- to 100,000-square-foot building within San Diego County where they can build a 100-plus barrel brewhouse.

This will be their third brewing facility, a significant step for the business. To put their size target in perspective, Green Flash Brewing Company's new facility is considered large by San Diego standards, and it's 45,000 square feet. Indoor space for the Escondido facility of Stone Brewing Co. — the county's largest brewing company and the 11th-largest craft brewery in the country — is just over 60,000 square feet, and over 14,000-plus of that is office and restaurant space.

Production wise, Ballast Point is poised to brew 60,000 barrels this year at their Scripps Ranch brewery. That space has undergone recent expansion, but it's doubtful they can squeeze much higher production out of it, creating the need for the new location.

Posted April 23 by Brandon Hernandez

Izakaya Masa

Tucked into the corner of a Mission Hills retail complex (928 Fort Stockton Drive), the izakaya is only identifiable by a small sign in Japanese. Also, it's the only thing that's open late in the neighborhood. It seems to be an after-work or late-night destination.

Reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends, as the restaurant is popular, given its out-of-the-way location. I might not have needed my reservation at 10:30, but any earlier and it would have been a good idea.

The staff greeted me in cheerful Japanese and showed me promptly to my table in the back room (with all of five tables in it). Service is, as a rule, very prompt and efficient at Izakaya Masa, sometimes leaving no time to peruse the menu before ordering, but the waitstaff will just keep coming back as many times as needed.

The signage that covered the walls was heavy on the Japanese text, of which I understand zero, but somehow lent the place credibility. It wasn't that the signs were in Japanese, but that there was an aspect of sincerity there that's hard to fake.

The sake selection isn't extensive, but it's also not expensive, so simply ordering at whim is probably the best place to start. Special bottles can be as cheap as $12.

Much of the menu is tapas-style food that is meant to be shared and eaten with sake. I started off the meal with a cold monkfish liver. It was expensive (almost eight dollars) but possessed a rich flavor and a unique texture. As an accompaniment to sake, the cold fish liver was ideal: it smoothed out the potential bite of the hot alcohol, and the flavors were perfectly complementary.

A small plate of deep-fried oysters had been formed into quenelles, breaded in panko, and fried quickly so that the soft, briny interiors didn't have a chance to toughen. The
unidentified brown sauce (sort of a ponzu, but not quite) went well with them. Sliced and roasted pork, another small plate, came smothered in sliced scallions and drizzled with a very umami sauce for less than five dollars. While not elegant in the sense of some Japanese food, it fit the "drinking and sharing" aesthetic of an izakaya perfectly, especially on a cooler evening. The star of the show at Izakaya Masa is definitely the ramen. Only available after 9 p.m., the tonkotsu (pork bone stock) noodle soup comes in three different varieties; all of which threaten to make a mockery of ramen as it’s widely known in the U.S., i.e., the stuff that college freshmen live on for the first year of school. I ordered a large bowl of hakata ramen ($8.95), which had sliced pork, fried garlic, scallions, seaweed, and ginger laid across the top of the noodles. The salty broth tasted perfectly, especially with purchase of one lunch or dinner entree of equal or greater value.

The guests at the occupied table spoke loudly about the nature of God and His infallibility. The man at the cash machine handed me a small cup from behind the airpots and I poured a custom blend of half Folger’s grade and half chocolate-flavored coffee. Both were actually hot, which was a surprise. The cream was sitting out in an opaque relic of a plastic jug and the sugar was in a Tupperware. I ordered a small kumpir from the stand during Adams Avenue Unplugged. The potato had very crispy skin, almost crunchy, and a dry, fluffy interior. The woman in the cart split it in half, rubbed with a spoon for doling out the required amount.

The cost of my small coffee was $1.50, and it was actually better than I expected, though far from an elite cup of Joe. Lily’s Garden Cafe fascinated and spooked me in roughly equal portions. The word on the street is that the place is a base of operations for lots of 12-step groups, which would be consistent with the vibe. Also, the website says the cafe is Buddhist in philosophy and practice, which is interesting and something that one might not guess from the decor but definitely adds a layer of mystery to this room where people gather away from the sun to drink half-good coffee.

The Peculiarity of Lily’s Garden Cafe
I remember when Lily’s used to be in University Heights, cat-corner to Henry’s. Now the cafe there has shut down and moved to Normal Heights (3501 Adams Avenue). The address is on Adams Avenue, but the door really opens about 30 meters down 35th Street. The only reason I noticed it was because a little sandwich board had been set out on the sidewalk to bring passersby down the road. The unassuming door has the same lack of noise (any background sound were lost in the thick, wall-to-wall carpeting) evoked the subterranean feel of a 21st-century dungeon. The guests at the occupied table spoke loudly about the nature of God and His infallibility. The man at the cash machine handed me a small cup from behind the airpots and I poured a custom blend of half Folger’s grade and half chocolate-flavored coffee. Both were actually hot, which was a surprise. The cream was sitting out in an opaque relic of a plastic jug and the sugar was in a Tupperware with a spoon for doling out the required amount.

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in some butter, and then topped the entire potato with chicken, cheese, sour cream, olives, corn, and green onions. The result was a bit more cumbrous to eat than, say, a corn dog, but the *kumpir* was extremely satisfying.

I found the white-meat chicken to be a little on the dry side — as it always is when the skin’s been removed — but since the entire spud had been smothered with butter and covered in cream, the final dish was more than sufficiently indulgent. Maybe the coolest thing about this dish is that it was a snack that had both meat and starch in it without being based on any grain. There’s nothing wrong with corn and wheat and their ilk, but it’s really refreshing to sink the teeth into a potato instead of a slice of bread every now and again.

The stand also sells baklava and borek (savory pies), but the *kumpir* is the dish that might stand a chance at becoming a street-food staple, particularly if someone had the notion to stuff it with cornitas or pulled pork in a manner that might appeal to local appetites!

*Posted April 21 by Ian Pike*

### Las Hadas Bar and Grill

Las Hadas Bar and Grill (558 Fourth Avenue in the Gaslamp District) first attracted me with their happy hour menu. Nice prices, good selection on both food and drink specials, and extended hours.

I started with a Diablo ($5), the Las Hadas take on a michelada. It was cold and refreshing, not too much lime, not too much tomato juice. The beer selection is limited, but they did have Ballast Point Pale Ale ($4 during happy hour) on draft for John.

The complimentary corn fritters were a pleasant surprise. The moist, tender cakes of masa studded with corn kernels were lightly fried, golden and delicious. The honey butter and mildly spicy salsa were tasty accompaniments.

My Chilte Verde Cheeseburger ($7) was just a little pink inside, topped with melted pepper jack, chipotle aioli, roasted green chili strips, and sliced avocado. The bun had been buttered and grilled, a very nice touch. The fries were okay, but they had been sitting out a bit too long and were lukewarm.

John’s Adobo Chicken Wings ($6) were a success. Eight big pieces, crispy-fried and lightly sprinkled with peppery spice. Drizzled with just enough adobo sauce, they were savory, tender, and juicy. A side of blue cheese dressing and chili-dusted jicama sticks rounded it out.

*Other happy-hour selections include coconut shrimp, chipotle barbecued ribs, and ceviche, priced $6–$7 and generous enough to share. Top-shelf margaritas are $5; house drinks, wine, sangria, and drafts are $4.

*Posted April 20 by Mary Beth Ablate*

### Toma Sol Cafe

Toma Sol is situated on the less-occupied stretch of Washington Street between Hillcrest and Mission Hills proper (301 West Washington Street). Considering the relatively sterile feel of the block on which it’s located, Toma Sol manages a comfortable vibe that might make the quiet coffee shop a good place to sit and get some serious work done.

A shot of espresso (the coffee comes from local roaster Cafe Moto) was better than average with good crema and a deep, rich flavor that had a touch of sweetness to it even without sugar.

The café serves panini in a few different flavors and soup from Decker Brothers, a company that purveys ready-to-serve soups to a handful of San Diego coffee shops and small restaurants. A Tuscan lentil soup ($5.25/16oz) was very hearty and had just the right texture; not too brothy, yet not quite reduced to gravy. It could have withstood a dash or two of salt and pepper, which is not ideal, but far better than the alternative since one cannot unsalt soup.

*In addition to the soup and sandwiches, there are a few pre-packaged salads on display from Ganosh Gourmet. The Coronado-based company, which offers weekly meal plans and home delivery, seems to produce some nice-looking food, though I didn’t have the appetite to sample any of it at the café.*

Somebody at Toma Sol knows her way around a blender. A mango smoothie ($4.05) was gloriously thick and managed to strut the line between fruit and ice perfectly.

The pleasant atmosphere and professional coffee-making at Toma Sol were more noteworthy than the food options. The available snacks and light meals would definitely suffice for, say, the frazzled graduate student working hard on a thesis and unable to tear himself away, but they wouldn’t really warrant a dedicated lunch trip unless caffeine was a serious priority.

*Posted April 20 by Ian Pike*

### A Beer Pairing

#### Dinner Based on... Cupcakes?

They say candy’s dandy, but liquor’s quieter. Put the two together and you’ve got the sweet line of baked goods that is local dessert company PubCakes. From the La Mesa home base she shares with Treehouse Coffee, owner Misty Birchall crafts home-style cupcakes using beer as a core ingredient.

Since debuting nearly two years ago, she’s gained a cult fol-
competed on the Food Network Strauss Brewing Company, and ate an exclusive recipe for Karl ing flavors, been tapped to cre-
from six to dozens of interest-
Behind that loyal clientele, she's lowing among beer enthusiasts.

The thought of six courses of flour- and sugar-based fare sounds both intriguing and like sweet-tooth overkill, but the menu is more than a sex-
tet of cupcakes, and actually offers a great deal of variety. In fact, reading over the offerings, there’s zero sign of Birchall’s tra-
ditional products.
The closest thing I can find is a Savory Bloody Mary Cup-
cake that will be served as a

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**La Terrazza — Life at the Top**
Oh, man. Seems every day off, the lovely Carla wants to head for Diane, on the sceptered isle of Coronado, to get her hair swished up.

She’s there now. Me, wonder-
dering lonely as a cloud, till I pass this place I’ve always been curious about, La Terrazza (1309 Orange Avenue; 619-522-0077). Upstairs, exclusive-looking. And the menu? Don’t even go there. “Hi,” says the gal at the lec-
tern, but without much hope. Just kinda pro forma, I ask, “Do you guys have happy hour?” “Oh, sure. Every day, three to six,”

Right now we’re talking five. She hands me a little one-
page menu. Huh. “Piccola Brusc-
cettina con Balsamico, $3.50.” Okay, I think that means “Small, little minibruschetta with bal-
samic.” So I guess you can’t say they didn’t warn you. But they have other stuff, all priced between $3.50 and $5.30. Like, mini-meatball panino with mar-
inara sauce and mozzarella ($4), or seafood combo trio, breaded scallops, calamari, and shrimp on greens ($5.50).

Guess I’ll have to leap up those steps to the second level terrace (they have an elevator, too).

Once I’m up there, gotta say, the view, even on a cloudy day, is great. Del’s red towers line the horizon. Yellow, blue tablecloths, giant yellow and blue umbrel-
las checker the terrace, and the top fronds of palms rustle just beyond the parapets.

So, without spending a penny, you already feel important. Except, now comes the waiter,
What the Chef Eats

ALMOND-CRUSTED PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM

Recipe by Katherine Humphus
Executive Chef, BO-beau kitchen+bar

To be honest, I kind of fell into cooking. I was a hostess at the Prado in Balboa Park and I didn’t like it as much as I thought I would. I asked the chef at the time if there were any openings in the kitchen and he said, “Not really.” I told him I wanted to work in the kitchen and he said, “I don’t know. Do you have any experience?” I told him I didn’t. But he found me a spot in the kitchen anyway.

I loved every second of it, I came home and would report that I made 200 fruit pies. It seemed so foreign and exciting to me. I worked at the Prado for a couple of years and was promoted a few times. A chef told me to go to culinary school. He said I should pick New York or Paris and I said, “I’ll just go to Paris.” My mom and grandmother were huge cooks and I loved eating all their goodies. Some time in school I decided I wanted to be vegan for some reason, and I had to cook all my own food. Maybe that’s when I really got into cooking, although the vegan thing was short-lived.

In terms of putting the "Katherine" stamp on French cuisine, I just try to make it more approachable for people because a lot of the time, it’s just too weird. I try to use more common ingredients and explain things on a menu. Sometimes French words scare people off. I like to make it more fun and use opposite flavors. If I make something sweet, I’ll pair it with something tangy. I like to create food wars on my plate.

I love going out to places that are comfortable. Something comfort-foodie that isn’t too loud, like the hole-in-the-wall sushi place next door. If I’m cooking for someone it’s usually some sort of grilled steak. I don’t have a grill at the restaurant so at home I grill as much as possible. I’m mostly not fancy. There has to be an occasion for me to go crazy in the kitchen.

INGREDIENTS
(SERVES 1 AS A MAIN COURSE OR 4 FOR APPETIZERS)

1 portobello mushroom
1.5 T Dijon mustard
1 splash lemon juice
1 thyme sprig
1 rosemary sprig
3 T ground almonds
Salt, pepper to taste
1 C arugula
2 lemon wedges
1 T toasted sliced almonds

HOW TO DO IT
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Peel and clean portobellos by holding the mushroom in your hand, stem side up, and tearing the top layer of outer skin off gently. Remove stem
What the Chef Eats

with a small knife so there is no remaining stump. Place mushroom face up on a lined baking dish.

Smooth Dijon mustard over gills of mushroom. Sprinkle salt and pepper on top of the mustard. Squeeze lemon juice on mushroom, and then add the ground almonds on top of that. Place the thyme and rosemary sprigs over the almonds and bake for 12-15 minutes.

To serve, remove the rosemary and thyme from the mushroom and discard. Garnish a plate with fresh arugula. Cut the mushroom in quarters and lay decoratively on top of the arugula. Add a good amount of toasted sliced almonds on top of the mushroom. Finish with lemon wedges on the side.

Find What the Chef Eats online at SDReader.com/chef/

Several kinds of bread, all baked by Accursio, were on offer, and each design (sticks, rings, buns, etc.) had its own flavor. The bread was paired with D.O.P. Val di Mazara olive oil from Accursio’s hometown, which is available in San Diego.

The theme of the menu was locally sourced seafood. We began with an amuse-bouche, octopus with kalamata olive bits in a marinara-type sauce. I was happy to see I wasn’t the only one at the table to use bread to get every last bit of it into my mouth.

After the amuse was cleared, we received a strange-looking dish that frightened me as much as it excited David. House-smoked Catalina halibut, pickled red onion, and an oyster emulsion. The halibut was delicious and went well with the pickled onions, but after two bites, I was done and passed the rest to my partner. David, who’d cleared his plate, was already satisfied with his generous portion and didn’t want any of mine.

Next up was a more reasonably-sized plate of squid ink ravioli filled with liquefied Baja shrimp atop a sweet pea and wild fennel purée. We were instructed to eat this dish with the spoon provided and to pop an entire ravioli into our mouths at once, rather than attempting to dissect them. Having the warm, flavorful liquid (a thin broth) explode in my mouth added a fun sensory experience to each bite.

The entrée was my favorite dish of the evening: Baja California sea bass filet with artichokes, fingerling potatoes, and a roasted tomato that made everyone_moan. This dish was so popular that the table was silent for a long stretch of time, prompting the people in the kitchen (Accursio, Corinne, and their friend Marco, who’d come down from Newport Beach to help out for the night) to peek around the curtain to make sure everything was okay.

We received a pre-dessert to our dessert. As I listened to the strange sound of a hair dryer working in the kitchen (what were they doing in there?) I enjoyed a demitasse of strawberries and cream with a tangy, viscous balsamic vinegar.

The evening ended with an interesting bang when we received our deceptive dessert. What I thought was a giant slice of chocolate cake was actually a触rem slice of the Baja Cali-

The design of the restaurant offers lots of breeze to diners and, though the particular stretch of University isn’t the quietest or most scenic for patio seating, the en plein air atmosphere evokes some nice Mediterranean sentiments.

Table service was a pleasant surprise in the face of the take-out appearance of the restaurant, and the girls who work the register and run the food were both very friendly.

The specialty of the house, according to those same friendly girls, is the manakeesh. It is a slice of the freshly griddled bread that’s been spread with a mixture of herbs and olive oil for $2.49. The “supreme” manakeesh at the other end of the spectrum also contained cucumbers, tomatoes, olives, mint, and grilled chicken. The chicken was a touch on the dry side as it seemed to be only breast meat. Redolent of fresh herbs, briny olives, and snappy cucumbers, the manakeesh did prove to be extremely satisfying with a lighter flavor than the yogurt-and tahini-smothered wraps that are more typical of Leba-

One nice touch: before the sandwich was served, one of the girls brought out a little dish of salted carrots with a touch of lemon juice.

The menu, of course, extends far beyond the manakeesh. There are different kebab plates and a series of salads and sha-

salty, yogurt beverage that’s sometimes found in Middle Eastern establishments) offer a taste worth acquiring.

Posted April 19 by Ian Pike

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Celebrate Our 5th Anniversary

San Diego Reader April 30, 2012 60
Nuisance Noise. A group of San Diego police officers descended on a Pacific Beach apartment complex shortly after 10 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Reggae-rock band Sunny Rude was playing to about 17 people, according to bassist Eric Trogisch — were given a “nuisance noise” citation, saying they each had to pay the city a $1000 fine and split the cost of $2845 in administrative fees that the city incurred to process the noise complaints. “We didn’t get paid anything to play that night. If we lose this, that means we’ll have to pay almost $7000 to play about 35 minutes of music.”

None of the members of Sunny Rude live at the apartment building. Millican says that two residents of the complex who accepted responsibility as party hosts agreed to pay their $1000 fines.

The complaint packet received by Sunny Rude includes photos of the offending band equipment and Halloween decorations. It stated that this apartment complex was a “chronic Halloween party house” and that it was responsible for 28 police “calls for service” in 2011. The band members and their attorney planned to contest the fines at an April 24 administrative appeals hearing.

“This is pretty ridiculous since we never got any warning. We were never told to stop until police showed up. We had nothing to do with those other problems they may have had before.”

Millican says what happens at the hearing could have a big impact on the future of live music in San Diego. “If we lose this case and musicians face an automatic $1000 fine, you can say goodbye to outside house parties in P.B. or O.R.”

Millican maintains that his band was not that much louder than the ambient drone for P.B. at that time on a Saturday. “If you walked around, we were not that much louder than the noise you would hear coming from other random house parties or from the bars nearby.”

The complaint packets received by the Sunny Rude members list code compliance officer Lynette Norman and administrative assistant Theresa Almazan as City of San Diego employees involved with the citation or the administrative hearing. Calls to them were not returned.

Sunny Rude next plays April 29 at RT’s Longboard Grill.

Earthquake Central. “I have the habit of making seemingly insurmountable goals for myself,” says Joe Mousy, an art student, musician, and promoter who will be constructing a 20-foot-tall pyramid and six 4-foot pyramids for an upcoming outdoor music festival in the deep east town of Jacumba. Psychedelic video jockey Wind Spirit will be projection-mapping on the larger pyramid’s custom-tailored fabric while the smaller structures will be covered in fabric and animated by LED arrays.

“When you come over the hill at the site, you’ll see all these glowing pyramids, so it will be quite the spectacle to behold,” says Mousy, whose engineering experience includes a geodesic dome built for Haloa, a free November 2010 party in the Imperial Desert that saw a couple hundred in attendance and performances from 16 bands and electronic musicians.

“I didn’t finish it until the day before Haloa and never put it together until the day of the festival.”


“We decided to call it Tectonic because the desert is earthquake central,” recalls Mousy. “We were going to be out there with our amplifiers and we wanted to cause an earthquake. Sure enough, the next day there was an earthquake and we were right at the epicenter.”

Mousy is gearing up to get seismic once again, this time in collusion with the nearly decade-running Telemagica festival in Jacumba. On the night of Saturday, June 9, the Tectonic Temple at Telemagic stage will be aglow with acts including Pilots, Shiva Trash, Jamuel Saxon, Wild Pack of Canaries, Planet Tribe, Joy, Mystery Cave, Phen Swan, and DJs coordinated by Liquid Geometry.

To support the project, Tectonic will be holding a fundraiser at Tin Can Ale House on May 25 with performances from Pilots, Shiva Trash, and Lyon Crowns. Five dollars at the door.

No More Road Dogging “We’re going to put out teasers on the internet,” Scottie Blinn says, “and hope the show goes viral and possibly lands sponsors.” He is not particular who. “Taco stands, guitar-repair shops, car-parts stores, record stores.” The show is Black Market III: The Garage Sessions. It debuts in May on YouTube. The plan for now is to make weekly videos of Black Market III, “jamming, bullshitting, doing stuff out of left field” in Blinn’s

(continued on page 72)
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Lakeside garage.

Black Market III is the guitarist/singer joined by his wife Roxanne Coverdale on bass and North County drummer Haley Allen. “We might play a song out of our area [blues, roots, grease punk] but put our own take on it, like a Black Sabbath tune. Or maybe do a Tom Waits cover, or play one of our originals.” Blinn sees the show as an inside view into a working band. “Maybe it will just be the three of us sitting in a circle and writing a song, which we’ll then actually play.”

But the Garage Sessions ultimately have a larger purpose. “We’re going to tie it in with a tour as a tool to accompany and promote our club dates.” Blinn says they have plans to organize gigs in fan garages across the country. “Like house concerts,” he says, “only greasier.”

The show, filmed in Blinn’s garage with a pair of handheld cameras and miked for sound quality, “is designed to get people watching and adding new fans, so when we come to their town we will already have a name.” He explains that, in the old days, a band road-dogged the same circuit several times over and gained fans slowly. Blinn thinks that with YouTube and cross-marketing, BMIII will have an audience in place when they show up to play.

“And we’re gonna pick bands we really dig and bring them to the garage. Tomcat [Courtney], Nena Anderson, Stephen Rey.” Blinn talks about getting national-level performers into the garage, as well, which is not such a stretch. Last year, he hosted blues-guitar workshops in his living room with blues-guitar legends Coco Montoya and Anson Funderbergh.

— Dave Good

Wonder who she’s kissing now? Download the new TV Girl freebie.

Who She’s Kissing Now, “can be downloaded. Maren Parusel’s second full-length, Tightrope Walker, drops May 8 via Requiemme Records/BMG Chrysalis, featuring tracks contrasting her upbringing in Germany with her current SoCal lifestyle.

— Jay Allen Sanford

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

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Thursday

Between Beatmania, La Bamba, and Walk Hard, singer/songwriter/guitarist Marshall Crenshaw has had a nice, quiet career in rock ‘n’ roll. The New Yorker by way of Detroit surfaced in the early ‘80s between disco and MTV with a self-titled album that remains a must in any self-respecting collector’s bins. Crenshaw held a top-40 hit with the summer anthem “Somewhere, Someway,” a soul-pop throwback that connects the dots from Buddy Holly to power-pop contemporaries such as Alex Chilton and Elvis Costello. Crenshaw is touring what he dubs “the NPR singer-songwriter circuit” in support of his latest, Jaggedland. He will take the stage at AMSDconcerts in North Park,... if you’re still hungry for singer-songwriter stuff after that one, Chicago-based acoustic artist Joe Pug will be down at the Casbah behind his first full-length, Messenger. “Customers who bought this item also bought Justin Townes Earle, Dawes, and Ryan Adams,” if that helps.... From Riverside, ska-core big band the Voodoo Glow Skulls will light up Midway punk club the Shakedown after them drunkin’ their ninth studio set, the self-produced La Fleur Fatale. My Dear Sorrow follows like-minded locals into the Bankers Hill bar.... Elephants of employment.... Else: Soda Bar sets up Tasty — they filmed it at Lucha Libre Taco — and the Elephants’ vid for “Invisible Ink” yet? Dr. Seahorse with Beast Roach Spit.

Friday

Jello Biafra and the Guantanomo School of Medicine (?!) will stack ‘em at Brick by Brick Friday night. The Dead Kennedys founder has since moved on to spoken-word form, he started the influential Alternative Tentacles Records, and is a leading figure in the Green Party of the United States. So, what’s up with Guantanomo? The SanFran punk band was Biafra’s 50th birthday present to himself and another outlet for the activist’s anti-agenda, as gleaned from the band’s record titles Audacity of Hype and Enhanced Methods of Questioning. Angy Samoans will get the pit going.... Texas singer/song-smith/actor J.D. Souther (Linda Ronstadt, the Eagles) will play Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center behind his latest country-rock collection Natural History.... Also up-town, you got ‘77 NY punk legend Sonny Vincent (the Testes) and his Bad Reactions joining our own Widows and Hector Penalosa’s (the Zero) My Revenge at Soda Bar for a night of old-school punk ‘n’ roll...and funkin’ jazz jam band Pocket will premierize their new t’do at Whistle Stop.... Porn-punk trio the Mentors will take down the Shakedown with local hardcores Codar Reacter and punk-pop newbies Sculpins.... And for your late-night hops, Casbah clears the floor for another Blowoff, its rock and electro notable Rich Morel and Bob Mould host “a musical smackdown featuring their meaty mix of indie rock, electro, and house.”

Saturday

“Love is like a battle of the bands, so crank up your amps, man!” Ché Café will stage the gig to get to Saturday night, as Japantime, Loma Prieta, Screaming Females, and Toys That Kill fill a noise-pop bill at the campus collective. Japantime’s an art-punk, dense-in-the-best-sense Brooklyn duo that tour, record, and perform at a sick pace that can only be called hardcore. But sweaty punk dudes Ian Vanek and Matt Reilly also employ hip-hop beats and samples and pop-melody and structure, as they verbally hum over the lo-fi din of fuzzed-out bass. It’s pretty awesome. All four bands are rad like that.... Farther up the 5, that low-toned troubadour Lake Smith, aka White Buffalo, follows Dead Feather Moon into Bally Up. White Buffalo is out to tout his new record, Once Upon a Time in the West, which is roaring up the CMJ charts.... Some stages reggae sets at the Valley View Sports Casino Arena, where Tribal Seeds will head-line a heady affair that also features Through the Roots, Fortunate Youth, and Irieise. Best of the rest Saturday night finds electro-pop peeps Samuel Saxon and Boom Bip at Bay Park bar the Coffee, while right ‘round the bend at Brick by Brick you got psychobilly sets by Guana Batz, Strikers, Gonzales, and Hard Fall Hearts. loudass locals Long and Short of It turn up at Eleven with Ghetto Blaster...while a block right, Soda Bar sets up Austin’s Bright Light Social Hour with Maren Parusel and Dark Thirty for an indie-rock three-way — piggly.

Sunday

Real fun Sunday stuff early on, as Shakedown hosts a 500 Jam BBQ with punk-rock muzak by Deniz Tek & the Golden Breed, Subjector, Shiva Trash, and Shark Blood...while Eleven fires up its grill for trucker troubadour D.S. Yancey, whose acoustic punk songs are informed by Americana and a long-hauler’s coast-to-coast scope.... Sunday night, it’ll be Georgia-based experimental-pop quintet Jane Jane Pollock at Soda Bar with our own odd poppers Kera & the Lesbians and Little Fowl....while East County folkie and one-time Wrong Trouser Kelsea Little wraps up her West Coast tour in support of Personal Myth at the Loft at UCSD.

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nobody uses the word ‘grunge’ anymore, so I tell people our band plays dirt pop,” says singer/guitarist Sean Sanders, whose group Short Eyes began as a one-man band.

“I’d played with Kevin [Whan, the drummer] before, and I’d talked to him through Facebook about getting together for old time’s sake. We jammed a few times at my place, and it took off from there.”

Whan says he added the “pop” flavor to Sanders’ dirty brew. “Sean had a vision of bringing ’60s garage rock back to San Diego when he finished college at San Francisco State… with my pop and indie influences, I think Short Eyes has an old sound with a new twist.”

Guitarist Justin Sanders adds another spice. “I love to surf, and as far as I’m concerned, we’re a surf-rock band. At least my parts are.”

Short Eyes performs Thursday, April 26, at the Flying Elephant in Carlsbad.

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO? Sean Sanders: “The second album by Girls, Father, Son, Holy Ghost.”

Kevin Whan: “Best Coast’s first album, Crazy For You.”

Chris Richardson: “An old classic: Sérgio Mendes, Brasil ‘66.”

Justin Sanders: “Ryan Adams, Let’s Make Love and Die.”

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THE YOUNGER YOU? Sean Sanders: “Train, ‘Save Me San Francisco.’”

Kevin Whan: “Limp Bizkit’s not as great as you think.”

Justin Sanders: “Limp Bizkit’s not as great as you think.”

Chris Richardson: “An old classic: Sérgio Mendes, Brasil ‘66.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT WHEN YOU’RE BROKE? Sean: “Swami’s Meditation Gardens.”

Kevin: “Balboa Park.”

Chris: “Mi casa.”

Justin: “The E Street Café.”


Chris: “Black Angels with Black Mountain at the Belly Up. I love them both.”

WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU LOOK LIKE? Sean: “Seth Green, but I honestly think I look more like Susan Sarandon.”

Kevin: “Famly Guy creator Seth MacFarlane. Sometimes Peter Brady.”

WORST INJURY? Kevin: “I broke my left elbow skateboarding in front of a girl I had a crush on in high school. Tried to look cool and blew it. I cried like a baby and got rushed to the ER to get pins put in my arm. Great day.”

Chris: “I had just finished a show at a house party and was feeling good when I tried doing a 360 onto an electrical box on the way to the bars afterwards and broke my ankle.”

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Byline: Jay Allen Sanford

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Sycuan Live Up Close

San Diego Reader
April 26, 2012

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upcoming concerts & events

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Tickets purchased at Casino Box Office are 20% off with Club Sycuan card.
When talking about San Diego’s Little Hurricane, it’s best to get the White Stripes comparison out of the way first. Little Hurricane is a duet with a guy singing and playing guitar and a woman playing the drums. (They have, however, recently made noises about adding a full-time third member.) The aesthetic is retro, from their clothes (vintage) to their instruments (old and battered with custom-made amps made out of old suitcases) to their occasional stage sets (cozy living-room furniture) to their music (rooted in folk, blues, and oldies). So, yes, the White Stripes are an obvious influence. But while the White Stripes and the Black Keys taught us anything, it’s that a folk-blues-rock duo can go far, artistically and commercially, if they have the talent.

Little Hurricane does. Guitarist-singer Tone comes from the school of rock where emotion and sweat prevail over precision, but he’s good enough when he’s wildly tearing things up on one of his homemade bottleneck slides. Drummer-singer CC is a sight to behold, in a vintage dress, playing mandolin, stomping on a bass drum and singing at the same time. In “Give ‘Em Hell,” her voice bounces along softly under Tone’s wall of sound, and it sounds like something Jack and Meg never could have pulled off.

Their recent stop at South by Southwest capped off two years of roadwork, including residencies in Seattle, San Francisco, and other places, trying to build networks of fans and connections. I don’t know whether the world has room for another band like this to rise to Stripes/Keys heights, but if Little Hurricane doesn’t conquer the world, it won’t be for lack of trying.

River City also performs.

LITTLE HURRICANE: The Casbah, Saturday, April 28, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. $14.
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Sunday, 4pm — D.S. Yancey. $3.

Encinitas: Highway 101 between D and J streets.

Friday, 8pm — Shady Grey, Saturday, 8pm — Lynard Skynard.

Four Points by Sheraton: 8110 Aero Dr., Kearny Mesa. Saturday, 8pm — Viento Negro-Band, 21 and up.

Gallagher’s Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.
Friday, 9pm — Honey Rock, Rock/pop/covers.
Saturday, 9pm — Zabomba.
Brazilian rock.

Saturday, 9pm — Jamiel Saxon and Boom Bop. $5.
Sunday, 8pm — Rock Hill Presents Strictly Vinyl. $5.
Wednesday, 8pm — “Chords for a Cause.” Leukemia & Lymphoma Society benefit. MC Jesse Egan. With DJ Man Cat, PK, Natasha Konuly, Emma Lee, Vinnie and Skinny, the Yes Team. $10-$12.

Harrah’s Rincon: 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-711-3100.
Friday — Incubus. Alt rock/met.

Wednesday — Say Anything. Punk rock/em.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
Friday, 9pm — Detroit Underground. Motown/dance. $2.
Saturday, 9pm — Rising Star. Disco/dance. $12.

Friday, 9pm — Dead as Dillinger. $5.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
Thursday, 8pm — Active Child. $10-$15.
Sunday, 8pm — Kelsea Little’s homecoming show coming off West Coast tour. With Oldest Boy and Girl. Free.

Mueller College: 4600 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-507-7223.
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Reader STREET TEAM

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Todd Day Walt’s Pigpen

Chris Carpenter

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Le Voyage Dans La Lune, by Air
by Randy Ryan

Le Voyage Dans La Lune (A Trip to the Moon) was inspired by the 1902 film of the same name by Georges Méliès. The sound has a haunting, hypnotic effect, much like the soundtrack Air did for Sofia Coppola’s 1999 film The Virgin Suicides. Having revealed their sci-fi leanings on their debut, Moon Safari, Air was the natural choice to create the soundtrack for the restored and hand-colored print of Méliès’s silent sci-fi film.

The French duo, known for their electronic music, created Le Voyage with traditional, hand-played instruments. They had said that they wanted to retain the handmade quality of Méliès’s special effects. Opening track “Astronomic Club” is a dark song with down-tuned guitars and eerily slow drumbeats. That pulse works well with the dystopic voices that echo throughout the track. “Seven Stars” has more lucid drum rhythms and piano flutters, but the chilling vocal duet of Vincent Taeger and Isabelle Vuarnesson. “Sonic Armada” is full of ’60s-inspired psychedelics harmonies and aggressive guitars over a pulsing bass.

The music accompanies the film, but several tracks could stand alone as singles. This score, like Méliès’s film, is about discovering the unknown, and the trepidation and excitement that comes with it presents a hallucinatory journey.

Soda Bar Serves One-Man Bands
by Brett Uddenberg

Florian enemce Bleubird launched into “Giehe 1977,” which chronicles a small Italian village and the home in which his great-uncle was shot by Nazis. A mel- low, folky flow that dominated half of his set was tempered by a Gatling-gun delivery on tracks such as “Hustle Hard,” his tongue-in-cheek Ace Hood doppelgängers. Denver-based

Soda Bar

Denver-based

Soda Bar faithful with his catalogue-spanning setlist, highlighted by the latched phrase of “Hello Cruel World.”

Ceschi took the stage, guitar in hand, and opened things with a Spanish ballad. The number leaked effortlessly into “Black and White and Red All Over,” the troubadour’s acoustic battle cry against Catholic hypocrisy. From there his set showcased standout from The One Man Band Broke Up, such as “Bad Jokes” and “No New York,” with many verses performed shoulder-to-shoulder with fans.

Concert: Ceschi, Sole, Bleubird
Venue: Soda Bar
Date: March 28
Seats: General

Up to $50 Off Music Studios
Price varies depending on size/style of room. Limited Time Offer.

Enjoy 24 hour access to a creative atmosphere that will accommodate your musical aspirations. Limited Availability • Call today!
**Drew Carey**

**At the American Comedy Co.**

**April 27-28, 2012**

**Drew Carey is hitting the road with**

**“Drew Carey Presents The Best of The Midnight Show :”**

A little bit of stand-up...

a lot of sketch

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**The American Comedy Co. Live Stand-Up Comedy Club & Restaurant**

818 B 6th Avenue, San Diego | (619) 795-3858 | WWW.AMERICANCOMEDYCO.COM

Open Tuesday thru Sunday | 8pm & 10:30pm Dinner Shows | 21+ | 2 Item Minimum Required

Facebook: The American Comedy Co San Diego

Twitter: AmericanComCo

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**Humphreys Backstage**

**Humphreys Backstage Live**

- Thursday, April 26
  - 7pm • Blues
  - Mercedes Moore

- Friday, April 27
  - 5pm • Kid Pop
  - Revolt - Age

- Saturday, April 28
  - 5pm • Dance
  - The Wagon

- Sunday, April 29
  - 8pm • Smooth Jazz Guitarist
  - Patrick Yandall

- Monday, April 30
  - 7pm • Blues
  - Chet Cannon Blue
  - Monday Blues Band

- Tuesday, May 1
  - 7pm • Zydeco Blues
  - Bayou Brothers

- Wednesday, May 2
  - 8pm • Rock & Blues
  - Ruby and The Red Hots

**Upcoming**

- Sunday, May 6
  - Will Donato

- Friday, May 11
  - Novamenco

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**San Diego Reader**

April 26, 2012

83

**San Diego**

**Reader**

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**Pala Casino Spa Resort**

Four Diamond Award Winner

**See the fight televised live on Pala’s big screens**

**Mayweather vs. Cotto**

**Super Welterweight Championship**

**Saturday May 5, 6:00 PM**

Come early and watch the big horse race from Kentucky. Coverage starts at 3 p.m.

**Both Shows On Sale Now!**

**John Pinette**

**Saturday June 2, 8:00 PM**

**Still Hungry**

**Palacasino.com**

For tickets visit the Pala Casino Box Office, call 1-877-PALANAPA (1-877-725-2672) or go to StarTickets.com to buy them online. To charge by phone, call 1-800-365-7273.

From Orange County and Los Angeles County: Take I-5 South to Hwy 76, go east 31 miles.

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

Visit us on Facebook and Twitter
Harrah’s Rincon: 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.
May 17 — Kix Brooks.

May 3 — West of 5.

May 3 — Middle Class Rut and Secret Music.
May 4 — Thrice.
May 5 — The B-Side Players.
May 11 — Augustana.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
May 4 — Detroit Underground.
May 5 — Viva Santana.
May 11 — Quino.

Humphreys by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
May 4 — James Morrison and honeyhoney.
May 5 — James Morrison and honeyhoney.
May 12 — Devo.
May 25 — The Cult, Against Me!, Lears Line.

May 4 — Fleetwood MAX and Groove Kitty.

May 27 — Robin Henkel Band with Horns.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
June 2 — Ben Howard.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyermi Pass Rd., Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
May 4 — Cinco de Mayo Latin Sights.
May 5 — Bonsallpalooza 2012.
May 11 — Gator by the Bay.

June 7 — Peter Sprague.

Open Air Theatre: 5500 Campandale Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6947.
July 29 — Tenacious D and the Sights.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7752.
May 3 — Bonsallpalooza 2012.
August 10 — Diana Krall.

The Par Lounge at San Vicente Resort: 24157 San Vicente Rd., Ramona, 760-789-8290.
June 8 — Rear View Mirror.

May 6 — El Puma.
May 11 — Snow Patrol.
Petco Park: 100 Park Bl., East Village, 619-795-5000.
May 26 & 27 — “I Love This City” Electronic Festival.

Pet’s Place: 8300 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa, 619-464-9535.
May 19 — Mangarista and A Fistful of Blue.

Porter’s Pub at UCSD: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-587-4828.
May 7 — Washed Out and Memoryhouse.

Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147.
June 16 — Birdcakbaby, London Below, Harlequin Jones.

Rip’s Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
May 6 — The Chad Scott Band.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 826 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
May 4 — Pat Banton.
May 17 — Tab Benoit.

Robbie’s Roadhouse: 530 N. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-2365.
May 28 — Cowboy Jack.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
May 4 — Origin, Decrepit Birth, Cattle Decapitation.
May 11 — R.A. the knob Man, Thirstin Howl the 3rd, 3rd Infantry.

San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.

Second Wind (Santee): 8528 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-596-8350.
May 26 — Dust N’ Bones and Alice & the Cooper Gang.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
May 4 — Prima Donna.
May 5 — Nerve Control, Verbal Desecration, the Pee Ons.
May 11 — Smogtown, Shake Before Us, Cat Party.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
May 4 — Night Beats, Cowmoonuts, Wild Wild Wets.
May 11 — Lotus Plaza, Wymond Miles, Mirror Mode.
May 12 — The Donkeys, Rafter, Mohammed Qiang.

May 4 — James Morris.
May 5 — Handguns.
May 11 — The Supervillains.

Spanish Landing Park: 4077 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown.
May 11-13 — Gator by the Bay.

May 12 — Don McLean.
May 17 — Kid克斯.
May 19 & 20 — The Turtles.

Tim Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.
May 4 — Broken Heart Tattoo Party and RS2 Solid Sound.
May 5 — Mousejaw.
May 11 — Roy Rapid, the Palominos, Mark Merrell Band.

The Tower Bar: 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.
May 12 — Punk vs. Hip-Hop.
May 15 — The Widows.
May 11 — Rat City Riot, All City Boot Boys, the Industry.

May 13 — Roger Waters.
May 28 — Cowboy Jack.

Viejas Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6947.
June 8 — One Direction.
June 14 — Van Halen and Kool & the Gang.
Set 'Em Up, Joe!

BY JOSEPH O'BRIEN

The Irish Bären they make over at Hooley’s could just as well be called an “O’Jits.” According to Hooley’s bartender Austin Bell, his creation has all the properties of the traditional moscowi but with a few changes in taste and texture to lend the Cuban flavor a bit of an Irish brogue.

The real difference between the two drinks, he says, is the honey-lemon flavor that transplants the mojito’s minted sweetness — and there’s a trick to extracting the fullness of the drink’s flavor from its ingredients.

“The Bärenjäger is thick, so once it’s in the cocktail tin, I want to make sure I get the rest of that residue out of it,” he says. “I take a half-ounce of soda water and grate the inside of the tin and then pour that on top of the drink so you get all the essence of the honey and lemon.”

Explaining how he first conjured up the concoction, Bell tells me that he was looking to give customers a different twist on the Irish whiskey that Hooley’s serves more commonly straight or on the rocks. “Tullamore is the Irish whiskey we use for our well whiskey,” he says, “and so we started playing around with the stuff and started putting two and two together.”

The whiskey, Bell says, gives the drink its potency while the Bärenjäger endows the Bären with depth. “It’s not so much citrusy and tart as it is sweet and mild,” he says. “You can’t even taste the whiskey in it. That was one thing that surprised me. You can taste that it has a little kick to the drink. The whole thing comes together perfectly.”

Kitchen Proof: The whiskey’s peat, while a little understated, ties well to the classic combination of honey and lemon. Try upping the quantity of Tullamore to yield an even larger, more flavorful pot o’ gold.

AUSTIN BELL
Hooley’s Irish Pub & Grill
5500 Grossmont Center Drive
La Mesa; 619-713-6900
hooleys.com
**Dobson’s**: red/white wine, specialty cocktails. Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: 40% off bar menu.

**Downtown Johnnys Brown’s**: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $1 off wine; 40% off bar menu.

**Dublin Square**: Daily, 2-5pm: $2 off draught beer, bottle beer, house wine, wells; Irish whiskey, 1/2 off shellers, fish tacos, meat pies.

**Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant**: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5.50 draughts, house wine, well liquor. $1 off nachos, quesadilla, onion soup.

**La Fiesta**: Daily, 11am-6pm: $3 draft domestic cocktails, margaritas; $4 mojitos.

**The Fish Market**: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $2.95 bottled domesics, $4.25 drafts. $2.25 oyster 1/2 shell; $5.95 mahi mahi, prawns, calamari. 11am-6pm: $3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: $2.75 domestic bottles, $3 wines.

**The Fleetwood**: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, fries, soda.

**The Hopping Pig**: 4-7pm: $1 tequila poppers; $4 house well drinks. $3.50 tacos, $4 pulled-potato skins/mozzarella sticks; $7.50 oyster 1/2 shell; $14.50 domestic bottles, wells (vodka, gin, rum). $5 off speciality cocktails.

**The Mahe**: Daily, 11am-4pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Nirus**: Daily, 11am-4pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The O’Donnell’s**: Daily, 11am-8pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Phosphate Company**: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Queen**: Daily, 11am-9pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Red Cat**: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Watering Hole**: Daily, 11am-9pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**T30 Restaurant**: Daily, 11am-10pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Wine Bar**: Daily, 11am-9pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.

**The Wharf**: Daily, 11am-9pm: $2 domestic, $3.50 hot dog, garlic fries, soda; $4.50 domestic bottles, wells; $6 house margaritas & well drinks; $12 beer, $3 wine, $6 domestic pints. All day Mon-Wed.
cucumber roll, $3.50 California spicy tuna, veggie roll.
Barfly La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 pints, wells, house wines. $4 appetizers (avocado rolls, fish tacos, sliders).
Beauumont’s: Daily, 4-6pm: $3 draft, well, $5 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Special prices on margarita, sangria, wine cooler.
Bull and Bear Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 Bud/Bud Light; $3.50 wells, Bull & Bear wine.
Eso Sushi: Monday-Friday, all day: Buy one sake, get one half off. 3-6:30pm: 25% off select nigiri and maki rolls.
Extreme Pizza: Daily, 3-6pm: $3 premium beer.
Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $4 beers, wells, wines, and flights. $5 select appetizers. $2 off drinking boneless wings, fries, spicy hummus.
La Jolla Brew House: Tuesday-Thursday, noon-7pm: $2 off craft beer; $3 wells and house wines. $3 off appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 10pm-close: $2 off craft beer, $3 wells and house wines.
Lupi Italian Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $3-5 martini, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.
The Melting Pot: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2 off cheese fondue, salads, chocolate fondue.

LEUCADIA
Bar Leucadian: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 beer of the month, short special.
The Calypso Café: Daily, 5-30pm: $4 wells, sangria, margaritas. $4 house wine. $3.50 beer.

LINCOLN PARK
L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic drafts. $1 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: $1 drafts. $1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA
Brick by Brick: Daily, 4-6pm: $2.50 house wine. 1/2 off appetizers.

MISSION BAYSIDE
A Taste of Boston: Daily, 3-7pm: $2.25 Bud Draft, $2.75 bottled beer (except Guinness). $3 drafts, $3.75 all well. Discounted appetizers.

MISSION HILLS
The Melting Pot: Daily, 2pm-7pm: $2.75 beer, $6 pitchers.

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

MISSION BEACH
Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.
Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic/imports drafts, $3 wells, premium beers/wine by the glass, $3 off pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

MISSION COVE
The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-7pm: $2 off beer and wells.

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Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.
Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic/imports drafts, $3 wells, premium beers/wine by the glass, $3 off pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

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

MISSION HILLS
The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-7pm: $2 off beer and wells.

MISSION VALLEY
Bing Crosby’s Restaurant and Piano Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, $5 glasses of wine, $7 house cocktails.
pints, $3 premium pints. $3 chicken wings.

**PCH Sports Bar & Grill:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic, $1 off premium, $3 house wines. Saturday, 2-8pm: $2 domestic, $1 off premium, $3 house wines. Sunday, 2pm-close: $2 domestic, $1 off premium, $3 house wines.

**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 margaritas.

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

**Barra Barra:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, house wine, $3 house margaritas, $2 off appetizers specials. $2 flat-bread tacos.

**Cafe Coyote:** Monday-Friday, 3-30-6pm: $1/2-price apps, $1/2-price domestic, $4 specialty shots, $4.95 Coyote drinks. $5.95 flavored margaritas, flavored shots, $2 appetizers, $2 tacos.

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

**Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:** Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: $3 wells, house wine, and drafts.

**Harney Sushi:** Wednesday, $5 specialty cocktails.

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

**PACIFIC BEACH**

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

**The Australian Pub:** Monday-Friday, 7-9pm: $3 Long Islands. Saturday, $2.50 Karl Strauss. Sunday, $3 bloody marys.

**Baleen:** Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off small bites at bar/live ring. Friday-Saturday, 5-6pm: 30% off entries.

**Bare Back Grill:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 select drafts, $3 wells. 1/2-off barley chilis, chicken tenders, onion rings.

**Sinbad Cafe:** Daily, 4:30-8pm: $1.50 drafts, $2 shots, $2.50 imports. 11am-9pm: $2-$20 hookahs.

**Tony Roma’s:** Daily, 4-1pm: $3 drafts, $3.50 off appetizers.

**The Turquoise Cafe-Bar Europa:** Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $2 drafts; $3 cask wine, sangria, $4 wells.

**POINT LOMA**

**Extreme Pizza:** Daily, 4-7pm: $6 craft beer specials.

**Gabardine:** Daily, 4-6pm: $5 Snake Oil beer, $6 house wine, $1 oysters, $2 hand-cut fries.

**The Pearl:** Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 beer, $4 wells, $5 wines.

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

**POWAY**

**Kaminski’s BBQ & Sports Bar:** Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: 9-11pm: $1 off all wells, drafts, bottles, wine.

**RAMONA**

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

**RANCHO BERNARDO**

**Capi Blu:** Daily, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

**Carvers Steak & Chops:** Monday-Friday, 2-6:30pm: 1/2-off drinks. $3-$4 off appetizers.

**Kelly’s Public House:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $3.50 wells, house wines.

**RANCHO PENASQUITOS**

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

**RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

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

**Da Boyz Pizza & Pasta:** Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2-6pm: $3.50 glass select wine.

**SAN MARCOS**

**Cowshed Bar and Grill:** Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic. $3.50-$4 wells. Tuesday, 4-2am: $3 domestic. $3.50-$4 wells.

**SANTA**

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

**SCRIPPS RANCH**

**Stone Flats:** Daily, 3-5, 7-9pm: $1 Bud/Bud Light; 1/2-off all other beer/wine.

**SERRA MESA**

**Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill:** Sunday, 5.25 minds eaters, kamikazes. $3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

**SHELTER ISLAND**

**Fiddler’s Green Restaurant:** Daily, 5-7pm: $4 house wine and house beer. $5 well drinks and margaritas.

**Humphreys Blacktie 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**

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

**SOUTH PARK**

**Alchemp:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off wells, including Sky, Seagram’s, Jim Beam, Sauza Gold, $2 off wines/glass, draft.

**Hamilton’s Tavern and Cafe:** Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local drafts.

**South Park Abbey:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 wells, beer specials.

**Whistle Stop Bar:** Daily, 2-8pm: $1 off all cocktails, pints.

**SPRING VALLEY**

**California Comfort:** Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine.

**Fannie’s Nightclub:** Daily, 4-6pm: $.50 off all drinks.

**TIERRASANTA**

**JP’s Pub:** Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2.50 wells, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.

**UNIVERSITY CITY**

**Apollonia Greek Bistro:** Daily, 3-30-6:30pm: $3 ouzo apéritif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

**Coyomet’s Mexican Grill:** Monday-Saturday, 4pm-clove: $2.25 Coors Light Draft, $2.25 Dos Equis draft, discounted appetizers (All day Sunday.)

**Michael’s Lounge in the Hyatt Regency:** Daily, 5-7pm: $4 drafts and well cocktails.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**

**Aperitivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar:** Daily, noon to 6pm: $3 beer, wine, and sangria.

**Cheers:** Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $2.50 domestic bottle. $3 single wells. $3.50 domestic drafts.

**Gulf Coast Grill:** Daily, 4-30-6:30pm: $3.95 wells, drafts, wine.

**Small Bar:** Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $1 off drafts and cocktails.

**VALLEY CENTER**

**Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 2pm-6pm: $2 domestic, $3 imports, Wells. Discounted appetizers.

**VISTA**

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

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**Cask Beer Nights!**

**On Cask:**

**Tongue Buckler**

**Hamiltons Tavern**

1521 30th St. in Historic South Park
www.hamiltonstavern.com

**Friday**

4/27 Firkin Friday w/ Ballast Point Tongue Buckler

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**Saturday April 28**

**BEER w/Hess Brewing**

**On Cask:**

**Hess Bruno Indureesco Coffee Porter**

**Brunch Specials:**

Soft-Shell Crab Benedict, served w/ fresh greens and any Draught beer or signiture brunch beverage of your choice!

**BLOODY MARY WEEKEND BRUNCH**

10AM-2PM Every Sat and Sun

4628 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92116 • (619) 795-7998 • SMALLBARSBD.COM

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**Sunday April 29**

**4/28 Saturday Cask**

**OATMEAL PALE ALE WITH CACAO NIBS!**

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**Tuesday May 1**

**Firestone Walker Night**

**Happy Hour 5-8pm**

$1 Off All Drinks

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Sun-Thurs Noon - 1am
Fri-Sat Noon - 2am

805 16th St., East Village, San Diego
www.monkeypawbrewing.com

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**Friday May 1**

**Pinty Things Brewery Night**

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In Thinking Fast and Slow, Daniel Kahneman writes brilliantly about how the mind works and how we make decisions. He calls one of our most consistent errors “WYSIATI,” the assumption that “what you see is all there is.” In Janece Shaffer’s comedy-drama Brownie Points, currently at Lamb’s Players, five women learn to see beyond all they think there is.

When Allison, a white woman, heard her Girl Scout troop would go camping in Forsyth County, she gave it no thought: fresh air, mountains, and time away from Atlanta with her seven-year-old daughter. But when Deidre and Nicole heard the news, both African-American women thought twice. In 1912, a white mob went on a rampage so severe the county still can’t shake a reputation for brutality. Deidre and Nicole go to be with their daughters, but they go warily because “crazy happens here all the time.”

If the title sounds cutesie, so is the setup: five mothers accompany 14 Girl Scouts to a cabin in the woods. While the children remain offstage, working on merit badges (or watching videos, instead), the mothers have unplanned encounters and learn more about themselves. Also, the five women are a convenient cross-section: three white (one’s a Jew) and two black. From the start, however, Shaffer cuts through stereotypes. What you expect is not all there is. The black women, for example, are the wealthiest.

Lamb’s Players has a new policy: along with regulars, Lamb’s will cast more actors from outside the organization. Brownie Points benefits from the change. Karson St. John, Noel Award-winner, plays “insensitive” Allison, an organizer so compulsive she’s a human Control Tower. Noel Award—winner Monique Gaffney plays Deidre, a “high-maintenance,” in-demand Atlanta surgeon. When Allison makes a possibly racist mistake with the itinerary, St. John and Gaffney go toe-to-toe with such ferocity that resolution seems impossible.

Then the playwright slyly realigns the quintet. Different women discover things in common: two connect here, another two there, like building blocks, and they slowly repair at least some of the damage.

Lamb’s new policy hasn’t changed its approach to theater. Directed by Deborah Gilmour Smyth — with an eye for goofy slapstick and surprisingly intense drama — Brownie Points is primarily an ensemble show and all contribute: Cynthia Gerber as Sue (sensible-seeming but ripped up inside),

**Crazy Happens**

*What you expect is not all there is. The black women, for example, are the wealthiest.*

In Brownie Points, now at Lamb’s Players, different women discover things in common.

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**THEATER REVIEW**

JEFF SMITH

*In Brownie Points, now at Lamb’s Players, different women discover things in common.*

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**San Diego’s Longest Running Interactive Mystery Theatre**

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Kaja Amado Dunn as Nicole (knows the good, married to a pro athlete, and the “crazy”), and Erika Beth Phillips as Jamie (makes knee-jerk, PC earnestness both funny and a “teaching moment”).

Nathan Peirson (lighting) and Patrick Duffy (sound) build a convincing, reach-for-the-umbrella storm scene. And Michael McKeon has become one of San Diego’s most inventive scenic designers. Looming above his rustic cabin interior, pillars of fluted cloth represent tall, North Georgia pines.

Susan-Lori Parks’s artistic rap sheet is a mile long. She’s won all kinds of awards, including a Pulitzer for Topdog/Underdog. She’s been honored by the Council for the Arts and the NAACP, and in 2001 she earned a MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant. So why has San Diego seen so few of her plays?

Ion Theatre’s fierce, quirky, funny, and first-rate Topdog/Underdog raises that question anew. It helps that Moxie’s Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is guest-directing (she’s turning 2012 into a kind of victory tour, having already done wonders with Mo’xie’s Raisin in the Sun and the Rep’s In the Wake) and that Laurence Brown and Mark Christopher Lawrence have been cast as the African-American brothers Booth and Lincoln.

You heard right. Their father, who abandoned them a few years after their mother did, named them as a joke: The parents did give them a gift, though. Both have artistic hands. Booth, a thief, can pilfer like a god; Lincoln used to be “Link the Stink,” America’s greatest thrower of Three-Card Monte. Each longs for more respectable skills. Booth wants to surpass Lincoln with the cards, and Lincoln wants a “sit-down job with benefits.” His current one has him dressing as his namesake, whiteface and all, at an arcade, while “Booths” pay to assassinate him with a cap pistol.

The title refers to Fritz Perls’s theory (if you repress — “underdog” — something, it will find ways to reemerge) and to how the play unfolds: a repressed sibling rivalry resurfaces. Lincoln and Booth try to one-up, to “topdog” each other, first in subtle, then in violent ways. It’s tempting to compare Topdog with Sam Shepard’s battling brothers in True West. But while the latter ends with popping toasters, Topdog escalates to brothers at arms.

Lawrence and Brown excel with the play’s rhythms and basic “king of the mountain” drivers. They flip-flop and spiral and lie so much, the truth hops and lies to the play’s rhythms and reveals is fun, heady stuff, but the payoffs don’t fulfill the promise — did she float away? What follows is fun, heady stuff, but the payoffs don’t fulfill the promise of the inventions. Director Janet Hayashishi and a game Moxie cast do what they can with essentially lightweight, one-note characters. Moxie’s stages surrealistic A Man, His Wife, and His Hat through April 29.

Moxie stages surrealistic A Man, His Wife, and His Hat through April 29.
MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubio, Scott Marks, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com/movies.

Act of Valor — The Navy granted “film-makers” Mike McCoy and Scott Waugh permission to play with their toys, and the result is a gung-ho recruitment film that’s as incompetently acted and slapped together as it is propaganda. If the two former stuntmen 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 — A flippant but turgid sequel. The American Pie gang comes to a reunion, the “men” still quite juvenile, the women a touch jaded. The body-function gags lack a ruling brain, and a Brothers Karamazov joke seems to be from another planet. This is stamped plastic for people who find Jason Biggs, Chris Klein, and Seann William Scott adorable, but do you want to know those people? With Alyson Hannigan, Mena Suvari, Tara Reid. 2012. — D.E.

The Artist — A comedy of unreserved movie love, shot in Hollywood by French director Michel Hazanavicius. Big silent star George (like a merger of Douglas Fairbanks, John Gilbert, and Warren William) falls when sound arrives. The casting of brash, funny, hugely likable Jean Dujardin as George gives heart to the charm. Bérénice Bejo (the director’s partner) as Peppy, an emerging star of talkies, is other (female stars of the era had more flesh), but she sure is “swell.” Beautiful design, period touches, and black-and-white tonalities sustain the simple story’s odd, witty dreaminess. Words are only heard at the end, and the lift of some Vertigo music is impudent but effective. This Chaplinesque nostalgia bubble has a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E. ★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Bully — It struggled to get a PG-13 rating because of some f-words, and Lee Hirsch’s documentary about vulnerable kids bullied in schools (and their sometimes woefully inadequate official guardians) has no shaping style. But if it bullies home its points a little, those points need to be made, and the victims (including the very moving Alex) need to be seen. And saved. 2012. — D.E. ★★★ (HILLCREST; LA JOLLA 12)

Rosie O’Donnell Criticizes Lindsay Lohan for Playing Liz Taylor in TV Biopic

By Scott Marks — April 24, 11:27 a.m.

Anatomy of a Press Photo: Spider-Man Does the Superhero Squat!

By Matthew Lickona — April 23, 12:41 p.m.

San Diego’s First International Surf Film Festival at Bird’s Surf Shed

By Scott Marks — April 20,10:23 a.m.

RIP Jonathan Frid: His Final Barnabas Collins Performance

By Jay Allen Sanford — April 19, 9:01 p.m.

Read these and other breaking movie stories at SDReader.com/big-screen
Damsels in Distress — Will Ferrell deadpans his performance in a semi sendup of Spanish telenovelas (yes, it’s in Spanish), and his unwinking commitment to the role makes all the surrounding silliness enjoyable. It’s all there: florid themes, cheap production values, goofy technique, hack dialogue, and awesome ranchero ballads. The weakest stuff is the spoofiest — better is Gael García Bernal as a prissy drug lord who works hard to keep his white leather jaguar boots dusty. 2012. — M.L.
★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Chimpanzee — A hardy film crew went deep into the jungles of Uganda and the Ivory Coast to film wild chimps. This Disney release has some old Disney flavor, with perky songs, Tim Allen’s narration (“This is Freddie — he’s large and in charge”), and an overlay of humanized drama about an orphaned male (predation is shown, but not censure). The close-footage of these usually sympathetic creatures is fairly amazing, and the emphasis on pure survival is sobering. For kids seven or eight and up. 2012. — D.E.
★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Five-Year Engagement — Engagement takes its time for Emily Blunt and Jason Segel in this comedy directed by Nicholas Stoller. With Chris Pratt, Jim Piddock, David Paymer. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; OPENS 4/27)

His Girl Friday — Howard Hawks’s mischievously screwed-up version of the MacArthur-Hecht newspaper comedy, “The Front Page.” The ace reporter, Hildy, has been transformed, or rather transsexualized, into Rosalind Russell (which is not exactly an emasulation of the role), and the result bears a striking resemblance to Leo McCarey’s “The Awful Truth,” with Cary Grant once again trying to impress his ex-lover by poking fun at her new fiancé, a thick-headed straw man obligingly played in both cases by Ralph Bellamy. Russell does not by a long shot live up to the precedent set by Irene Dunne, but the gaggle of reporters lounging around tables, playing cards, puffing cigarettes, and cracking wise, is delightful. — D.S.
★★★ (TOWN SQUARE 14; OPENS 4/30)

The Hunger Games — In the future rebel districts are punished by the Reaping every year they have to send a couple of teenagers to the Capitol. There, the kiddies fight to the death in a regulated, televised competition. Sloppily directed by Gary Ross, it’s more games than hunger and
more a comment on media manipula-
beside her and tall enough to
The Island President — the Mal-
dives — a nation of islands south
Lanka that survived a long dictator-
Nasheed’s effort to alert the world has
brave, short, handsome, and very bright
it with his father (Jérémie Renier, who
and surprising because the suspense is so
keeps flipping zingers as his face is bashed.
the skin of his bike will rejoin
a dam, river, and imported salmon in dry,
the Russian mob.
of Mei (Catherine Chan), a young girl being
"A TRUE GEM! A RICH ENTERTAINMENT!"
Pete Hammond, DEADLINE HOLLYWOOD
A PERFORMANCE BY
Diane Keaton
KEATON
"A WINNER!"
David D’Aubigny, NEW YORK OBSERVER
"A PERFORMANCE BY
Diane Keaton THAT IS RADIANT."
David Edelstein, NEW YORK MAGAZINE
The Pirate’s Band of Misfits — A
$60 million cartoon about pirates looking to win a big award, and also the first pirates movie to include a "lovelorn" Charles Dar-
win. Voices by Hugh Grant, Salma Hayek, David Tennani, Brendan Gleeson.
(CARL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONIDO 16; FASHION VILLAGE 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA SQUARE 14; VISTA PROMENADE 24)
★
Jiro Dreams of Sushi — David Gelb’s documentary about Jiro Ono, a 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.
★★★★ (GASLAMP 15)
The Kid with a Bike — Another wonder-
跷的, skinny, willful lad who feels abandoned and hopes his bike will rejoin him with his father (Jérémie Renier, who was the boy on a bike in the Dardenne film "La Promesse"). Cécile De France is the kind hairdresser who comes to his aid. The trajectory of the story feels both inevitable and surprising because the suspense is so vitally specific. 2012. — D.E.
★★★★ (HILLCREST)
The Lady — Despite touches of brutality, this dramatic salute to tireless Burmese freedom leader Aung San Suu Kyi is too ladylike. Michelle Yeob plays her like a cross between Gandhi and Audrey Hepburn, and Luc Besson’s direction often seems like a comic lesson. David Thewlis plays the heroine’s almost equally suffering British husband, Spaniel-eyed as speeches and rallies and repressions pass in parade. 2012. — D.E.
★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)
Lockout — Scum in orbit. Visually mon-
notrous, turbulently violent, mankind scripted, it concerns a 2079 revolt of convicts in space-ship prison, the President’s abducted daughter (Maggie Grace) — who still looks
**The Lucky One**, a pretty film filled with pretty people set to pretty music.

*Turn Me On, Dammit!* — A slide into terminal catatonia, as Norwegian teen Alma (Helene Bergslom) is branded a slut and “pervo” when the boy she desires comes on too strong. Her story is not drama, not comedy, not much at all. Janickie Syed

**Wrath of the Titans** — 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 gods’ work — Tartarus included — is coming undone. What to do? Reassemble the Spear, of course, and make sure half-human Perseus handles it this time. Apparently, the indomitable human spirit is all we really need — plus magic geography that isn’t in Tartarus. Family rivals, brother vs. brother, father vs. son — get tossed in for drama, like bacon bits on a rancid Greek salad.

— M.C.

**The Lucky One** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:45, 4:10, 8:35, The Raven (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:25, 3:25, 7:00, The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 3:00, 8:00, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri.-Sun. 4:40, 9:20, 1:40, 7:00, 9:30, Salmon (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; MARINA 13; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OATY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Wrest of the Titans — 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 gods’ work — Tartarus included — is coming undone. What to do? Reassemble the Spear, of course, and make sure half-human Perseus handles it this time. Apparently, the indomitable human spirit is all we really need — plus magic geography that isn’t in Tartarus. Family rivals, brother vs. brother, father vs. son — get tossed in for drama, like bacon bits on a rancid Greek salad.

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— M.C.
ern California premiere of Janecce Shaffer’s comedy-drama about five mothers of Girl Scouts on an outing who “discover more than they bargained for about themselves.” LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 11142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAY, THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 27.

Getting Sara Married
PowPAC stages the comedy about Sara Hastings, her meddlesome Aunt Martha, and a young man looking for an unconscious and delivered to Sara’s apartment. But he’s already married.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MAY 26.

Goree
OnStage Playhouse presents the “original high school musical,” and “the glory that remains,” with 2008. The Gus Van Sant biopic is “based on the life of gay rights activist and politician Harvey Milk” (played by Sean Penn), the first open gay person to be elected to public office in California. Friday, April 27, 2:30 p.m.

Real Women Have Curves
MiraCosta College presents Sam Johnson’s romantic drama. 1940. Shot in Japanese with English subtitles. Thursday, April 26, 6 p.m.

Hastings, her meddlesome Aunt Martha, and a young man looking for an unconscious and delivered to Sara’s apartment. But he’s already married.

The Pit and the Pendulum
1961. Shot in

1934. Stannie Dum and the boys present "a slightly risque tale of a pirate cruise." GB Productions presents its annual hiss-the-hero, boo-the-villain melodrama: "a whiner (and it does err with verbal excess and a truly tudy ending), the 100-minute, intermissionless comedy-drama boasts genuine humor and three terrific scenes. The strange title (what’s it) lingers throughout, since quartet hovers between what was and what’s next. Courtney Corey heads a fine ensemble cast as Jane, each step of whose breakdown and recovery Coree marks with emotional truth. Richard Baird, Judith Scott, Matt Thompson, and especially Andew Ableson (whose neorotic Alan provides ongoing angst and comic relief) complete. Worth a try.

Topdog/Underdog

The Boys Next Door
Mesa College Theatre Company presents Tom Grill’s drama about four mentally-challenged men living in a Men’s Shelter, all of whom must define for themselves “what constitutes success.” MESA COLLEGE APOLOIU THEATRE, 7250 MESA COLLEGE DRIVE, 619-388-2621, 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 7PM SUNDAY.

The Crush of the Carolinas
GB Productions presents its annual hiss-the-hero, boo-the-villain melodrama: “a whiner (and it does err with verbal excess and a truly tudy ending), the 100-minute, intermissionless comedy-drama boasts genuine humor and three terrific scenes. The strange title (what’s it) lingers throughout, since quartet hovers between what was and what’s next. Courtney Corey heads a fine ensemble cast as Jane, each step of whose breakdown and recovery Coree marks with emotional truth. Richard Baird, Judith Scott, Matt Thompson, and especially Andew Ableson (whose neorotic Alan provides ongoing angst and comic relief) complete. Worth a try.

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MOTEL/ CLUB


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*If you don’t meet the requirements, contact us! You may still be eligible.

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READER

San Diego Reader April 26, 2012 107
A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE:  
RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. on 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 redact or edit 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! You may complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. on Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907; or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85893, San Diego, CA 92158-5893, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels. Maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

AND NOW FOR THE PUZZLE:
______   ________  ________
  1     2     3     4     5     6     7     8     9
  10    11    12    13    14    15    16    17    18
  19    20    21    22    23    24    25    26    27
  28    29    30    31    32    33    34    35    36
  37    38    39    40    41    42    43    44    45
  46    47    48    49    50    51    52    53    54
  55    56    57    58    59    60    61    62    63
  64    65    66    67    68    69    70    71    72
  73    74    75    76    77    78    79    80    81
  82    83    84    85    86    87    88    89    90
  91    92    93    94    95    96    97    98    99
 100   101   102   103   104   105   106   107   108
 109   110   111   112

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

Martha Awdziewicz, Clairemont...

Kaye D. Benton, San Diego, ...

_solver 1

liangetic

1. Sport's dad, Fay and Brett
2. Take sadly
3. Running __________
4. View
5. __________ Capital
6. With 39-Across, close friend ...
7. See 37-Across
8. __________ Dawn Chong
9. Blissful spot
10. Top 50... or an apt clue for 72-Across
11. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Conlan
12. __________ “Twilight” protagonist
13. Are you saying _______? ___
14. Brit. word reference
15. Not for fit for discussion ... or an apt clue for 72-Across
16. Actresses Rogers
17. Pork cuts
18. Hooters
19. Blissful spot
20. Part of NAACP. Abbr.
21. Some jeans
22. Task list heading
23. Aquarium fish
24. Gamers that inspire many fun crossword clues
25. 1. Intensify
26. Rain forest cat
27. Bread, milk or eggs
28. Bit of shattered glass
29. My tomato had a split in it.
30. Texas oil town
31. Abbr. for “let out”
32. Sink smells
33. No longer
34. Honey ______ dressing
35. _____ culpa
36. School setting
37. Marley’s “____”
38. “____” Kapital
39. Texas oil town
40. Honey ______ dressing
41. Hooters
42. Sink smells
43. No longer
44. Sink smells
45. Marley’s “____”
46. “____” Kapital
47. Texas oil town
48. Sink smells
49. No longer
50. Sink smells

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

AGASSI AOE$ PEZ
LETOUT IDLE EVA
FLOUR SAMP LE REP
RANT ALT W BCS
ETCHA FOURHOUSE
doesn't payrate
KiBItZ ODIN
SQUARESHOUL ER
STUN EATERS
HEAPSOn SCHOTT
APRIL COUL SENIE
RNA PEa SRTa
JOE PUSInn BOUTs
ALL OXIE TOUSele
YEs NEST ZItHER

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: __________________ Zip Code: _____
State: __________________
Personal Message: ___________________

Please check one:
Cap: ____________________________
T-shirt: S __________________________

© 2012 DAVID LEVINSON WILK
PACIFIC BEACH, $1475. 619-224-0759. 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651, water and trash. Seacoast Apartments, No application fee. Blocks to the beach!

OCEAN BEACH, $960. Jacuzzi. 2315 Caminito Estero. Shore Private patio, 2-car garage, fireplace, pool, laundry. Parking. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now! 4451 Haines 1BD+1BA, large downstairs end apartment. 10:00-11:00am. Freshly updated kitchen and bathroom. New carpet, paint, and more. Convenient central location. Must see! 2065-G Chalcedony Street. TPPM, 858-806-5760, about move-in special!

MISSION BEACH. Ocean! 3747 Strandway. 858-768-4322. 3BD+2BA. 1300 sqft remodeled home with fireplace, wood flooring; partial bay view. Steps to Sail Bay. 3807 Riviera Drive. TPPM, 858-483-3021; FreechCalifornia@emai1.com.


MISSION BEACH, $2900. 2BD+1BA. Beautifully renovated 2BD+1BA apartment. Do not miss opportunity! 4981-1/2 Crystal Drive. 858-272-9547.


MISSION BEACH, $2200. 3BD+2BA close to garage. Open house Saturday, 4/28, 10:00-11:00am. All utilities paid. 1-year lease. 5055 Brighton Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or 858-483-7670. Two blocks to Sail Bay. 2370. www.torreypinespm.com. 


PACIFIC BEACH, $1365. 2BD+1BA upstairs apartment. 825 sqft. Remodeled beach house tucked away in alley. Vaulted ceilings, courtyard, upgraded 1404 Grand Ave. 858-768-4333.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1350. 3BD+2BA Cool house with garage. 858-768-4322. 2315 Caminito Estero. All utilities paid. 1-year lease. 5055 Brighton Avenue. 858-699-3851.


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 regular and prize winners are posted online at ReaderPuzzles.com/puzzles. Your submission will only be counted if you successfully complete the puzzle AND get it to us by 11:59 p.m. Monday.

2. Just fill in 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 winners of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous Reader baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper and online.

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

5) Entries must be faxed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 98503, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. The deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. Monday, three weeks prior to the publication date of the Reader. No exceptions. See “Rules of the Game” for file size requirements.

3) We cannot accept your entry without the following:

- Your name (first and last)
- A message (20 words maximum)
- A correct answer to this week’s puzzle

We reserve the right to edit or reject entries. We reserve the right to change or cancel the Sudoku puzzle contest at any time.

 Hardcover books available at your favorite book store or online.

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EASY</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>HARD</th>
<th>EVIL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

- Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 8. You have the biggest bonfire at the beach party, are you engaging in conspicuous consumption?
- Michael Rewa, Allied Gardens, B. I’ve been a human subject in so many drug tests, I’m addicted to placebo.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont, B. If I get a joint replacement, does it make me more “HIP”?
- Martin Muciarone, Carlsbad, 1. It doesn’t look like a camel, so why do they call it camel-flage?

**PACIFIC BEACH, $2650.**


**PACIFIC BEACH, $2850.**

3BD+2BA townhouse/ condo, parking, laundry and storage. Edge of Bankers Hill at 1814 Fifth Avenue, New Palace. 619-235-6068.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $4500.**


**PACIFIC BEACH, $468-625.**


**PACIFIC BEACH, $500-600.**


**PACIFIC BEACH, $550 & UP.**

A puzzler and a writer?

**PACIFIC BEACH, $560.**

1BD+1BA. 500 deposit, OAC. 860 30th Street, 619-239-3808.

**PACIFIC BEACH, $850.**

1BD+1BA. Ocean, sunset views. Beautiful, large studio, utilities included. Near C Street Trolley. 858-298-0719 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .jpg format, 800 by 600 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

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

7) Late entries will not be considered.

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

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

**SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!**

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.
What is the stupidest thing you’ve ever been in trouble for?

Jennifer Williams
San Diego/England, Surf Instructor

once caused a food fight by throwing a banana at someone. I was in eighth grade, and I got put in lunchroom isolation for, like, six months.

Chris Smith
Pales Verdes, Surf Instructor

once crashed a Hobie Cat into a Whaler. It wasn’t my fault — somebody rigged my sail wrong. Possibly I should have checked their rigging before.

Rachel Nelson
Del Mar, Camp Administrator

When I was a teenager I snuck out of the house to hang out with friends past curfew. The police caught us, and they had to call my parents to come bail me out.

Colin R.
Mission Beach, Another Surf Instructor

I can’t say I was in trouble, but I once rescued a coworker with a broken wrist. I’ve been a life-guard for years, but the only person I ever saved was a fellow lifeguard.

Mina Mesa Spa
New Management - New Staff

$20 Off 1 Hour Massage
$20 Off 45 min. massage
$10 Off 30 min. massage
with this ad
(619) 265-8200
6244 El Cajon Blvd., #30
(across from CVS, next to Platt College)
L-2011020911

Grand Opening
*10 Off any massage
with ad.

New China Massage

New Chiny Massage
3817 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92105
Open 9 am - 10 pm
License #13694

$15 Off 1 Hour Massage
*10 Off 45 min. + $5 Off 30 min.
Choose from Deep Tissue, Swedish, Thai or Aromatherapy Massage with table shampoo.

Now offering Jacuzzi & Sauna
San Diego Forest Oriental Massage
with the Magic Touch

Friendly Spa
200 W. El Norte Pkwy., #200 • Escondido
760-294-1764 • Open 7 days 9:30 am - 9:30 pm
Visa + MC • Discover • License #16577

MESA SPA
(619) 698-1111
8042 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa
(In La Mesa Spring Shopping Center)

Oriental Chi Spa
New Management

$20 off 1 hr. Massage
$10 off 1/2 hr. Massage
Therapeutic Massage
Stress reduction & relaxation
Lic. #00012847
6786 University Ave. (near SDSU) 619-265-8500

What is the stupidest thing you’ve ever been in trouble for?
Brainstorms
by Don Rubin
Card code
There are 26 letters in the alphabet and 26 black cards in a deck. We’ve given each of the cards a different letter value and spelled out the names of several popular card games at the right. (The letters in each hand are in correct order.) See if you can identify them.
a) ___________________________________
b) ___________________________________
c) ___________________________________
d) ___________________________________
e) ___________________________________
We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: _____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________
City:_________________________________ State:_____ Zip Code:_____________
Personal Message: ________________________________________________________________________________
Cap:________                        T-shirt:  S_______   M_______   L _______   X L _______
Please check:  ☒ We are temporarily out of T-shirts. Winners will receive caps.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:
Monu-mental
1) Statue of Liberty
2) Great Sphinx
3) Taj Mahal
4) Eiffel Tower
5) Pantheon
6) Colosseum
7) Easter Island
8) Gateway Arch
9) Great Wall
10) Stonehenge
11) Space Needle
12) Washington Monument
13) Notre-Dame Cathedral
14) Arc de Triomphe
15) Big Ben
16) Leaning Tower of Pisa
17) Nelson’s Column
18) Great Pyramid

BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME
1) Eliminate completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday. Please check the box below if you agree to follow the rules.
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-context ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907; or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8583, or delivered through our mail slot at 1701 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: Puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 10MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided
7) Late entries will not be considered
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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

EL CAJON, 92020-990 & UP.

EL CAJON, 92020.

EL CAJON, 92020.

EL CAJON, 92020.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+2BA apartments. Located near the border of Eastlake and La Mesa. Pets OK. 6255 La Mesita Place #11 and #13. 619-797-3285.

EL CAJON, 92020.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+2BA apartments. Located near the border of Eastlake and La Mesa. Pets OK. 6255 La Mesita Place #11 and #13. 619-797-3285.

LA MESA, 92061.
3BD+2BA apartment. Welcome to La Mesa! Split level, Air conditioning, Laundry, Garages. 1912 Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, 92061.

LA MESA, 92061.

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LA MESA, 92061.

SPRING VALLEY, $850. 2BD+1BA. Great central location with new flooring, blinds and fresh custom paint. Air conditioning. Parking. Free credit check. 619-358-4100.

Central San Diego


BAY PARK, $1275. 2BD+1BA prime apartment in Bay Park’s best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. Perfect Mission Bay location with easy freeway access. No pets. 2050 Chicago Street. TIPPM. 619-405-7200. www.debonairapts.com


MISSION VALLEY, $1250. 2BD+2BA, 1/2 month free rent! 8800 deposit, parking, laundry, walk to USD. No pets. at 1330 Eureka Street #7. Agent. 619-298-5820. www.momcorporat.net.


$10 Off 1 hr Massage
Saturday & Sunday
Jacuzzi Shower Walk-ins Welcome
Best Oriental Massage
In Town!!!

We invite you to experience one of the best massages by professional staff!!

829 S. Escondido Blvd.,
Corner of 9th & Escondido Blvd.
760-738-9553
Open 7 days • 9am - 9pm
License #152499

Royal Spa

6124 University Ave.
At College Ave. Plenty of parking in back.
619.229.0509

Vita • MasterCard • Amex • Disc & ATM
Open 7 days • 9am-10pm

Typo Patrol Results

Feast!
p.76 if the should be if
ClubCrawler
p.80 of al of should be
FrancesPuentenormalheights$20
V.Slipper(3 DelMarHeights)$20

Blurt
p.78 album's should be albums
FilmFestivals
p.102 McGregor's should be McGregor

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number).

Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, housewriter style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins $10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate prefer-

Winnings limited to $300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

$49 For 1 Hour Acupressure Massage
Acupuncture • Prostate Treatment
Hot Oil - Hot Steam Massage Free Energy Herb Tea!

Open 9AM - 8PM • Closed Sunday

April SPECIALS
Full Body Half & Half Foot Massage Massage
1 hour $34.99 $29.99 $19.99

reg. $40

Free Table Shower after Services
Offers valid with this ad. Expires 5/14/12
Open 7 Days, 10am - 1pm
We accept competitor's coupons!

April SPECIALS
Full Body Half & Half Foot Massage
1 hour $34.99 $29.99 $19.99

$5 Off 1-HOUR MASSAGE
with coupon Expires 4/20/12

$25 Off 1-Hour Oriental Massage
Includes your choice of hot tub, Jacuzzi or table shower. 3474 San Diego Ave., Swedish and Thai massage.

The Best Oriental Massage
Moonlight

$20 Off One Hour
760-796-4122
301 E. Washington Ave.
Suite A (all bungalows) - Escondido
Lic. #6258R

$10 off 1 hr Massage Saturday & Sunday

Best Oriental Massage
In Town!!!

We invite you to experience one of the best massages by professional staff!!

829 S. Escondido Blvd.,
Corner of 9th & Escondido Blvd.
760-738-9553
Open 7 days • 9am - 9pm
License #152499

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At College Ave. Plenty of parking in back.
619.229.0509

Vita • MasterCard • Amex • Disc & ATM
Open 7 days • 9am-10pm
HILLCREST, $1245. 1BD+1BA apartment by Balboa Park. On-site laundry, off-street parking. Spacious units, security building.

HILLCREST, $1050. 4/28, 12:00-2:00pm. Viewing. On-site laundry. $500 security deposit. Off-street parking. Sundeck, gas grill. 2BD+2BA, apartment for Seniors.


HILLCREST. $850. 1BD+1BA downstairs apartment. 3820 Georgia Street. New carpet, 1 assigned parking. Month to month. For viewing, call Dan: 619-294-4146.

KENSINGTON-TALMAG, $795-895. Studio and 1BD+1BA in quaint courtyard property with sparkling pool. New floor coverings and fresh interior colors. Controlled access parking with great location. Rent today! 4490 Collwood Blvd.


NORMAL HEIGHTS, $3500. 1BD+1BA Gated complex, new carpet and granite countertops. Extra large bedroom with wall-to-wall closets. Stove, fridge, A/C, parking, on-site laundry. Section 8 OK. 4571 Utah Street #11, 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, $3150. 1BD+1BA. 10/1 off 1st floor. Large, lower unit. Refrigerator, lots of storage, on-site parking. $750 deposit. 4573 Utah Street #11, 619-804-3325.


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MR International Auto Repair

1 Stop Shop - New/Used Tires/Brakes/Alignment

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We honor most extended warranties.

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7645 Carroll Road (Just off Miramar Road, one block from Pyramid)

FREE TOWING (within 10 miles) with major repair (over $100)

Hurry! Offers end soon. Most cars. Not valid with any other discounts.
LEAD STORY
— The royal family of Qatar, apparently striving for art-world credibility, purchased a Paul Cézanne painting (The Last Supper) for the equivalent of about $250 million, which is twice as much as the previous most expensive painting sold for. (Qatar is vying with the United Arab Emirates to become the Middle East’s most intellectual hub.)

The Entrepreneurial Spirit
— Last year, the Cape Town, South Africa, “gentlemen’s club” began selling an Albin frame of glasses designed for men who need excuses for coming home late. For example, as men come through the door, they could splash on “Wax Working Late” (to reek of coffee and cigarettes) or “My Car Broke Down” (evoking fuel, burned rubber, and grease).
— White supremacist Richard Treis, 38, was arrested in February in St. Louis, along with his alleged partner, black gang member Robert “Big” Swinney, 22, and charged with running a huge methamphetamine operation. The two, who had met at a prison halfway house, had allegedly meshed their unique talents — Treis as a meef cook and Swinney as a skilled street seller who recruited people to buy restricted pseudoephedrine products from pharmacies. Said a deputy, “They put away their differences to get the job done.”

Science on the Cutting Edge
— A growing number of scientists at work on biochip computers modelled on movements of slime to solve complex-systems problems, according to a December report in London’s Daily Telegraph. “Slime molds are single-celled organisms lacking a ‘brain,’ said professor Toshiyuki Nakagaki of Japan’s Future University Hakata. But somehow they somehow can ‘organize’ themselves to create the most direct route through mazes in order to find food. Said professor Atsushi Tero, of Kyoto University, computer dynamics are ‘not so good’ at finding such ideal routes because of the quantitiy of calculations required.
— Claire Osborn, 37, of Coventry, England, was diagnosed in October with an aggressive, inoperable throat tumor. She has a 50 percent chance of survival. However, less than a month later, during a severe cough spell, she actually coughed out the entire tumor in two pieces. Subsequent tests revealed no trace of cancer in her two pieces. (Doctors hypothesized that, fortuitously, the tumor was growing on a weak stalk that was overcome by the force of the cough.)
— In January, doctors at North Carolina State University performed knee-replacement surgery on a cancer-stricken house cat. Such surgery on dogs has been done, but because of cats’ smaller bones and joints, doctors had to use micro techniques usually employed on humans.

Fine Points of the Law
— The Houston Funding debt collection company in Texas has fired receptionist Donnica Venters shortly after she returned from maternity leave when she announced that she intended to breastfeed her child and needed space in the office to pump her breast milk. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a discrimination lawsuit based on “pregnancy, childbirth or related medi- cal conditions;” but in February, federal judge Lynn Hughes (Mr. Lynn Hughes) rejected the EEOC’s reasoning. The law does not, he wrote, cover “lactation” discrimination.

Least Competent Criminals
— According to prosecutors in Camden, S.C., in November, Christopher Hutto, 30, needed money badly to buy crack cocaine, but the best plan he could devise was getting a friend to telephone Hutto’s mother and demand a ransom. Though Hutto, according to the phone call, supposedly had been beaten up by kidnappers and dumped in a remote location and was “near death,” the “kidnapper” asked only for $100. The un-eager mother dawdled a bit until she and the caller had negotiated the ransom down to $60. The money drop was made, and sheriff’s deputies arrested Hutto running from the site with the booty.

Bright Ideas
— Like many cities, Taipei, Taiwan, has a dog-litter problem that has proved unsolvable, as citizens continue to ignore signs to pick up after their dogs and keep sidewalks clean. Finally, city officials designed a successful program (announced in December); a dog-poopy lot. Anyone handing in a bag of dog litter would get a ticket (one ticket per bag) to a drawing with prizes ranging up to pieces of gold worth the equivalent of about $2000. Citizens would be on the honor system to make sure their “litter” in the bag came from a dog or from another source.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 853093, San Diego, CA 92118 or to WeirdNews@sdreader.com
NAME: Mark Rasmussen
CAR: 2006 BMW 530i

WHERE’S YOUR COMMUTE? About 18 minutes from El Cajon to Kearny Mesa.

CHEAPEST GAS? I just pull over whenever I’m out of gas. I’m not worried about a couple cents here and there.

WHAT’S WRONG WITH YOUR CAR? Nothing but a little weather-stripping drying up. Also, it just left warranty and it’s a BMW, so I’m worried.

WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO WHILE YOU DRIVE? KFMB, mostly, also podcasts from my iPhone, including Radiolab, This American Life, Freakonomics, etc. Slacker Radio is an excellent way to consume music media.

DO YOU USE YOUR CELL PHONE AND DRIVE? My car has built-in hands-free that works very well, so I never have to use any hands that should be on the wheel.

WHAT COULD CARS HAVE YOU DRIVEN? As you can see from my previous cars list, I’m pretty much driving the cheapest car of my life right now.

ANY GOOD HITCHKICKING STORIES? I hitchhiked once in Europe. Nothing to report…we were all heading to the same youth hostel, so…pretty boring.

TICKETS? I’ve never gotten a single moving violation. I must be a safe driver, but I’ve gotten many parking tickets.

ACCIDENTS? Nope! Not a single one. Again, safety first. I’ve had a few cars stolen, however — once from my aunt’s and uncle’s house while I was out of the country. They didn’t even realize it was gone until presumably weeks after it was stolen. It was found broken down on the side of the road not ten miles away. Bet that was inconvenient for those thieves.

WHERE DO YOU TYPICALLY EXPERIENCE THE WORST TRAFFIC IN SAN DIEGO? I don’t notice the intersection of the 15 and Aero Drive. Trying to get on the freeway from the 15 is just a pain.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DRIVE? Going south from Del Mar up to Torrey Pines.

YOUR BEST SCOUT? When I’m leaving my fiancé, I take back way out of the parking lot. You can make a right out behind the firey’s building and get on Ruffin Road and avoid that Aero Drive.

I’d really like to have my old Del Sol back. They’re really hard to find in original condition, though: most have been “riced” out and ruined with big mufflers and graphics and crap.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE’S DRIVING? When other people are talking on their cell phone and not paying attention to the task at hand.

DO YOU USE ANY SHORTCUTS IN REAL LIFE? Finding educational and useful ways to entertain the kids really leaves me with more time on my hands. I introduced Finding educational and useful ways to entertain the kids really leaves me with more time on my hands. I introduced

Mark Rasmussen worries about his BMW, now with no warranty.
**FURNITURE**

BEDS $295, ABSOLUTE BARGAIN! Mattress Orthopedic Deluxe. New in plastic wrap. Comes w. boxspring. $85. All other sizes available. Credit cards accepted. Cab: 619-484-6480 or 608-484-6490. www.garagesale.com

BED. One- of-a-kind handcrafted queen- size bed, 40"x style wooden bed frame w. three pieces. $120 or best offer. 760-453-3677.

**BOOCCAS**

4S RANCH. GARAGE SALES

FURNITURE

774-6131. electronics, more. Maps available at baby clothes, toys, household items, bed frame with dresser attached. $1200 670-8356.

Ms. Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Remodeling office, $25-$150. 619-2'x6', 3'x3', 3'x4', 3'x6', 4'x6', 4'x7'.

EL CERRITO.

furniture, and more. 1001 Lemon	COAT.

All $100, firm. 619-741-4881.

Corinth Street, 92115. sale. Saturday, 4/28, 8am-noon. 4370


EL CAJON. Garage sale. Saturday, 4/28, 9am. Lots of baby items, lamps, furniture, and more. 1001 Lemon Avenue, El Cerrito, 619-226-8831.

EL CERRITO. Annual community garage sale. Saturday, 4/28, 9am. Many household items, electronics, more. Maps available at Starbucks Camino Del Norte & Avo Canyon or Oceanside. 619-874-7731. 11991.

EL CAJON. Garage sale. Saturday, 4/28, 8am-noon. Furniture, gym equipment, household items, toys and more. 226 Borelino in Encanto.

EL CERRITO. Garage sale. Saturday, 4/28, 8am-10am. Lots of kids items, clothes, books, educational items, and toys. Lots of great stuff! 93131 Pebble Beach.

TOBBY HIGGINS. Moving sale. Friday/ Saturday, 5/4-5/5, 8am-4pm. Moving washer and dryer, 22- cubic-foot front-loading refrigerator, designer sofa, and drapes. Must go! Includes two bedroom furniture, kitchen table and chairs, much more. 7720 Via Francisco #1, 91129.

**MISSISSIPPI**

ARCADE GAMES collection. Garage sale. Saturday, 4/27, 9am-2pm. Lots of arcade games, Pong, and much more. 11272 Tanglewood Dr. 92120.

**RACECAR**

4S RANCH. GARAGE SALES

FURNITURE

774-6131. electronics, more. Maps available at baby clothes, toys, household items, bed frame with dresser attached. $1200 670-8356.

Ms. Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Remodeling office, $25-$150. 619-2'x6', 3'x3', 3'x4', 3'x6', 4'x6', 4'x7'.

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Meet Sofia.

Sofia was one of our first Mexico store employees when we opened up shop there in 2005. She began as a sales person and is now the country manager. Aside from running our Mexico City store in the beautiful neighborhood of La Roma, Sofia loves yoga and nature. She is wearing the Barcelona Stripe High Cut One-Piece.

Retail Locations:

San Diego—Fashion Valley Mall
7007 Friars Rd.
(Next to Michael Kors)
Phone: (619) 293-7180

San Diego—Hillcrest
3867 4th Ave.
(Corner University Ave.)
Phone: (619) 291-1845

San Diego—Pacific Beach
1280 Garnet Ave.
(Corner Fanuel St.)
Phone: (858) 274-2202

Huntington Beach—Main Street
207 Main St.
(Corner Walnut Ave.)
Phone: (714) 374-3902

Text AASTORE + zip code to 23000 to find American Apparel locations nearest you.

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