Cheerleading is more dangerous than fighting

“This may hurt some fighters' egos, but mixed martial arts doesn't even make it on the top five most dangerous sports list. It usually falls at 17, after golf and baseball.”

Elephant crushes Bob Filner after he makes Republican joke — see SD on the QT
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PHOTOGRAPH BY HOWIE ROSEN

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Chargers Stadium, Affordable or Not

By Don Bauder

San Diego can hardly afford to plop $750 million or more into a subsidized football stadium for the Chargers. But increasingly, even opponents fear it may be inevitable. Former councilmember Bruce Henderson, a longtime battler against the pro sports scam, reluctantly concedes, “The only thing that will keep the people of San Diego from being skinned again is that the team really wants [to move to] Los Angeles. If the team wants to stay in San Diego, we are going to get skinned.”

The reason is that pro sports/political corruption is more deeply ingrained in the San Diego culture than any other hushed-up turpitude, including the underground circulation of laundered drug money and the hotel industry’s symbiotic relationship with hookers. Self-appointed civic boosters, who make sure that money is steered down-town instead of to run-down neighborhoods and rotting infrastructure, are at the root of this corruption, along with lavishly kept politicians and mainstream media.

Unfortunately, both Carl DeMaio and Bob Filner are flirting with the idea of a sports and entertainment district that would be used all year. Watch your wallet. DeMaio is looking at a public-private partnership, an arrangement that historically in San Diego has lined private pockets while picking taxpayer pockets.

Bob Filner can see a synergy between an expanded convention center and a stadium. But, vows Filner, “Taxpayers should not and will not be asked to subsidize this project.”

Filner approves of the state’s dismantling of Centre City Development Corpora-

---

Run Them Down

Two stabbed, nearly hit by car in bar fight

Encinitas — Sheriff’s deputies arrested 34-year-old José Villanueva and 23-year-old Jacqueline Albrecth early yesterday morning on charges stemming from an Encinitas bar fight that left two victims with stab wounds dodging a car the suspects were using to attempt to run them down.

According to a sheriff’s department report, an argument started in the men’s bathroom of D Street Bar and continued on the street outside. At this point, two males involved in the altercation were stabbed by the suspects, who then got into a car that they drove toward the victims, narrowly missing them.

Witnesses were able to provide deputies with a description of the suspects, as well as the license plate of the car.

By Dave Rice, Wednesday, September 5

Nothing Shocking

No confidence petition for Sweetwater’s

Ed Brand

Chula Vista — After 6:00 p.m. on September 7, the Sweetwater Union High School District posted on the district website that there will be a special closed-session meeting on September 10 for the purpose of “public employee/discipline/dismissal/release/reclassification/reassignment/resignation or transfer.”

Rumor has circulated for weeks that interim superintendent Ed Brand will be seeking a contract to make his position permanent and augment his salary. (Brand’s title on the district website does not include the “interim” designation of his current position.)

On August 7, the Proposition O Bond Oversight Committee gave Brand a vote of no confidence, specifically related to his record of communication and reporting to the committee.

A no-confidence petition is also being circulated on the internet by a concerned Sweetwater parent. The petition alleges “questionable decisions” regarding bus routes, open boundaries, iPad expenditures, and more.

According to the Sweetwater Education Association’s latest newsletter, “Usually, the Board is required to give at least 24 hours notice before conducting a special session, however…the law was amended to read that any changes regarding the employment and salary of a district executive can only be modified during a regular board meeting.”

The SEA newsletter continues: “Indeed, there was nothing shocking about the Board scheduling this highly controversial and illegal meeting at 6:30 on Monday night, the exact time when most around the county will be gearing up for…the Raiders vs. the Chargers…. Their strategy seems like something out of a desperate coach’s fourth-quarter playbook.”

By Susan Luzzaro, Saturday, September 8

Missing Women

March in Tijuana to raise awareness

Baja — An organization in Tijuana called Conciencia Juvenil will be having a march to raise awareness of the disappearances of women in the area today, September 8. The march is the result of multiple young women being killed or disappearing in recent weeks.

On September 4, two young women were found dead in a rural area east of Ensenada. Also this week, a dead woman in her early 20s was found wrapped in a blanket in Tecate. Details on the Tecate case and another dead woman in Mexicali have not been disclosed yet.

Several cases of missing women have been reported in Tijuana in recent weeks. The case of 23-year-old Magaly Salazar Bravo has been covered extensively by local news media. She has been missing since September 1, when she vanished near a Tijuana university.

By K. Mennem, Saturday, September 8

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Earn up to $100 for your Neighborhood News story, $25 for photo. See guidelines at SDReader.com/neighborhood-stories/
Rugby — Safer, Saner
By Joe Deegan

When Poway Youth Rugby coach Phil Calio explains how he teaches the “cheek to cheek” technique, he’s only talking about tackling. “What we teach the kids,” he tells me, “is to attack right at the waist from the side or back. They should keep their heads to one side and wrap their arms around the ball carrier, then drop them and squeeze his knees together.”

Rugby does allow frontal tackles, but leaving your feet knee together. “We were terrible, we were horrid. We were a hodgepodge thrown together, we were terrible, and the Australians demolished us.” Besides the fun of the game, however, what impressed Calio was what happened afterward, as the club sprang for food and drinks and engaged their erstwhile opponents in lively conversation. He learned not only that the club members were being nice guys but also that postgame camaraderie is a regular rugby tradition. Not exactly the way other interests when February came around again, and Calio took over. He has been the head coach ever since.

The Perth game was the last time Calio played rugby. But five years ago, his older son, now 16, joined a youth rugby team in Poway. “I didn’t even know rugby was being played around here,” says Calio, who began attending the games. The following year, his younger son, then 10, joined a team as well, and Calio volunteered to assist its coach for the season (his rugby season begins in early February and lasts until late spring). The Spartan Army, as the team is called, lost its head coach to other interests when February came around again, and Calio took over. He has been the head coach ever since.

I encourage Calio to talk of advantages he sees in youngsters playing rugby

continued on page 46

Neal Obermeyer

IT’S A GOOD THING SAN DIEGANS HAVE THE MOST CONSERVATIVE CITY COUNCILMEMBER, AND ONE OF THE MOST LIBERAL REPRESENTATIVES SQUARE-OFF FOR MAYOR TO PROVIDE A CLEAR CONTRAST ON BIG ISSUES!

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“THAT’S A GOOD POINT! I’M RIGHT THERE WITH YOU, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? NO TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES FOR A NEW CHARGERS STADIUM!”

GREAT IDEA! I CAN GET BEHIND THAT FULLY!

UNDER THE RADAR

Irwin Jacobs goes Republican hunting
Who are San Diego’s heaviest super PAC hitters this election season? Of course, first place must go to Qualcomm founder and La Jolla billionaire Irwin Jacobs, with his cool $2 million contribution on June 11 to Priorities USA Action, a super PAC backing the reelection of President Barack Obama. The principal proponent of the controversial top-down Balboa Park road and traffic makeover, the liberal Jacobs has also kicked in $100,000 to American Bridge 21st Century, which bills itself as “a progressive research and communications organization committed to holding Republicans accountable for their words and actions and helping you ascertain when Republican candidates are pretending to be something they’re not.”

Regarding GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and his running mate Paul Ryan, American Bridge recently opined: “Despite Boston’s best etch-a-sketching efforts to distance Mitt Romney from the extremely unpopular views of his running mate, the truth remains that on everything from ending Medicare as it’s always been to banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest, Romney and Ryan are one and the same.”

Major local donors at the other end of the political spectrum from Jacobs include his fellow La Jollan Anne Phillips, whose occupation is listed as “mom” and her employer “kids.” She gave $70,000 to the conservative Club for Growth Action PAC on June 21; retired Point Loma physician Phillips L. Gausewitz contributed $5000 to the group in April. Last week the club announced it was spending $800,000 on a TV campaign against Democratic congressman Joe Donnelly’s U.S. Senate bid in Indiana. “Joe Donnelly supports the Obama agenda wholeheartedly—he voted for Obamacare, the Obama stimulus, and the Wall Street bailout. Since Joe Donnelly went to Congress, the national debt is up seven trillion dollars. It’s not surprising considering that Donnelly is a Washington liberal who supported Nancy Pelosi for speaker.”

The Jacobs-backed American Bridge PAC has similarly attacked Donnelly’s GOP opponent: “Indiana Senate candidate Richard Mourdock’s new ad laughably states that if elected ‘he’ll work with Republicans and Democrats,’” says American Bridge. “Nice try, but we’re not buying it. There are countless instances of Mourdock decrying bipartisanship in Washington throughout this very campaign. He even said flat out ‘we don’t need bipartisanship.’

Flying coach

Steve Altman has kicked in for the cause of San Diego State University basketball by picking up a travel tab for head coach Steve Fisher. According to an undated disclosure statement posted

continued on page 46
Featured Deals This Week

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Letters

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

I Study Life

This is a response to your article “Scan Diego?” (August 30). Please afford me the right to defend my reputation by publishing this response.

I hope your article does not interfere with me keeping the LifeScore Clinic open, where lives are saved every month. First, to clear up some of the misinformation in your article; I did not establish the LifeScore Clinic in 1999; Michael and Tabitha Wright did. It is my understanding that their clinic was very successful and accumulated almost 20,000 patient records until I took it over at the end of 2007. They were well-funded, and quite successful. I have been a student and promoter of preventive medicine, incorporating new technologies and evidence-based, patient-centered medicine, early detection, and nutrition my entire career. We based the new LifeScore Clinic on the same principles as the Wrights: Early detection with low-doseage CAT scans, plaque and cancer-risk identification, and education of patients to health, longevity and vigor.

I never practiced at Heart Check America. They were businessmen who, prior to opening, vowed to help me keep the Clinic open, then took over my clinic and went on without me. David Hadad is not part of my reopened LifeScore clinic, but we use some of his successful marketing techniques to increase our ability to reach more people and educate them on health, common diseases and prevention, plaque reversal, weight loss, and nutrition.

We offer a free ultrasonic (no radiation) assessment of the plaque in their carotid artery, and then we have a free educational program. There is absolutely no pressure here. If clients are interested in any of our health screenings, or other services, they have that option. I am developing modules for food allergy testing, rheumatoid and auto-immune diseases, genomics, antigens, tumor markers, and altogether 22 new modules, not offered elsewhere, to detect disease at the earliest stages, and refer to specialists in all areas when high risk or disease is detected. This is something not done in the usual healthcare model, but I believe that an individual has the right to know about his own body, and to receive low or no risk testing if they desire. Then, when the test results are back, the patient spends some time with me going over their results in relation to their own health history. I do not charge for this service. Many patients elect to continue their relationship with me as their advocate in health and nutritional guidance in a concierge-type association, or as a provider of anti-aging and laser procedures, in which I have an expertise as a practitioner and educator for the last 32 years.

I terminated Dan Galagher. I have the letter to prove it. I will not discuss the issues, as he has threatened legal action. We constructed a business model under legal advice, which is adherent to all policies of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Business and Professions Code, Stark Act, and other considerations. I signed that contract. When he saw that he could not use the LifeScore Clinic name without my participation, he did not sign. I terminated our relationship immediately.

I am a student of life, and strive for humility, learning, sharing what I have learned, and service to others. That is how I practice medicine. Any patient with whom I interface knows that. Your article lumps me with the bad guys.

Phillip Milgram, MD

continued on page 48
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I isn’t it nice here?”

“It’s beautiful,” I said to my friend Jen. I made a sweeping glance of the restaurant’s patio, taking in the coral bougainvillea blossoms, the green leaves cascading from the trellis, and the tiny, bold finches that swooped and hopped all around us. Soft “Kumbaya”-esque folk music wafted through the air.

“Don’t they seem so peaceful?” Jen was talking about the servers, who were welcoming diners and checking on tables, all of them sporting the same vacant smile.

“Peaceful? No,” I said. “Those empty gazes and dopey grins are like giant red flags being waved in my face. It’s the servers, who were welcoming diners and checking on tables, all of them sporting the same vacant smile. Not one to be thrown by my skepticism, Jen laughed. “Just wait — this is only one of the many, weird little places that are forcing those expressions. Means that they’re hiding something.”

Not one to be thrown by my skepticism, Jen laughed. “Just wait — this is only one of the many, weird little places that are forcing those expressions. Means that they’re hiding something.”

“You’re the one who’s dressed like a whore in that tank top and those shorts. Look at these ladies — all clean-faced and covered from neck to ankle. And you, harlot...”

Until Jen moved there, I’d always thought the town of Vista was some farmland by Riverside, inland and rural. I was surprised when I mapped it to see that it’s not far from Carlsbad. Still, because it’s a good 45-minute drive from my place, I need more incentive than an occasional whim to get up there. The first time I visited, it was to see Jen’s new home, which she bought shortly after marrying her beau. The second time, about a week ago, it was to meet her new puppy, a sweet-tempered black Labrador name Loki.

I wasn’t planning on making the long slog to Vista again for a while, but then Jen dropped a big-ass ball of invite me back to the ‘hood: “Did you know we have a restaurant here that’s run by some hippie commune?”

David and I drove up to have lunch with Jen at the Yellow Deli, which is owned and operated by members of a group called Twelve Tribes. I’d never heard of them before, but a quick googling before I hit the road revealed the religious sect not to be an association of free-loving hippies, but... well, as one ex-member put it, “Somehow Christian hippie love and a free communal life degenerated into a total control religious cult mixed with Jewish Old Testament and the Christian Gospel.”

But, hey, artisanal bread and farm-fresh food! That, combined with my curiosity, was enough to help me overcome my fear of religious fanatics and get on the freeway. While waiting for an organic version of Diet Coke (some caffeine-free, au naturel substitute), I caught the eye of the scruffy-bearded, long-haired man who’d greeted us when we arrived. He smiled through me. “I’m feeling really judged right now,” I said.

Jen, whose eyes were bright and alive, smirked knowingly. “That’s because you know you’re a sinner,” she said.

“You’re the one who’s dressed like a whore in that tank top and those shorts. Look at these ladies — all clean-faced and covered from neck to ankle. And you, harlot, coming in here and being all wann...” For this, I earned another smirk.

One of the women seemed to follow her own dreamy gaze toward us, reminding me of cartoon characters that float through the air as they follow their noses along the promising wispy scent of a fresh-baked pie. She was older, maybe in her 40s, and had stern features — a sharp nose and thin lips that were pulled back to mimic a smile that did not come close to reaching her eyes.

I ordered a turkey sandwich with no onions, sprouts, or mayo. The woman’s face twitched involuntarily — her lips tightened and her eyes hardened into a glare. She recovered quickly, showed her teeth again, and said, “Got it,” before she turned to Jen for her order.

“Tell me you saw that,” I said, once the woman had walked away.

“Oh, yeah, I saw it,” Jen said. “It’s like a part of her true form slipped through the cracks of her façade.”

“You shouldn’t have ordered off-menu,” David admonished.

“I read online that these women have to be submissive to the men,” I said. “Maybe that one’s finally had enough. Also, speaking of submissive, I forgot to mention — these folks believe that black people should still be slaves.” Jen raised her brows in disbelief, so I fetched my phone to prove it. “Says right here, straight from their cult leader’s lips: ‘Slavery is the only way for some people to be useful in society,’ yada yada... Ah, here it is: ‘If the slaves were mistreated, it was the fault of the slave...even animals know this principle of being submissive.’ And here’s the kicker: ‘No matter what a slave goes through, he can always choose to be submissive — in the same way that wives are submissive.’ He goes on to say that black people can’t be productive without being forced to. Can you believe this shit?”

“The soup’s pretty good,” Jen said.

“Yeah, it is,” I agreed. “I dig the bread, too. Haven’t gotten my side of ranch yet, though. She’s probably back there mixing her spit into it.”

While waiting for the rest of my meal, I regaled David and Jen with more factoids about Twelve Tribes. “They’re super into beating their kids, they expect them to be quiet and obedient. It’s a pity they’re not allowed to use the internet, visit a library, or watch TV. I mean, if there was ever going to be a kid I’d be okay sitting next to in the movie theater, it would be a Twelve Tribes kid.”

“Oh, you’re going to Hell for that one,” Jen said.

“Probably. But that’s cool, I’ll see you guys there.” I stared off to the side of the table to watch a little bird hop along a low wall. “What I wouldn’t give to be a fly on the wall at one of their house meetings,” I mused. “All the subtext, all those undercurrents of suppressed emotion. How fascinating it

continued on page 48
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Hi Matt:

Recently I was gobsmacked by two ideas so obvious that they must be wrong...I mean, since nobody’s using them, First, I thought of wind turbines in electric cars. Propelling the car would run air through the turbine to charge the battery. My guess is that the problem is that the turbine would catch the wind and create resistance that would impede the vehicle. The other obvious idea that must be wrong is this: people sometimes pedal bicycles to power generators to run small appliances. Why is it that the wheels on electric cars can’t be used to feed power to charge the battery?

— Margaret

You’re right about the first problem in that it’s a zero-sum game. In order for one party to win, the other must lose. You could only generate as much power with a wind turbine as you spent pushing the car through the air to turn that turbine. You’d be robbing Peter to pay Paul, as the expression goes. Wind turbines are also fairly inefficient and convert only 40-60 percent of their kinetic energy into electricity, so you would be looking at an impressive net loss of energy. I found an interesting study from last year’s Renewable Energy Congress in Sweden where the authors proposed putting turbines inside the car to allow airflow through the vehicle. The hypothesis was that cancelling the effects of “form drag” (caused by air pressure inequality in front of and behind a moving object) would negate the effect of friction drag caused by the turbines grabbing air to generate power. Nice idea, but it only sort of worked out in testing and it needs a lot more exploration if it’s ever to become practical.

The wheels on electric cars are used to power the batteries, albeit in a slightly different way than what you’re thinking. The bicycle-powered generator takes force that you’re applying to the pedals and translates that into electrical energy. If you did the same thing with an electric car, you’d be taking the energy that the engine puts out, capturing it, and sending it back to the batteries; much like the problem of a turbine on top of a car. That would be a fun engineering problem but a bad way to power a Prius. I saw it written that “the secret sauce of an electric car is not in how it accelerates, but how it brakes.” What electric cars do is capture the force that the car is pushing through the air, while it slows the car down, which is a genius idea and the thing that made hybrid cars possible in the first place.

Automotive regulations come from a whole host of sources that create quite the tangle of red tape. There are federal regulations as well as standards determined by the Society of Automotive Engineers (that’s the S.A.E. listed in motor oil viscosity grades like 10W-30), but it’s ultimately state regulations that impact you and me and everybody else on the day-to-day. California Vehicle Code chapter 12 has plenty of legalese on what constitutes acceptable headlights. Pretty dull stuff, but the codes unanimously agree that it’s not okay to shine directly into the eyes of oncoming drivers. They also limit the height at which lights can be mounted, done in order to prevent big trucks from searing your retinas by virtue of altitude. If people are “beaming” you, then it’s nothing more than a lack of courtesy that’s causing your blindness. I know a lot of motorcycle riders follow the codes exclusively for the sake of someone’s vanity or bling factor. In those instances, you could alert the CHP and they’d consider pulling over the offender and investigating. If you’re following the rules but the other person is driving around with the high beams on at all times to increase their visibility on the roads, you can call 911, though. Use the CHP non-emergency number (800-835-5247), because, while annoying, shiny headlights aren’t an emergency in the conventional sense.
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Strong Mayor Declares August 24, 2012, CityBeat Day

San Diego CityBeat reports that Gerry Braun, Strong Mayor’s manager of special projects, was fortunate enough to attend San Diego CityBeat’s 10th anniversary party a while back. While he was there, he read a congratulatory declaration of August 24, 2012, as “CityBeat Day,” a declaration signed by no less a personage than Strong Mayor himself. Said declaration opened, shockingly enough, with a jab at this publication before going on to praise San Diego CityBeat.

Heady stuff! Alas, the laudatory tone of the proclamation was tempered somewhat by Strong Mayor’s relentless honesty:

"Still, it’s always an honor for an alt-weekly to be honored by the political establishment. Congrats, San Diego CityBeat!"

Zoo Worker Trampled After Horrible Pun About Newborn Elephant

Elephant caretaker crushed by herd leader and new mama Swazi after making terrible pun to visiting mayoral candidates.

“At long last, we can all stop worrying about the elephant in the womb.”

UPDATE:

Democratic San Diego Mayoral Candidate Bob Filner Trampled After Horrible Pun About Murderous Elephant

Immediately following the death of the zoo worker, herd leader and new mama Swazi broke free of her pen and crushed Democrat Filner for a bad joke about her own sweet self.

“Clearly, she’s a Republican. First, because she’s an elephant, and second, because she’s got no sense of ‘womb-or.'”

Grisly

NPR journalist asks Denali Park superintendent about images from San Diego photographer’s last moments prior to fatal grizzly bear attack.

It’s also nice to see another reporter beginning to understand the real Norv Turner. Welcome aboard the crazy train, Mr. Calkins.

Hilton Management Caves to Workers’ Rights Advocates, Installs New Employee Break Room in Mission Valley Hotel

Following exposure of hotel’s attempt to sabotage meeting exposing unfair labor practices, hotel throws a conciliatory bone to the public-relations dog.

“We want the public to know that Hilton means hospitality. Even for those who work here.”

In Other News...

Here at SD on the QT, we try to restrict ourselves to the fascinating world of local news, but every now and then, our local daily news organ serves up a national headline that proves too delightful to resist...

2012 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dems seek luster-in-chief, recall days of Bill Clinton

Former President Bill Clinton gestures in an effort to describe something while President Obama looks on approvingly.

WINCING — Recently, NPR’s All Things Considered decided to live up to its name, as co-host Melissa Block asked Denali Park superintendent Paul Anderson, “You’ve been able to document the time leading up to this fatal attack, because you recovered Mr. White’s camera. What do those images show?...Could you tell anything from the pictures, those last pictures, about the bear’s demeanor?”

With Norv Turner, fans win if Chargers lose

Coach-Provocateur offers most paradoxical Zen koan to date

Norv Turner has slashed the most goals of anyone in NFL history with a ho-hum record. — John R. McKibben

In January of 1984, your car was stolen and your wife cheated on you. You, a 30-year-old husband, 40-year-old father, 40-year-old father. You...you could never believe the extent of their lie.”

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— Debra H.

During my three years as an Assistant Public Defender, I can’t remember the number of times I said [to myself] that I had no idea what I was doing in a courtroom. I shouldn’t be arguing law to a judge. What was I doing? I was meant to be teaching people yoga! But I plugged along, client after client, baby momma after baby momma, client’s momma, dad, sister, aunt, daughter… for three years. That can truly suck the life out of you. Quitting my job felt right. Although I do miss my cute suits and heels.

So I did it.

I start my Yoga Teacher Training in four weeks with Sculpt Fusion Yoga! Almost a decade of wanting something and now it’s here. One week before my thirtieth birthday. My excitement is indescribable.

And here I am. Stepping gracefully — or sometimes not so gracefully — out of my twenties and into my thirties. Believing that those steps are heading in the right direction.

Dr. Barry Katzman voted one of San Diego’s “Top Doctors” by San Diego Magazine. LenSx® certified surgeon. “America’s Top Ophthalmologist” from Guide to America’s Top Ophthalmologists from Consumer Research Council of America.

Rachel Schumont has dinner on the table when her man gets home from work. “That’s fine by me.”
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<td>Is your doctor “iLASIK” certified?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Will your exam, surgery and follow-up care be provided by the same doctor?</td>
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<td>Do they use the new “Iris Registration Tracking Device” for a safer, more effective procedure?</td>
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<td>Do they offer 4th generation FS Intralase to create a safer, faster, more controlled, bladeless all-laser procedure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Do they have hidden prices or add-on fees?</td>
<td>No</td>
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Mission Bay outlasts Horizon in back-and-forth contest

Pacific Beach — Sophomore quarterback Devon Johnson rallied Mission Bay by leading a pair of fourth-quarter scoring drives, and the hosts held off the Panthers 27-24 to remain undefeated.

Midway through the second quarter, Mission Bay (2-0) broke a scoreless tie with a Johnson pass to senior Jake Diaz with 9:04 left. The block preserved the Mavericks’ lead and brought a halt to Poway’s second-half comeback attempt.

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Mission Bay players burst through the banner after halftime of their game against Horizon

Game of the Week: No. 5 La Costa Canyon at No. 3 Poway

Poway — La Costa Canyon abides by a simple philosophy this season: if its opponents don’t score, they won’t win. The fifth-ranked Mavericks put that motto into practice Friday night, stopping third-ranked Poway four times in the fourth quarter to preserve a 10-9 victory.

“It’s very relieving to get this one done,” said La Costa Canyon senior lineman Scott Quessenberry. “It was a little too close.”

La Costa Canyon (2-0) clung to a one-point lead after three quarters. But on the first play of the fourth quarter, Poway senior defensive back Derek Babash intercepted a deep pass to give the Titans the ball near midfield. Poway (1-1) drove into La Costa Canyon territory but was eventually stopped, setting up a Titans field-goal attempt.

La Costa Canyon junior linebacker Cameron Worland broke through the left side of the line and laid out to block the 29-yard field-goal attempt by Poway junior kicker Jason Diaz with 9:04 left. The block preserved the Mavericks’ lead and brought a halt to Poway’s second-half comeback attempt.

Mission Bay running back Devante Kinder loses the ball between three Horizon defenders

Mission Bay outlasts Horizon in back-and-forth contest

Pacific Beach — Sophomore quarterback Devon Johnson rallied Mission Bay by leading a pair of fourth-quarter scoring drives, and the hosts held off the Panthers 27-24 to remain undefeated.

Midway through the second quarter, Mission Bay (2-0) broke a scoreless tie with a Johnson two-yard touchdown run. On the Buccaneers’ next offensive possession, Horizon senior defensive back Markel Byrd intercepted a Johnson pass and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown that made it 7-6 headed into halftime.

“I didn’t really expect to play that much in this game, because I didn’t really know the plays,” Johnson said.

Mission Bay junior receiver Andre Petties-Wilson returned the second-half kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown. Horizon (1-1) answered with a pair of touchdowns — the second after driving 98 yards — to take an 18-14 lead with 6:46 left in the quarter.

Johnson put the Buccaneers ahead by three with an 11-yard scramble on fourth-and-four, and he extended the lead with a 15-yard pass to senior receiver Kelly Weese with 2:42 remaining.

The Panthers added a late score, but the Buccaneers were able to hang on and win the battle of early-season unbeaters.

Week 3 Top 10

1. Helix (2-0) — Routed Vista with Cathedral Catholic on deck
2. La Costa Canyon (2-0) (5) — Edged Poway in defensive struggle
3. Oceanside (1-1) — Took too long to get going against Chaparral
4. Poway (1-1) — Narrow loss to LCC was first defeat since 2010
5. Mission Hills (1-1) — Routed Rancho Bernardo in first in-section game
6. Eastlake (1-1) — Bounced back by blowing out Scripps Ranch
7. Cathedral Catholic (1-1) — Stunned at home by rival Torrey Pines
8. St. Augustine (2-0) — Started season with pair of wins over bigger schools
9. Valley Center (2-0) — Jaguars host La Jolla after beating Imperial
10. El Camino (2-0) — Wildcats face Olympians in battle of unbeaters

The Red Zone can be found at SDReader.com/football

By Anthony Gentile
otes. “It’s like a bear trap — they step in it. I usually bait it with red meat. The bait and the trap have to be buried. I make it look like another animal has buried food. It’s very tricky; you have to have the correct distance between the trap and the bait. I can’t leave any scent when I set it. There can’t even be rust on the trap; they’ll smell it, realize it’s not natural, and refuse to go near it.”

What about my kids? “It won’t catch a kid’s foot; their feet are too big. If the trap was dug up, it might snap on a finger and hurt really badly, but once you unlocked the trap and got the finger out, it would be fine. It’s just designed to hold the coyote. Then we come and put it down.” One month’s service (with unlimited coyote removal) is $385.

Finally, I spoke with Jeff Solomon of RunCoyoteRun.com. “Within three months of moving into our new home in Texas,” he explained, “we lost three cats to coyotes. Now, we owned 20 cats, so we started looking for solutions. I became friends with a guy who lived down the road, an avid hunter. He said the sounds of a coyote’s natural predator would chase it away. I found some public domain sounds of territorial big cats and put them on an 80-minute CD at five-to-seven-minute intervals. Then I hid CD players under plastic drums and covered those with branches. I had two CD players going 24 hours a day. We haven’t lost a single cat since we started in 2009.” At first, he said, “the sound may be distracting. But after a while, it becomes part of the background noise.” The CD will last about 10–12 months before it burns out. Cost is $20 per CD. Shipping is free.

We were having a barbecue in the backyard with friends when a coyote showed up, killed two of my chickens, and absconded with one of them by leaping over our back fence. Everyone was amazed. I was mad.

“Coyotes usually hunt in early morning or closer to evening, especially if you’re in a more urban area,” said Eric Voigt of Wildlife Removal Services, Inc. (619-228-5258, wildlife-removal.com). “But if you’re in a rural area, or if food is becoming scarce and coyote populations are going up, they’ll come out in the middle of the day looking for food. Especially when it’s something easy, like a chicken.” Coyotes, he said, generally come into a yard by either jumping a fence or digging under it.

Live trapping in cages “is not really effective. They’re too smart. The best thing is to use noose traps or leg-hold traps. If a coyote is digging under a fence, you may be able to set a noose. You can also try hazing — using noises or lights to deter them. You usually use a device that works with a motion detector, and that works for a while. But physical barriers are the only way to keep them out for good.” Voigt can install electric fence wire and/or roll bars to help. “Roll bars are free-spinning bars that mount on the top of your fence. Most coyotes can’t clear a six-foot fence just by jumping it. They’ll put their front paws over the top and then pull themselves over. If you have a roll bar, the bar will spin and the coyote will slide off. Electric fence wire can run in a single strand along the top or bottom of the fence.” Price for either option “will depend on the size of your fence. I’d say you’ll start at $400–$500 and go up from there.

When I told Scott Thomas of AA Trappers (714-855-8690) that the coyote had taken one of my chickens, he said, “It’s going to do it again. The coyote has already associated your piece of land with a food source. It will come back every day. Coyotes are smart. They used to hunt at night, but people started bringing their pets in at night. The coyotes caught on, and now they’ll take pets in the middle of the day. They’ll take anything under 20 pounds.” Thomas uses foot clamps to catch coyotes. “It’s like a bear trap — they step in it. I usually bait it with red meat. The bait and the trap have to be buried. I make it look like another animal has buried food. It’s very tricky; you have to have the correct distance between the trap and the bait. I can’t leave any scent when I set it. There can’t even be rust on the trap; they’ll smell it, realize it’s not natural, and refuse to go near it.”

What about my kids? “It won’t catch a kid’s foot; their feet are too big. If the trap was dug up, it might snap on a finger and hurt really badly, but once you unlocked the trap and got the finger out, it would be fine. It’s just designed to hold the coyote. Then we come and put it down.” One month’s service (with unlimited coyote removal) is $385.

Finally, I spoke with Jeff Solomon of RunCoyoteRun.com. “Within three months of moving into our new home in Texas,” he explained, “we lost three cats to coyotes. Now, we owned 20 cats, so we started looking for solutions. I became friends with a guy who lived down the road, an avid hunter. He said the sounds of a coyote’s natural predator would chase it away. I found some public domain sounds of territorial big cats and put them on an 80-minute CD at five-to-seven-minute intervals. Then I hid CD players under plastic drums and covered those with branches. I had two CD players going 24 hours a day. We haven’t lost a single cat since we started in 2009.” At first, he said, “the sound may be distracting. But after a while, it becomes part of the background noise.” The CD will last about 10–12 months before it burns out. Cost is $20 per CD. Shipping is free.

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Say what you will about comics fans — they’re a punctual crowd. At the Little Fish Comic Book Studio launch party (which I blogged about in advance last month), people started streaming through the doors at 6:30 like there was nowhere else they’d rather be. By seven, the interior of the building achieved a nasty level of heat and humidity, but it was all good because there was beer.

So much beer. And wine. And a dispenser filled with mai tais. The organizers went bonkers on the liquor bill. There was enough liquid refreshment in that building for every party guest to drink himself into a stupor and have enough left over for a little hair of the dog in the morning. Of course, if that had happened, you’d be hearing about it on the news, not here in “Crasher.”

One guy said he felt like he was at a high school party because the mai tais, garnished with big chunks of pineapple, reminded him of drinking “jungle juice” out of backyard buckets.

Jubilee Olivas and Kenny Kim from ‘90s-themed cover band the Big Lewinsky played acoustic versions of STP and Red Hot Chili Peppers tunes at the back of the studio space with the exhibited artwork. Rumor has it they’ll play the 710 Beach Club in P.B. soon.

The O.B. Seafood truck was on the scene to soothe guests’ hunger. They pulled up out front, opened the windows, and sold delicious yellowtail ceviche, shrimp cocktail, skewered scallops with bacon, and other tasty snacks.

People couldn’t stop talking about the cake. Made and delivered by Emily from Twiggs Bakery, it was a replica of Han Solo frozen in carbonite at the end of The Empire Strikes Back. Set up in the studio, it was equal parts art and pastry. A rotating cast of characters contributed to a series of comic illustrations destined for the studio’s walls. At one point, four-year-old Lily got her hands on a brush and laid wide, green swaths of paint across whatever canvas she could reach from two feet high.

I met some interesting people at the party, among them:
1. A guy in a wheelchair, whom I later found out is a prolific writer when someone handed me a stack of CDs that contained audio of his work. I’m stoked to listen, and I have a mission to find out the rest of his story.
2. Charlene and Miley, neighbors I didn’t know I had. Miley knew about the University Heights neighborhood tortoise and she told me a story about getting in a staring contest with him one time. “Have you heard of the cat wink?” she asked me. I hadn’t. “It’s like a slow blink that cats do when they really trust you,” she said. “One day, I walked over to the tortoise and he ran up to me way faster than I thought a tortoise could move. I got down on his level and I slow-blinked at him and he started doing it back at me! Next thing I knew, I was having this unreal moment like the tortoise was doing some crazy voodoo on me or something.”
3. Gary and Logan who operate the Cellar Door supper club in Normal Heights. I want to go to one of their dinners, if I can just remember to make reservations.

Say what you will about comics fans, they’re a respectful bunch. Come pumpkin time, a hundred people vanished without a trace, leaving behind enough beer for a second party.

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation.

Find more Crasher stories at SDReader.com/news/crasher/
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**100 Watts 2 Way**
Cheerleading is more dangerous than fighting

It’s Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., and I am waiting for amateur mixed martial arts fighter Jaime Reyes at the Lakeside Cafe. When he walks past me, I don’t even notice. I am expecting someone beefy, tattooed, or, at the very least, goateed. Jaime is wearing a hoodie and shorts. Black socks peek out from under Adidas slip-on sandals. He is baby-faced and rail-thin and looks no older than 15.

He orders a fruit salad and ice water. He calls our 20-something waitress “ma’am.”

“I have a fight in a few weeks,” he says. “I need to weigh 135.”
“My girlfriend weighs more than me right now,” Jaime laughs. “I decided after my last fight to drop down ten pounds. The guys I used to fight against weighed 145. My natural weight is 140. They were bigger and tougher.”

Jaime started mixed martial arts fighting when he was 20.

“In the beginning, I was doing [it] for self-defense. Before then, I didn’t like any kind of punching. I wanted to try out martial arts to see what it was like. I didn’t want to cage fight or anything.”

Jaime began training in jiu-jitsu and muay thai. Six months later, his gym arranged a cage fight at Epic 3. At the time, Jaime didn’t know how to strike or take a guy to the ground.

“I guess my coaches saw something in me. They wanted to show me I had the ability to fight at an amateur level. My coach said, ‘Test yourself. See where you’re at.’ I went for it. I was 20 years old. My opponent, Marcus Aven, was 25. He was undefeated.”

The atmosphere at Epic 3 was something Jaime had never experienced. The event was oversold, and Epic, the fight-promotion company, was forced to turn people away at the door. Jaime estimates that somewhere between 1000–2000 spectators filled the seats. The fire marshal had to come in and tell people to go home.

“I grew up in Lakeside,” Jaime says. “There’s not much action here. So it was pretty intimidating. That night, when my opponent stepped into the ring, I thought, Oh, my god, I am about to fight a full-grown man!”

He was stocky and so buff. I put my left hand out to engage him. He hit me. He grabbed my arm in a weird position. He put me down on my knees. He gave me an uppercut and pulled me up to my feet. He gave me a jab and a hook. That’s when I snapped into reality and realized that I was in a real, actual fight, right then. I started jumping up and down to get my jitters out. When the first bell rang, I was thinking, Oh, my god, this is the crazy! My legs felt like they were 100 pounds.”

Jaime lost that night by decision. But he and his opponent were awarded fight of the night.

Jaime has fought seven more fights since then. He won three by submission, lost three by decisions and one by armbar. He trains Monday–Friday for two hours each day. He goes to the gym in the evening, after working at Home Goods in El Cajon, where he stocks and carries furniture out to customers’ cars. Each week, he spends three days at the Dungeon mixed martial arts gym in Santee, and the other two at Marron’s Boxing Club in Lakeside. He takes the weekend off, with the exception of one hour of muay thai on Sundays.

Last year, Jaime lost four months of training due to an injury. It happened while he was sparring with a friend at the gym. Jaime failed to wear a cup and took a knee to the groin. He lay on the mat tossing and turning. He couldn’t get up for an hour.

“I felt a burning sensation. My testicle swelled up to the size
of a grapefruit. It was crazy. I went to a doctor at Sharp [Memorial Hospital]. He told me I had to have surgery to drain it. I was too scared for that, so I went to a hole-in-the-wall doctor’s office in Chula Vista. That guy wanted to stick a needle in my testicle. I was freaking out. I couldn’t eat, walk, or even get out of bed for four days. I didn’t have health insurance because I had been recently laid off. I decided to go to TJ. The doctor there told me all the same things that the other doctors said. ‘Or,’ he said, ‘I can give you pills, and you can pray to God.’

Two weeks later, I started seeing a reaction to the pills. The swelling went down. It took four months to heal. As soon as I got better, I started hitting the gym again.”

Because of injuries like those, Jaime’s mom is not a fan of mixed martial arts.

“My family trips out on the damage I get from fights and how many hours I put into training. They are skeptical of the sport, shocked that I’m a mixed martial arts guy. She saw me as a quiet guy that stayed out of trouble. No one expected me to do this. My mom worries about me getting hurt and not being able to take care of my six-month-old son. She does not like this sport at all, but she is so supportive. She’s my backbone. My mom, dad, and girlfriend go to every fight. ”

“I would appreciate it if someone would tell me, because, if it’s true, I should probably think about a different career.”

The Fight Promoter

“Cheerleading is more dangerous than mixed martial arts fighting. So is figure skating,” says Jason Stewart, owner of Epic Fighting. “This may hurt some fighters’ egos, but mixed martial arts doesn’t even make it on the top five most dangerous sports list. It usually falls at 17, after golf and baseball.”

We are in Chula Vista, sitting on the patio of an Asian restaurant. Jason is wearing a crisp button-down shirt with boxing-glove cuff links, trousers, and expensive-looking shoes. Jason created Epic Fighting two years ago. He saw a void in the San Diego amateur fighting world and decided to fill it. His goal with Epic is to offer an Ultimate Fighting Championship experience. Once a month, he showcases local fighters at cage fights held at places such as the Four Points Sheraton off Aero Drive in Kearny Mesa, and at 4th and B downtown. There are usually 10–15 fights per show.

When he first started, Jason would wake up in the middle of the night from a recurring nightmare in which his first show was empty. He began to post on Facebook about the event. He hung posters. By the fourth show, he was turning a profit. Jason attributes a portion of his success to the large mixed martial arts culture in San Diego.

“San Diego is a haven for gyms. You could argue that it’s either us or Vegas that is the best in the nation for mixed martial arts. Some of it has to do with the fact that many jiu-jitsu guys are Brazilian. The climate in San Diego is similar to Brazil. They feel real comfortable here. All [these] gyms need jiujitsu guys.”

The fighters who compete at Jason’s shows don’t get paid. That’s the norm in the amateur world. Pro fighters are the only ones making a paycheck.

“The fighters do it because they love it,” he says. “They like the fame. Some of them just want to fight — they don’t care when or how.” But it can be risky for amateur fighters to turn pro. “For
a lot of these fighters, once they go pro, their mixed martial arts careers are over. [There are more] pro fighters looking [for shows] than shows happening. I know pro fighters that haven’t fought in two years. They would die to get in the cage. Since most are only fighting once a year — and have to pay $1000 to get medically cleared for that year — they stop getting cleared. They go to the Indian reservations to fight, because those aren’t state-regulated.”

Jason makes sure that his amateur shows are safe for competitors. He sees this as a way to ease fighters into the pro mixed martial arts arena.

“My amateur fights have three two-minute rounds. In the UFC, it’s three five-minute rounds. [At my fights] there is no eye-gouging, pinching, poking, biting, or groin strikes. You can get deducted a point or kicked out for that. You can’t kick or kneel a downed opponent in the head. You can’t hit the back of the head, either. You can elbow, though we have yet to allow knees or elbows to the face. We want our fighters to fight hard and fight often. We want them to stay healthy. If they do
go pro, we want them fresh and free of scar tissue that will open up every time they fight. We do this so they have a good chance at a solid career."

The Gym
A few weeks later, I follow Jaime Reyes’s black Honda Civic around a curvy road, past an ostrich farm, and down a dirt alley to Marron’s Boxing Camp in Lakeside. Marked with a hand-painted wooden sign, the gym is constructed of tarp and metal pipes. It’s more like a tent than anything else; it’s even in a back yard. Two oversized flags flap in the wind. One is American, the other Mexican.

Shirtless, sweaty guys sit on plastic chairs; one guy has stitches above his right eyebrow. Inside, there are two boxing rings built up over the dirt floor. Plastic buckets have been placed strategically in various locations; from time to time, guys hack loogies into them. A sign reads “KEEP THIS GYM CLEAN! NO SPITTING ON THE FLOOR.” Gym rules are written out in Spanish and English. Boxing gloves hang on hooks from the window, and posters cover one wall, some of women in bikinis; others, the faces of boxers. Punching bags are in one corner, exercise equipment in another. Jaime gets into a ring and begins circuit-training. He turns up the stereo and shad-

owboxes. He shuffles around the ring, kicking and punching. His rhythm is so perfect, he looks like a dancer. There are seven other guys in the room. One of them, Ramiro Rodriguez, a round-faced man in his early 30s, is Jaime’s boxing coach.

“How’s your weight?” he shouts.

Jaime shouts back, “137!”

Ramiro smiles. “Good!”

Jaime is the only guy here who is barefoot. He’s so thin he looks breakable. He is conditioning for a fight on September 8, at Epic 14. He’ll be competing in the featherweight category.

“I want to have 15 fights, a title belt, and be 24 when I go pro,” he says. “I’m young; I’m really young. Most mixed martial arts guys are a lot older. By the time I’m their age, I’ll be at a different level of sponsors to expect. I want experience. That should help me out to where I want to be. I don’t even know what pros get paid or what kind of sponsors to expect.
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I’m not worried about that. People think I’m crazy because I don’t get paid to fight. I’ve never been paid by my sponsors, either. I get a discount at Marron’s because I’m an amateur fighter. Normally, this gym is $35 a month. I pay $25. As of right now, I’m not looking for money. I want people to acknowledge that I’m a good fighter. I just want fans.”

The Fights
The lobby at the Four Points Sheraton is filled with mixed martial arts fighters waiting to be weighed in for Epic 13. They sprawl on couches. Some sit on tables, others on the floor.

A muscular-looking man addresses the fighters. “My goal is this: I want to get you on the scale as soon as possible. Fill out your pre-fight physical and bring it back to me with a photo ID. You must have a photo ID!”

One fighter whispers to another, “I really shouldn’t be fighting tonight. I hurt my back. We’ll see what happens, though…”

A young man sitting across from me diligently fills out his form. He’s small-framed, with a faux-hawk hairstyle. His name is Scott Morris. He’s fought in only one amateur fight. He lost. “I was very pissed,” he says. “It was a good learning experience, though. I’m going to win tonight. I know I will.” Scott’s brother, Joey Radcliffe, is with him today. He pipes in: “It was embarrassing to watch. You don’t want to see your family lose.”

Scott Morris is only 21. By the time he’s 25, he’d like to be a pro mixed martial arts fighter. He tells me that he’s surprised his mom is coming to his fight tonight. “She couldn’t watch last time,” he says.

Heather Hyatt, the matchmaker for Epic Fighting, a blonde woman wearing a bumpit, short-shorts, platform heels, and a tight tank top, places a small white digital scale in the center of the room. “That’s really what they weigh you on?” I ask Scott. “Uh-huh,” he says. “What were you expecting? One of those big ones they use in boxing?”

I nod. Within minutes, nearly everyone in the room has stripped down to boxer shorts for the weigh-in. A group of children walk past — they’re participating in a golf camp at the hotel — and gawk at the beefy fighters in their underwear.

Scott’s weight is 143. He’s fighting at 145. “They’ll weigh us again in a few hours. Some guys are either going to get a big meal or do some sprints around the block.” Scott laughs. “I’m going to eat Chinese food because it’s hard for my body to break that stuff down.”

Six hours later, I watch Scott fight. His opponent, J.W. Lee,
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- Are between 7 and 17 years of age

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Compensation and transportation may be available for those who qualify. Health Insurance not needed.

**Do you or someone you know suffer from Schizophrenia?**

Doctors in your area are conducting a clinical research study of an investigational drug for Schizophrenia.

Please call if:

- A doctor has diagnosed Schizophrenia
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You may qualify for a local research study for people aged 18 years or older with depression.

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Symptoms of ADHD include difficulty remembering information, difficulty concentrating, trouble organizing or completing tasks, and procrastination.

Qualified participants may receive study-related psychological evaluation(s) and may also receive compensation for time and travel.

**Compensation and transportation may be available for those who qualify. Health Insurance not needed.**

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www.synergysandiego.com

North County
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Escondido, CA 92025
knocks Scott clear across the ring during the second round. Scott falls to the ground and doesn’t get up. The ref waves his finger slowly in front of Scott’s eyes, testing his vision. Scott slowly sits up. Lee wins by TKO and is later awarded knockout of the night. I see Scott’s brother outside the cage. He looks more worried than disappointed.

I Get Angry and Punch Things

Don Murphin is on the promo flyer for Epic 13, pictured in the ring sitting on an opponent who lies flat on his back, scowling. As it turned out, at Epic 13, Don never made it into the cage. He had to pull out of the fight due to a fractured rib, an injury sustained on June 24, during Summerfist at the Del Mar Fair.

“I won that fight,” he assures me, “but I couldn’t hide how much pain I was in. You can see it in my face [in the photo].”

Don admits that he got into mixed martial arts because he wanted to learn how to be a better street fighter. He used to watch the Ultimate Fighting Championship guys on TV: he thought he could beat them.

“Cage fighting is the closest thing to being a street fighter. Before I started training mixed martial arts, I got into a lot of fights. I felt like I had something to prove. I was like the Hulk. In my 20s, I used to freak out — I’d black out, and everything in my apartment would be broken. I’ve kicked down front doors, broken my hand on the TV, broken windshield. Mixed martial arts taught me self-control. I feel restrained by society, [so] it’s good to get in the cage and let it go. It’s like therapy.”

Don trains every day. He sees it as a necessity.

“Fighting is great, but the training is where I let it all out. If I’m not physically active, I get really depressed and suicidal. I feel aggressive toward society. Mixed martial arts is a huge, awesome thing for me. Showcasing my skills at an amateur level has answered my prayers.”

Don grew up fighting. He was in the foster-care system.

“Before I was 12, I had five or six concussions from fighting. The doctors say that’s a big deal, but a lot of time has elapsed since then. I don’t worry about brain damage. I’m always injured — it’s part of the game. Boxing is far more dangerous than mixed martial arts. In boxing, most hits go to your head. You’re working with a concussed brain. In mixed martial arts, you get knocked down and a guy gets on top of you and pounds you. It’s over. It looks more...”
MAJOR DEPRESSION

If you are one of the 15 million adults affected by depression, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational depression medication now being studied. You must be:

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Call for more information
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619-229-3909

brutal, but it’s less damaging.”

Don rattles off some of his mixed martial arts injuries: broken bones in his feet, broken thumbs, fractured ribs, and shoulder injuries.

“I broke both my hands, but that was before I even started training. I get angry and punch things.”

Despite multiple injuries, Don says he doesn’t have medical insurance.

“I use Google. I had a shoulder impingement. I looked it up and treated it myself. I type in my injuries, and it tells me all I need to know. I looked up my fractured rib and learned everything the doctor would’ve told me. The only difference is a doctor would charge me and give me painkillers. I don’t like to take pills When I was a little kid, they forced me to take pills, because I was hyperactive and overly aggressive. I would rather have the pain.”

Dan says that his mom would like it if he gave up mixed martial arts fighting. “My mom hates it. She won’t come to my fights. She’s proud of me, though.” He shrugs. “It’s fine. I’ve always been the black sheep of my family.”

Dan plans on winning a few mixed martial arts fights. “My mom hates it. She won’t come to my fights. She’s proud of me, though.” He shrugs. “It’s fine. I’ve always been the black sheep of my family.”

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Dan plans on winning a few mixed martial arts belts before going pro.

“I am 2 and 1 right now. If I wanted to, I could go pro. I’ve learned so much in these last three fights. I’ve already changed my fighting style. Ten more fights of this, and I’ll be more than ready to go pro. My first fight sucked. I was choked out after 37 seconds. I was defeated before I could show my abilities. I don’t mind losing, if I can show what I can do. Cage fighting is a lot like being a rock star.”

The Pros
Manny Murillo’s pro mixed martial arts fighting career is his family’s only source of income. He’s married and has two sons, aged eight and five. In 11 fights, Manny has yet to lose. His paycheck doubles when he wins.

“My first pro fight, I only got paid ten dollars. The promoter actually told me that I owed him money. But in the end, he gave me ten bucks. They pay us very little starting off. [Now] promoters pay me, but most pros get their money from sponsors. I need sponsors.”

I meet Manny and his family at a Denny’s in Murrieta. It’s a Tuesday afternoon, and he has a fight at the Commerce Casino in L.A. in four days. He weighs 197 and needs to be down to 185 by Friday. Manny doesn’t order anything off the menu. His two boys eat kiddie pancakes with fruit salads. He eyes their plates.

“Every time I fight, I have to drop about 20 pounds for a perceived advantage. When you cut that much weight, sometimes you end up weaker than you were. As a wrestler, I’ve been fighting weight my whole life.”

“It’s his weakness,” his wife Celia laughs. “Yeah, the diet is the hardest part. I love sweets, doughnuts, and soda.”

Manny became interested in mixed martial arts in 1995, when he was a Marine stationed in Hawaii. He saw a mixed martial arts fight on TV and was amazed. “At that time, there wasn’t much going on with the sport. It was still illegal in many places.”

During his time in the Marine Corps, Manny was on a wrestling team. “I did well.
Chronic Low Back Pain and Constipation Study

Have you been treating your chronic low back pain with prescription pain medication and experiencing constipation?

A research study is currently underway in your area to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication to help treat moderate-severe low back pain and the constipation that may occur in people taking prescription pain medications.

In order to qualify, you must:
- Be 18 years or older
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Qualified participants may receive:
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- Compensation for time and travel

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Are you a male between the ages of 18-75 and suffer from Hypogonadism (low testosterone levels)?

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The Scripps Research Institute

Please call 858-784-7867 (STOP) or visit www.pearsoncenter.org for more information.

I won more than I lost. I only lost to the guys that were really good. I always placed at the tournaments.”

When he got out of the service, he ended up in Murrieta, five miles from one of the world’s best mixed martial arts gyms, Quest, run by Dan Henderson, two-time Olympic gold winner in wrestling and an Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter.

“I joined Quest and got really into mixed martial arts.”

Manny’s next career goal is to secure a contract with Ultimate Fighting Championship. He believes it hasn’t happened to him yet due to a lack of star power. “I’m not real outgoing,” he says, “but it’ll happen.”

He hasn’t had any bad injuries yet, though he did break his nose during a fight. “The funny thing is that, the next week, I sparred against Dan Henderson at practice. He hit my nose and rebroke it. That ended up fixing it.” Manny laughs.

Brain damage isn’t something he worries about.

“In terms of long-lasting injuries, football is much worse. You never see mixed martial arts fighters carried out on a stretcher, like football players are. In mixed martial arts, there are a lot more bruises. You may get banged up, but if you win, it’s easy to overlook all of that.”

Manny doesn’t like to talk about losing. He knows that, at some point, there will be a fighter able to defeat him in the cage. But he’s optimistic it won’t happen anytime soon.

“I don’t worry about losing. If I ever do, there’s nothing I can do about it. I know it’s going to happen eventually. Before I fight, I always believe that I will win.”

“Hypogonadism (low testosterone)”, and would like to participate? Contact Kathleen Gaa, Research Enrollment Coordinator, at 1-888-421-5699 for more information.

For more info. see if you qualify to participate, call 619-265-8865 or visit our website at www.pearsoncenter.org.

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To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call 858-784-7867 or visit our website at pearsoncenter.org for more info.
Even with proper diet and plenty of exercise, keeping your blood sugar under control can still be challenging. If you have Type 2 Diabetes, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational medication.

Are 18 years or older • Have been told your blood sugar is too high.

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

Learning to live with this chronic disease is not easy. Even with proper diet and plenty of exercise, keeping your blood sugar under control can still be challenging.

If you have Type 2 Diabetes, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational medication.

You may qualify for a study if you:

- Are 18 years or older • Have been told your blood sugar is too high.

If you qualify, you will receive study related care and study medication at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may be provided.
on the team. One is blonde, the other brunette. Both have their hair styled in sloppy Princess Leia buns.

The brunette, whose name is Ashley, has frosty-pink fingernails and a black eye. I overhear her telling her grappling partner, “One of the guys accidentally threw an elbow last practice.”

The partner, twice her size, pins her down and smacks her butt.

Ricardo Feliciano, the jiu-jitsu coach, jokes, “Slap her face, she likes that.”

To my left, Team Quest member Fernando Gonzalez sits at the edge of one of the boxing rings, watching the guys practice. Fernando has the worst case of cauliflower ear I’ve ever seen, the flesh so lumpy you can’t see the hole that leads to his ear canal.

He wears a thick black band with a green light on it around his ankle.

“I don’t worry about losing. I know it’s going to happen eventually.”

“House arrest,” he explains. “I can come here because I work at the gym. I’m a pro fighter, a trainer, and I clean the equipment and pads at Quest, so the guys don’t get ringworm or staph infections.”

Fernando’s arrest stemmed from an attempted carjacking charge. He tells me he is innocent and that the judge showed him leniency by putting him on house arrest. He’s allowed to go to and from the gym, and he can take off his ankle monitor during fights.

“When I do that,” he says, “I have to tack on an extra day of house arrest.”

Fernando went pro a year and a half after he started training in mixed martial arts. He tried out for Spike TV’s reality show The Ultimate Fighter and has fought with the Strike Force, a stepping stone to the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

“My goal is to be in the UFC and fight for the title. I’m confident that I will get there. Most Team Quest guys are almost there. Once you get wins in the Strike Force, you can get into the UFC.”

Fernando says his mom supports him in his mixed martial arts career.

“My mom is the most supportive in my family. She got my brothers and me into wrestling to keep us out of trouble. I have home videos of her at my wrestling matches, screaming, ‘Get him! Get him!’ My dad is the one who worries. He wants me to do something else. He feels like...
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the better I get, the higher caliber the guys I fight against will be. He worries about my safety. I understand that there could be brain damage. Once you love something, you just have to do it. The thrill is better than the worry.”

Fernando is considering becoming a pro boxer as well. He hasn’t been able to fight as much as he’d like.

“It gets slow with mixed martial arts. There are only so many pro fights. I’m primarily a striker, so boxing works for me. At the lower level of pro mixed martial arts, I get between $1500 and $3000 to fight and another $1500 to $3000 if I win. In the UFC, you start at about $3000 to fight, with another $3000 to win. By your third fight, most guys are making $20,000. They go up from there.”

Before I have a chance to ask another question, Fernando motions behind me.

“That’s Dan Henderson over there. He has a UFC title fight on September 1, against John Jones.”

I turn my head. Dan stands three feet away. I stare at his ears — they are big and cauliflowered. Dan looks just like he does in the posters: scary and serious.

“I have home videos of my mom at my wrestling matches, screaming, ‘Get him! Get him!’”

Ultimate Fighting Championship Fighters
When I interview Shannon Gugher on a Monday night at the Boxing Club in Kearny Mesa, he cycles on a stationary bicycle the entire time. Beads of sweat form on his forehead, but his tone...
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Former Ultimate Fighting Championship middleweight Shannon Faber has a strong will, a strong passion and a strong personality, which is why he’s a strong fighter. When I get back into the UFC, I’ll be better.”

Shannon’s parents are supportive of his career choice, although his mom can’t bring herself to go to his fights.

“I could have taken a bunch of other paths.

“If we don’t fight, we get depressed. Our sport becomes our identity.”

I have friends from my Chula Vista high school that are in jail or are drug addicts. Some of them are dead. I’m not like my two brothers. They did the college thing and have professional jobs. But my parents are so proud of me, as if I’m a doctor or something. A few weeks ago, they came into my gym to watch me train.”

Shannon acknowledges that, at 30, he’s getting up there in age. He’s aware that he can’t fight forever.

“My window for fighting is open for another five years. After that, I will stay in the mixed martial arts

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The Ultimate Fighting Championship Is a Traveling Circus
“The problem with mixed martial arts fighting is that we get addicted to it,” says Chris Cope, an Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran. We’re sitting at a coffee shop in the Midway District, across the street from the Arena, his mixed martial arts gym.

“If we don’t fight, we get depressed. Our sport becomes our identity. When it comes time to retire, a lot of guys don’t know what to do anymore. You take Junior Seau, for instance; a lot of athletes face what he did. Sometimes that depression gets the most of us. That’s why I’m so adamant about doing other things. Fighting will never define me. It won’t become who I am; it’s just something I do.”

Unlike many pro fighters, Chris has a full-time job. He is a paralegal for a law firm in San Diego.

“When I am introduced to new people, they’re always told ‘This guy is a fighter.’ I could cure cancer, join the Peace Corps, be a multimillionaire, but all people want to talk about is fighting.”

It’s hard for me to picture Chris cage fighting. He is wearing khakis and a black three-button shirt with a Lacoste label. He has on round glasses. His hair is short. The only thing that gives him away are his cauliflower ears. Apart from that, he looks average, not like someone whose fight name is C-Murder.

“The name started out as a joke that stuck. It comes from the most ghetto rapper of all time. I think he’s in prison for murdering someone. When he gets out, he’ll probably kill my ass.” Chris smiles.

“It’s funny, because that’s not really what I’m about. It’s a psych-out.”

Chris has been involved in martial arts since he was seven. But he didn’t get into doing it.”

Chris’s parents were surprised how into mixed martial arts he became. For a long time, his mom thought it was a hobby, like Pop Warner football.

“My mom went to my first Strike Force fight. She got so nervous she was shaking. She had to walk out. She goes to fights now and doesn’t have as much of an issue. She wants me to stop, but she’ll never say it. She knows it’s my passion.”

When Chris started in mixed martial arts, pro guys in California fought in Tijuana.

“I never did that. I cornered a buddy one time. But I got such an adrenaline rush, I decided to keep...
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of mine down there. Everyone got paid cash — the rings were crooked. The guy that used to put on those fights was murdered in TJ during all that drug violence a few years ago.

Shortly after Chris went pro, he was cast in Spike TV’s reality program The Ultimate Fighter.

“I showed up to that audition in Vegas in a full spandex jump-suit. I acted like an idiot. I was still drunk from partying the night before. That was my fourth audition. The other times, I went in there begging for them to cast me. That time, I didn’t care. They looked at me and saw ratings.”

A few weeks later, they locked Chris in a house with 15 other guys. No music, radio, cell phones, or books.

“We were off the grid. I lived in a house with the people I fought against. It became normal. I would eat breakfast with my opponent and say, ‘See you later when we fight.’ Your whole sense of reality is skewed. In the end, you fight people that you started off on a team with. There are 16 competitors in the house and only one ultimate fighter.”

Despite losing to an opponent on one of the last episodes, Chris was invited to fight on the finale show. He won. As a result, he wound up with a contract.

“The UFC is like a traveling circus. Those guys are like carnies; they’re constantly on the road — round and round they go.”

After three losses, Chris was cut in February 2012. “My last fight with the UFC earned me $22,000 dollars for 15 minutes of work.”

But Chris says he wasn’t disappointed. “‘So many guys, when they make it to the UFC, they hold on to that. It becomes their identity. They do whatever it takes to stay with it. The way I see it is, I will always be a UFC vet. No one can take that away from me.’

When he was let go, Dana White, part owner of the Ultimate Fighting Championship, told Chris’s manager that, if he wins three consecutive fights, they will take him back.

“My first comeback fight after being dropped by the UFC was on an Indian reservation. I only made $50. There were only, like, 100 people there. It’s okay. I’ve never cared about the money.”

Chris admits that brain damage is a heavy concern.

“I worry about brain damage all the time. I’m paranoid. I always ask people if I’m slurring my speech. I’m constantly checking John Hopkins’ studies. I won’t do sparring sessions back to back. It’s not the initial blow that causes damage, it’s the hits after that. The times I get knocked out, I don’t spar for three weeks. A lot of guys will come to the gym and spar the next day. I’m not going to do that. I only have one brain.”

Near-Death Experience

A week later, Chris invites me to the Arena to watch him spar. When I arrive, a bulldog is sitting outside the gym. Inside, it smells like boys — body odor and dirty socks. I take a seat on a bench next to a half-full bottle of Jim Beam whiskey. The guy standing next to me is talking to another fighter, describing in full detail how he took a razorblade to a staph infection on his arm. He points at two round scars near his elbows.

“I didn’t have health insurance, so I went to town on it myself. You should’ve seen the amount of pus that came out.”

When Chris arrives, he’s still in his work clothes: khakis, a tucked-in button-down shirt, and sensible shoes. He emerges from the locker room a few minutes later in black shorts and a yellow shirt.

“I compare it to being like Batman,” he says. “I go to work and wear the suit, and then I come home and fight.”

All the other guys in the room, six in total, have tattoos snagging up their arms and legs. Chris doesn’t.

“My girlfriend isn’t a stripper, either.” He laughs. “I don’t know what it is, but mixed martial arts fighters love strippers, and strippers love them.”

Moments later, Chris is on the mats sparring with another fighter. I watch him pound and kick. He seems like a different guy than the one I met at the coffee shop. I’m reminded of something he said that night:

“Every time I fight, it’s like a near-death experience. When that cage door closes, I don’t know what’s going to happen. That’s why I do it. It’s a rush. Every time I walk to the cage, I think, Why the hell am I doing this? It doesn’t make sense. I’m about to fight some guy in a cage while people cheer me on. We’re going to be trying to kill each other. But when I win, I understand why I do it. Everyone loves to watch a good fight. I don’t care how peaceful you are, once you watch a mixed martial arts fight, you become hooked. People love violence.”

— Siobhan Braun
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Chargers stadium
continued from page 2

be covertly wrapped up in an indecipherable package that will conceal costs. The contract will be “written so nobody can understand it, and it will be written that way on purpose,” says former councilmember Donna Frye, who has also fought the sports subsidy/downtown mendicants.

“When people step forward to challenge [the taxpayer fleecing], the character assassination will begin. That will keep others from speaking out,” says Frye, who has been the victim of the downtown boosters’ slanders. (In fact, she had a mayoral election out, “says Frye, who has kept others from speaking out.”) The mainstream media “is not a sure thing. The media “is not a sure thing.

Former city attorney Mike Aguirre says a stadium “is not a sure thing. Financially, I don’t see how it can be done.” A subsidized stadium can’t be justified on economics, business sense, social priorities, equity — “only on selfishness. And people are recognizing selfishness is not the way to proceed.”

But, historically, greed and political dishonesty have won out. In the 2000 mayoral race, Dick Murphy denounced the 1995 stadium deal with the Chargers. The City had foolishly guaranteed the team revenue equivalent to 60,000 seats per game. The team was making more money not selling tickets than selling them and was not doing marketing.

Murphy threatened to sue the Chargers. It appeared he was the candidate who would be tough on pro sports subsidies. Eventually, the City owed the team $36 million for those unsold seats. Voters were outraged. But when the Chargers said they would end the guarantee, Murphy, by then mayor, gave them a deal that would cost more than $90 million over 20 years and grant them a three-month window every year in which they could break their lease and skip town.

Similarly, in the 2004 election, Murphy chided challenger Ron Roberts for being too cozy with the Padres, their owner John Moores, and developers and labor unions that might get rich from the new ballpark. But after the Padres shut down construction of promised ancillary buildings, Murphy came up with a plan that deviated from the one voters had approved in 1998. The City would raid hotel-tax revenues earmarked for civic and cultural projects. Under Murphy’s watch, the Padres got away with numerous stunts that departed from initial promises.

Murphy ran in 2000 and 2004 as the candidate with moderate, sensible views on sports subsidies, but he changed course completely once in office. “Murphy was a nobody. That’s why the establishment put him there,” says Damashek.

And then, among many crooked things, there were the gifts — including highly remunerative stock tips — that Moores showered on Councilmember Valerie Stallings, who was providing him information. He got off completely and she got a light wrist slap. Moores described his generosity as “simple human kindness. The establishment, chok- ing back tears, marveled at his magnanimity. So did law enforcement, the judiciary, political leadership, and the mainstream media.

Rugby — safer
continued from page 3

instead of football. First off, he mentions the greater ability of each player to participate in all aspects of the game. In football, it often happens that a few stars perform the exciting action, while the role of others is simply to block opponents. “In rugby,” says Calio, “whether you have 7, 13, or 15 players on teams, every single one of them has the opportunity to make a tackle or carry the ball and score. Sure, some players are more athletically gifted and will get the ball more often, but all players have some chance to get their names on the scoreboard. That’s attractive to kids.”

But what parents worry most about are serious injuries, especially concussions and repetitive lesser head traumas, which have been shown capable of causing brain disease later in life. In respect to American football, it’s commonplace nowadays to bemoan the transformation of the leather headgear of the good ole days into today’s hard-plastic helmet. Calio agrees. “My older son plays football for Poway High School now and you see that that thing on their heads is a weapon.”

But there’s more to it, Calio thinks, a kind of glorification of violent hits. “In rugby,” he says, “there’s no big emphasis placed on the tackle, per se. In American football, the tackle ends the play. So everybody is more likely to admire the big hits and remember them.” One thinks of how, after a quarterback is knocked to the turf and the play is over, the tackler often goes into a victory dance, jumping up and jabbing his fist in the air. Now, suppose there’s no time to stop and allow spectators to lust over the mayhem. “In rugby,” Calio continues, “even if you make that big hit, the play is still going, and the player tackle- led may have gotten the ball off to a teammate who can go on to score if you should start enjoying your big triumph. People are not going to remember the tackle; they’ll remember a score you allowed.”

Recently, national pundit George Will suggested on the Sunday-morning television program This Week that it will be parents who eventually force football to change. “It will start at the small level of kids playing football in grade school and then in high school. We now in our hypercautious parent- ing put crash helmets on children riding tricycles.”

Eleven San Diego County clubs belong to Southern California Youth Rugby, the sport’s regional governing organization. USA Football, although national in scope, is a counterpart for youth football. It is noteworthy that the latter organization has created a program called Heads Up Football. An Associated Press article on August 15 suggested that the program’s “motto could be ‘Get your head out of the game.’ It will start at the small level of kids playing football in grade school and then in high school. We now in our hypercautious parenting put crash helmets on children riding tricycles.”

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La Jolla flash
What a difference a year can make. Last August, La Jolla-based GOP political consultant Bob Schuman had a big winner on his hands in the form of a freshly minted presidential super PAC, Americans for Rick Perry. With $193,000 received in just six months — $100,000 of it from toxic-waste mogul Harold Simmons of Dallas — it looked as if Schuman’s independent bid to aid the conservative Texas governor was bound for glory. In all, $433,256 poured in. Then Perry’s bid tanked, and in January Schuman changed the name of the PAC to the Restoring Prosperity Fund. Without Perry’s name, though, no more cash has been collected, and this June the PAC took another step toward...
zeroing out its account by paying the Schuman Group $9500. In May, the committee had paid AccessPoint Media Group of Mission Hills $2668. That brought the fund’s cash balance as of the end of June down to $9764… Speaking of La Jolla politics, environmental super-lawyer Jan Chatten-Brown came up with $2500 for Barack Obama’s campaign on July 22. “She was the winner of the first ‘Riv’ey’ award by Friends of the Los Angeles River for her leadership in making the dream of a park at the Chinatown Cornfield and ‘Taylor Yard come true,’” says her website bio. Her law firm has of late been involved in battling the controversial Navy-Broadway project proposed by Union-Tribune owner Doug Manchester’s Manchester Investment Group.

— 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 tips to 619-231-0489.

NEWS TICKER
continued from page 2

Mayberry by the Sea
Polito.com knocks U-T’s Republican helpfest
San Diego County — On Tuesday, the Union-Tribune will sponsor a “One-Stop Shop” for political candidates. “The Republican Party of San Diego County sent out the invite to the event,” says the Los Angeles Times. The county Republican chairman will be on hand for the purported educational gathering.

San Diego CityBeat, as well as the Times, has cocked an eyebrow at the event, and now a national publication is doing the same. Dylan Byers of Politico.com says today (September 8) that the “San Diego Union-Tribune is hosting a media-training event for state Republican candidates, including lessons in ‘how to get noticed by the press, how to craft a press release’ and — wait for it — ‘how to get the endorsement of the largest paper in the city, the San Diego Union-Tribune.’”

At the event, the U-T will have chief executive John Lynch, the editorial board, the editor, and radio right-winger Roger Hedgecock on hand to talk with those who want to be media-savvy.

How long will it be before “Enron by the Sea” is nationally known as “Mayberry by the Sea”?

By Don Bauder
Saturday, September 8

Big Party Dollars
Peters campaign gets national help in ad funding
San Diego County — Scott Peters, the Democratic challenger to incumbent Republican Brian Bilbray in the newly drawn 52nd Congressional district, is poised to benefit big from party dollars outside the district rolling in to back his campaign.

Late last month, Peters won the state party’s “Win Back the House Challenge,” which declared him the nonincumbent candidate with the most grassroots support. As a result, he’s received online fundraising support at the state level.

The Reader’s Dorian Hargrove has reported that between the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and another group, House Majority PAC, over $1 million has been committed to advertising for the campaign.

By Dave Rice
Friday, September 7

Appointment a Puzzle
USD professor joins UCAN San Diego — Robert Fellmeth, professor of public interest law at the University of San Diego and a local ethics expert, has joined the board of deeply troubled Utility Consumers’ Action Network (UCAN), according to Kim Malcolm, UCAN executive director.

Fellmeth’s appointment is a bit of a puzzle. For decades, Fellmeth has been very close to Michael Shames, co-founder of UCAN. Shames left UCAN in June after his ethics came into question. The Reader revealed more than a year ago that Shames was skimming 10 percent off intervenor fees from the California Public Utilities Commission, was charging attorney-size sums for his hours worked while he was not a member of the bar, and also that $1 million for a China-bashing movie was routed by steel producer Nucor through UCAN in a deal that smacked of tax avoidance or money laundering.

The U.S. Attorney is investigating these alleged irregularities and others. UCAN filed for dissolution earlier this year, but that continued on page 48

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7/10/12
Man charged after pit bull attack

Valley Center — District attorney Bonnie Dumanis this afternoon announced the filing of charges against 40-year-old José Ledesma in connection with a Valley Center pit bull attack that resulted in the mauling of two young joggers.

The dogs belonged to a friend of Ledesma but were under his care when they attacked a family on a nearby jogging trail. The two victims were able to fight off the dogs but suffered serious injuries as a result.

Ledesma is charged with one misdemeanor count of failing to restrain a dog.

Dumanis said the filing of charges against Ledesma is the result of a request by the District Attorney's Office to file charges. The district attorney's office has received complaints from neighbors about the dog's behavior.

The dogs belonged to a friend of Ledesma but were under his care when they attacked a family on a nearby jogging trail. The two victims were able to fight off the dogs but suffered serious injuries as a result.

“San Diego’s future may be decided by UC regents,” said a source who requested anonymity. “The regents have been advised by the UC president that they must act quickly to make a decision about the future of Scripps.”

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“The danger is not in the boardroom, but in the classroom,” said a source who requested anonymity. “The regents have been advised by the UC president that they must act quickly to make a decision about the future of Scripps.”

The regents have been advised by the UC president that they must act quickly to make a decision about the future of Scripps.
**Thursday | 13**

**ENCINITAS CLASSIC CAR NIGHTS**  
The last night of this year’s summer car show in Encinitas, where hot rods, woodies, and other classic and vintage cars gather for public appreciation. Enjoy music by the Fabulous Woodies, the Retro Rockets, and DJ Zombeard, each on one of three stages.  
**WHEN:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Downtown Encinitas, South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-943-1950; encinitas101.com

**Friday | 14**

**URBAN CAMPOUT 2012: A SPACE ODYSSEY**  
Arrive in earthling or extraterrestrial costume (or not) for 15th annual “fun fundraiser for grownups” benefiting Girl Scouts San Diego. Play intergalactic games, explore auction prizes, then dine and dance under the constellations. $175.  
**WHEN:** 6 to 11 p.m.  
**WHERE:** San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park. 619-610-0807; sdlgirlscouts.org/uc2012

**Saturday | 15**

**CITYSOLVE URBAN RACE**  
“More than a scavenger hunt but less physical than a 5K, this hybrid combines trivia with a team-oriented adventure” for teams of two to four people. Solve clues and face challenges, such as bowling a strike, building a house of cards, identifying ice cream flavors, and putting puzzles together. Winners get a chance to compete for $6500 in the national championship.  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. Citysolveurbanrace.com

**Sunday | 16**

**BUNNYFEST 2012**  
Bring your bunnies! San Diego House Rabbit Society celebrates its 20th anniversary with bunny games, craft vendors, gourmet food trucks, rabbit vets, a silent auction, and more! You can also “enter your rabbit in the bunny bowling contest.”  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Balboa Park, corner of Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. 858-356-4286; catsandrabbithandmore.com

**Monday | 17**

**FELTED PILLOW COVER**  
Use “soft and cozy” dyed merino wool to create a pillow top to match your personal decorating scheme with instructor Jean Degenfelder. “Attach a fabric backing and you’ll have a very special pillow for your head or back.” Felt-making requires standing and some exertion. $80–$88 includes class and materials.  
**WHEN:** 1 to 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Road, Point Loma. 619-223-0058; bravoschoolofart.com

**Tuesday | 18**

**ART/DANCE ACADEMY PERFORMANCE**  
The Art/Dance Academy (Arabi Danse Academie) is a performing arts school dedicated to presenting, preserving, and educating the general public on ethnic culture and folklore of the Eastern Arabic Countries. Come experience it for yourself!  
**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street, Valencia Park. 619-527-3405.

**Wednesday | 19**

**COOKING WITH TRADER JOE’S**  
Deana Gunn, Encinitas local and Trader Joe’s cookbook author, shares her story, favorite cooking tips, and products. She will also demo a recipe and sign her latest cookbooks.  
**WHEN:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas. 760-753-7376; encinitaslibfriends.org
Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Rolling the Dice in Laos
By Andres Bautista

I found myself in a unique situation 8000 miles away in remote Laos. After taking a leap of faith, which involved quitting my cushy consultant job here in San Diego, I bought a one-way ticket to fulfill an itch to get lost in other parts of planet Earth for ten months.

How could I not buy that undocumented 100cc Honda Win motorbike from the two German hotties I ran into in Luang Prabang? After all, the $330 junker I was about to purchase put me in the upper echelon of mediocre motorbike ownership. After an unsuccessful attempt to flirt with one of the Germans, I cringed as I forked over my last of my U.S. dollars, not realizing this would be the best impromptu decision I made while overseas.

The words "Backfire Betty" were sloppily handwritten in white marker above the broken headlight, and a red-headed doll hung just below. I took a last look at Luang Prabang’s beautiful French-influenced streets and, with backpack, map, and phrase book in hand, began riding north...wherever that went.

Laos is on a blazing path to becoming the most desirable destination for thrill-seekers willing to go that extra mile in search of unspoiled beauty in Southeast Asia. Villages without electricity and dependency on small-scale farming are still ways of life in this nation sandwiched between Thailand and Vietnam. Trekking, canyoneering, and long-distance motorbike excursions, however, are just as common and appealing to Westerners and Aussies alike.

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On one occasion where I was slightly lost and extremely hungry, I stopped on the side of the road to ask for directions (by pointing at my map) and food (by pointing at my mouth). A man immediately invited me to sit down with the rest of his mates at the makeshift roadside restaurant we were in front of and offered me a small glass of Beerlao.

I accepted, and, using my phrase book, I started asking basic questions such as, “Are you married?” “How many kids do you have?” and “What is your job?”; to which he responded by saying, “Thank you” in English every time, regardless of the question.

With a huge smile, he then handed me a hard-boiled egg, which I anxiously cracked. My excitement turned to confusion when liquid cascaded out and, to my surprise, I saw a tiny chicken embryo inside! My immediate thought was Ha, they boiled the wrong egg. That thought quickly went out the window when none of their expressions changed as the embryo juice oozed down my hand.

Even with a beard, eyes, and some semblance of feathers, I was expected to at least try their gracious gift. I had no problem eating the hard yolk around the tiny bird (with a lot of salt and pepper) and in an attempt to share, I offered my host the egg by handing it to him. He would not take my last bite and, as I took the little cradle back from his hand, I accidentally dropped it on the ground! It was a total (yet fortunate) accident, and I was extremely embarrassed.

I scurried to the hut next door, bought a Beerlao for all to share, and took off on an empty and mildly queasy stomach. I looked back and they still had
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Huge sycamores and live oak trees highlight this easy walk in the canyon bottom.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 12 miles. Allow 20 minutes driving time. From I-5 north, merge onto SR-52 east, exit on Genesee Avenue, then right again into the Marian Bear Park parking lot. Restrooms and water at trailhead.

Hiking length: 2.5 miles. Open year round for hikers and bicyclists. Dogs on a leash permitted. Best time to visit is Sunday mornings when traffic sounds are lowest. Rain can limit access.

Take time to look at the broad palmate leaves of the western sycamore while hiking in San Diego’s first natural park.

In 1971, San Clemente Canyon became San Diego’s first officially dedicated natural park. It was rededicated as Marian R. Bear Memorial Park in 1979 for her role in preventing Highway 52 from being built in the San Clemente creek bed. She also helped in preserving Tecolote Canyon and passage of Proposition C, a $65 million open-space preservation plan for the acquisition of major parcels of park preserves within the City of San Diego. Mrs. Marian Bear was one of the city’s most active and persistent defenders of open-space preservation.

San Clemente East is centrally located with easy access to a riparian woodland habitat. This scarce environment is only meters in width, but with vegetation that is both dense and diverse. This is one of the most productive for wildlife, due to relatively abundant water and cold air drainage.

Start walking eastward on the dirt road toward I-805, crossing the creek bed that can be impassable during significant rain. Stay on the trail, as there is an abundance of poison oak growing among the riparian indicator species of sycamore, mule fat, and willows.

There are two south side trips to lengthen your walk: the first is Cobb Trail, an interesting shaded trail where at the end there are steps up to Cobb Drive. Walking up the steps and back add exercise before returning to the main trail. Another south trip follows high-voltage power lines up along an open trail to Conrad Avenue. Return to the main trail and continue east until reaching I-805, at which time, retrace your steps back to the parking lot.

San Clemente East joins the Rose Creek tributary near I-5 on its route to Mission Bay near the Kendall Frost Marsh.

Miles of tent camping along the San Luis River
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September 13, 2012
**OUTDOORS**

**Birding at Old Mission Dam**
During the dry season, water is a bird magnet. Explore bird populations at the dam with Mission Trails resident birder Jeanne Raimond. Search for resident and migratory species. Bring bird book and binoculars if you have them. Saturday, September 15, 8am; Sunday, September 16, 9am. (SAN DIEGO)

**California Coastal Cleanup Day**
Help clear away waterway debris at more than 80 coastal and inland cleanup sites all over San Diego County. Bring a reusable bucket, work gloves, water bottle. Registration, locations: 619-704-2773. Saturday, September 15, 9am; free. (SAN DIEGO COUNTY)

**Coastal Cleanup Day at the Mission Valley Preserve South**
Attack trash and illegal dumping along river. Tools and supplies provided. Light rain does not cancel. Dress in closed shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Meet in Cottonwood Grove near Sefton Park Baseball Complex. Saturday, September 15, 9am; free. Sefton Field, 2495 Hotel Circle Place. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Native Wisdom**
Learn how SD’s Kumeyaay Indians used their knowledge of ecology and the environment to survive and thrive. Saturday, September 15, 9:30am; Sunday, September 16, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Night Hike**
Naturalist Mike Kelly leads moderately paced, flat hike in search of wildlife including deer, bats, tarantulas. Meet at kiosk at corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur. 858-484-3219. Friday, September 14, 7pm; free. Pechauer's Creek Park, 8021 Park Village Road. (SAN CARLOS)

**Summer Twilight Walk**
Experience nocturnal nature as dusk descends on the park and night comes to the open spaces. Bring jacket, flashlight. Binoculars are optional. Saturday, September 15, 6pm; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (Santee)

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**Laos**
continued from page 50.

huge smiles on their faces.

After a few weeks of riding in central Laos, I made it to the capital city of Vientiane. As I walked through town, sampling the street food and drinking iced coffee out of plastic bags, I heard someone say to me in a German accent: “Hey! Didn’t you buy that motorbike in Luang Prabang?”

Martina, the girl who asked that question, was an hour or so away from purchasing Backfire Betty a few weeks ago. I had beat her to it.

I could see she was envious of my grand plan, which was to rumble all the way through southern Laos, cross into Cambodia, and then part with the bike by overcharging a Westerner or bequeathing her to a humble villager.

After chit-chatting with her for a few more minutes, I blurted out: “I’m kinda thinking of selling the bike.”

I couldn’t believe what I had just said!

Her eyes awoke with hope, and right then and there, in a matter of a nanosecond, I mentally broke up with Backfire Betty. I figured I’d had a pretty good run exploring the most beautiful part of Laos (north/central Laos). It would be more challenging to sell her in Cambodia.

I sold Backfire Betty to Martina for $350 U.S., and with that money booked into Cambodia, and then part with the bike there for myself.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
VS. COLORADO ROCKIES AT 7:05PM

Watch your Padres turn back the clock and wear their 1997 blue and orange pinstripe uniforms against the Rockies.

Come to the Park at the Park early and enjoy a 90s themed pregame concert FEATURING NO DUH STARTING AT 5PM.

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presented by Scripps Health

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30 min. prior to game time

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
VS. COLORADO ROCKIES
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Improve your knowledge of the music business through panels, mentoring, demo review sessions, and an acoustic pool stage. Featured speakers: Chuck D from Public Enemy, Wayne Kramer of MC5, Martin Atkins (TourSmart), many more.

San Diego Pirate Festival
Venture back in time, "when scoundrels ruled the seas and plundering was a way of life." Hundreds of costumed re-enactors will run amok. Parades, pirate battles, street entertainers, educational presentations, music, food, outdoor market, kids' activities, battle re-enactments and demonstrations. 805-496-6036. Saturday, September 15, 10am; Sunday, September 16, 10am; $15. Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. (HISTA)

Sing-Along! Love to sing? Grab a seat around the piano, enjoy "belting out...favorite golden oldies and sterling standards." Singing ability is appreciated, but not required. 858-581-9934. Friday, September 14, 11am; free. 18 and up. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

San Diego Pirate Festival
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Handel
Zadok the Priest
Handel
The King shall Rejoice
Purcell
I was glad when they said unto me
Tallis
Te Deum
Gibbons
Come Holy Ghost
Child
O Lord grant the King a long life
Blow
God spake sometime in visions

Pre concert discussion begins at 6.45pm

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Spirits of Mexico

Festival

The Spirits of Mexico Festival is set to showcase hundreds of the world’s top agave and other Mexican spirits in the historic heart of Old Town San Diego.

Barra Barra Saloon, 4016 Wallace Street.
Friday Sept. 14, 6 - 10pm.

Dozens of world class tequilas and hand-crafted tequila-infused cuisine. Be the first to learn which brands won the 2012 festival’s coveted awards, bid on rare one-of-a-kind collectables signed by master distillers.

$95 per person

Spirits of Mexico 5th Annual Awards Dinner

McCoy Garden Courtyard, 4016 Wallace St.
Saturday Sept. 15, 6 - 9pm

More than 200 styles of tequila, mezcal, sotol and other Mexican spirits. Meet master distillers, ambassadors and aficionados who share their passion - their spirits.

VIP tickets $75 (entry 6pm) General Admission $50 (7pm)

To buy tickets visit www.thespiritsofmexico.com
"Intentional Happiness: Current Research and Practical Tools for Increasing Happiness" It’s possible to increase your personal happiness. And here’s the good news: you don’t need to quit your job or run away from home to do it! This lively and informative series focuses on why individual happiness levels vary. Researcher estimates that our level of happiness is 50% genetically set, 10% life circumstances, and 40% personal habits and intentional activities. This two-part series focuses on the 40% you can control. You will leave the workshop with practical, easy to use tools for you, your children, your marriage and your friendships. Session One: Increasing Your Personal Happiness; Session Two: Increasing Your Family’s Happiness. Bar and hors d’oeuvre starts at 5:00 pm. Cost: $35 - $60. More information: http://www.howellfoundation.org.Tuesday, September 25, 6pm to 7:30 pm.Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6pm to 7:30pm. Liberty Station, Womble Road at Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Mira Mesa Street Fair 3rd Street for crafters, vendors, international food court, entertainment on two stages, children’s carnival with rides, Scout Village (showcase camping skills and equipment), more. Saturday, September 15, 10am; free. Camino Ruiz from Mira Mesa Blvd. to New Salem St. (MIRA MESA)

Pacific Sound Brass Quintet Experience “the power and naissance that brass can deliver, from the music of Bach and Copland to Ellington and Gershwin.” Guest appearance by organist Jan Feher and Westminster Choir. 619-232-7663. Sunday, September 16, 7pm; free. First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Vinny Golia Sextet Ensemble will expose the audience to saxophones of all shapes and sounds. The sextet features saxophone, trumpet, guitar, electric bass, and percussion. 760-438-5966. Saturday, September 15, 7pm; $15-$20. Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

"Dynamic: Blue Note After Rivera" features 12 paintings by Mexico City-based artist Roberto Cortazar, a series of recent works inspired by Diego Rivera’s “Hands of Dr. Moore, one of the museum’s "modern masterpieces." Cortazar's paintings approach this intimate subject from a highly personal perspective. Through September.

“The Human Beast: German Expressionism at the San Diego Museum of Art,” continuing through Sunday, November 11, highlights recent bequest of 48 German Expressionist paintings, drawings, and prints from estate of Vance E. Kondon and Elisabeth Giesberg. Exhibit explores the many faces of Expressionism, focusing particularly on the artists' attempts to evoke primal emotion in their depictions of unidealized nudes, the horror of war, or the overstimulation of modern life. New acquisitions from the Kondon-Giesberg bequest displayed with works by Alexej von Jawlensky, Gabriele Münter, Max Beckmann, George Grosz, others. Free-$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

7th annual UH Arts Open The University Heights Arts Open celebrates art in all its forms, featuring works and talks by painters, sculptors, potters, dancers, poets, actors and musicians. Free shuttle service available. 619-508-4075. Sunday, September 16, 11am; free. Venues throughout area. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Artists@Work Zen Painting Learn the art of contemporary Zen painting from Rosemary Kimball. Kimbal will also design an interactive piece that incorporates multiple viewers using an exquisite corpse-style project in which she begins a painting and passes it along for others to make their mark. Enjoy complimentary appetizers by Bull and a open beer and wine bar featuring Lagunitas craft beer. $15 for OMA members, $20 for nonmembers. Reservations: oma-online.org or 760-435-3721. Thursday, September 13, 6pm; $15-$20. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

Black and White Juried Art Exhibition Opening reception for The Jolla Art Association’s third annual black and white competition. Closing Sunday, October 7. 858-459-1196. Saturday, September 15, 5pm-$20-$150. The Jolla Art Association Gallery, 8100 Paseo del Ocaso, Suite B. (LA JOLLA)

Coronado Art Walk Enjoy art, live music, interactive art activities for families. More than 100 artists will display work in media from painting and photography to pottery, wood, glass pieces, jewelry. 619-437-8788. Saturday, September 15, 10am; Sunday, September 16, 10am; free. Ferry Landing Marketplace, 1201 First Street. (CORONADO)

The Urban Emporium The Urban Emporium returns to 98 Bottles in conjunction with Kettner Nights. The Back Room becomes a pop-up marketplace for local artisans to showcase and sell their wares. 619-255-7885. Friday, September 14, 6pm; free. 21 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

MUSICALS

Fall Concert Series Che-Yen Chen, principal viola for San Diego Symphony, plays Mendelssohn’s “Sonate für Bratsche allein No. 5” and Bach’s “Violin Partita No. 2 in G minor” (arranged for viola). Sunday, September 16, 2:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street (EAST VILLAGE)

Improvised Comedy Theater Unscripted and spontaneous! Stage Monkeys perform long-form improvised theater, using a “single suggestion from the audience” to catapult “into characters, scenes, games, songs,” more. Friday, September 14, 8pm; $5. 18 and up. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

BOOK SIGNINGS

MURDERING THE MOM Local author Duff Brenna gives reading and signing of her new memoir. Sunday, September 16, 12pm; free. 18 and up. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)


2 Pilates Classes for $20! Voted BEST Pilates Studio in San Diego 2011 and 2012!!! Enter code “Reader” for $20 deal! Class Options: • Power Pilates • Booty Barre • Piloxing • TRX • Boot Camp 1 month unlimited $139* *with a 3 month commitment

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**DANCE**

**Argentine Tango with Colette**
Will give you a First Free class, Monday, September 17, or Wednesday, September 19, at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm), and will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango at Dance Place San Diego in Point Loma. No need for a partner. More information: www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5567. Monday, September 17, 7pm. Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 108. (POINT LOMA)

**Barn Dance** Shadow River Regulators, Cimarron Ridge Old West Productions, Apache Canyon Gang living history groups and City of Poway present annual Rendezvous barn dance. Bring dancing shoes, participate in traditional dance lessons, dance the evening away. Saturday, September 15, 7pm; free. Templar’s Hall at Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road. (POWAY)

**Introduction to Modern Square Dance** Sandpipers Square Dance Club hosts classes. Dancers learn square dance movements rather than memorize dances, follow the lead of the square dance caller who creates the dance to fit the music. Children ten and older welcome to participate with their parents. 760-436-5207. Thursday, September 13, 7pm; free. 10 and up. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oak Crest Park Drive. (ENCINITAS)

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In Praise of a Gold and Silver Painted Scene of the Buddha Manifestation in the Pure Land of the West, with a Preface

Looking toward the west where the sun sinks away, Behold afar that Face of Great Compassion. Eyes pure as the waters of the four oceans, His body shines like a mountain of pure gold. By diligent contemplations we can surely be reborn, Thus the acclam of Ultimate Joy. Mid pearl netting and trees of precious jewels, the flowers of Heaven are scattered in fragrant halls.

In this painting it is all before our eyes, And in prayer we enthrall ourselves to that spiritual realm. On the oceans of power from the merit of this, Let Divine intercession be our boat and bridge, That eight billion kalpas of human sin May as frost be swept away by the wind. Let all think on the Buddha of Eternal Life, Ever praying for the light of his jade-like hair.—from "In Praise of a God and Silver Painted Scene..." by Li Po (trans. Ellen O. Eide)

Li Po (701–762) is considered one of the greatest poets of Chinese literature. Recognized at the time as a major poet of the Tang dynasty (618–907), Li Po wrote during what is often referred to as the "golden age" of Chinese poetry. With about a thousand of his poems extant, Li Po is a favorite among English translators. Some of the most famous English translations of Li Po were accomplished by modernist American poet Ezra Pound (1885–1972), who largely introduced the Western reading public to the poet. Although it is probable that he died a natural death, the popular account of Li Po’s death—that he drowned attempting to embrace the moon in a river—has passed into popular legend.

SAN DIEGO FALL FESTIVAL GUIDE 2012

SHEEP and GOATS

FIND OUT WHAT'S нового IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THIS WEEK...

SHEEP and GOATS

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SHEEP and GOATS

FIND OUT WHAT'S нового IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THIS WEEK...
Taste of University Heights
Taste of UH is a self-guided walking tour showcasing cuisines from diverse restaurants and eateries from noon-3pm, Sunday, September 16 ($25). Free shuttle service. Fusion free reception on Friday, September 14, 7 pm, at 3rd Space. 619-297-3166. Free $25. 3rd Space, 4610 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

The Spirits of Mexico Festival
Tasting reception, dinner, awards ceremony for tasting competition, and live auction allows guests “to meet the forces behind the participating brands.” Special menu infused with agave spirits will be prepared by Barra Barra executive Chef Jose Pudlo and his team. Main tasting event follows from 7-9pm in McCoy Garden Courtyard with mariachis and a live band, tastings and educational seminars for tequila enthusiasts to learn about the history and culture of each spirit, current trends in the spirits industry, and appropriate tasting techniques. 858-527-3000. Friday, September 14, 16pm; $75-$95. 21 and up. Barra Barra, 4016 Wallace Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

Spirits of Mexico — Main Tasting
Master distillers, industry experts, brand ambassadors present festival’s grand finale in McCoy Garden Courtyard. Tastings, educational seminars for tequila enthusiasts. Learn history and culture of each spirit, trends in the spirits industry, and appropriate tasting techniques. Saturday, September 15, 7pm; $50-$75. Barra Barra, 4016 Wallace Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

Tyler Florence Wine Dinner
Food Network’s Tyler Florence cooks a four-course dinner to go “perfectly with each sip.” RSVP: 760-476-2929. Thursday, September 13, 5pm; $20. 21 and up. Tri-City Wellness Center, 6250 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

Audit a College Course this fall!

Low Tuition!

The Works of C.S. Lewis • The Gospel of St. John • Macroeconomics • The Sound & Sense of Poetry • Intro to Human Disease • Human Resource Management and more...

Day & Evening Classes. Space is Limited. Call Now to Register!

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FOR KIDS

“Snapshots of Scripps Science” Peer at the important accomplishments of Scripps scientists through time with hands-on activities during Sea Days program. Test top-of-the-line digital camera equipment inside the aquarium (bring a photo storage card). Get tips on underwater and no-flash photography from experts, and learn about the past and future of Scripps explorations. Included in admission ($14 general, 858-534-7336. Saturday, September 15, 11am; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Art of East Asia Explore, learn about art on view during Family Drop-in Day with child-friendly tours and art making. For children 6-12. Included in admission ($12 general, 619-232-7931. Sunday, September 16, 1pm; 6 and up. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Book Club (Grades 1-3) Children in grades 1-3 invited to discuss Everybody Gets the Blues, by Leslie Staub. 619-527-3405. Thursday, September 13, 4pm; free. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCE PARK)

Toddler Dance High energy dance and movement class for children (18 months- 5 years). 858-581-9934. Thursday, September 13, 11:15am; free. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

LECTURES

“Finding Your Genealogy in Digitized Books” Gena Philibert Ortega addresses Computer Genealogy Club of San Diego, following user groups for MAC software and DNA genealogy. Saturday, September 15, 9am; free. Robinson Auditorium complex at UCSD, off Pangea Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“German and Austrian Expressionism” Scholars deliver in-depth presentations on Expressionist movement in visual art, contextualizing museum’s recent bequest of German and Austrian Expressionist works on view in “The Human Beast” during symposium. Coffee, pastries: 9am; talks: 9:30am. Saturday, September 15, 9am; $10-$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Lessons from Japan — Design for Recovery” Friends of San Diego Architecture welcome architect Kostaro Nakamura, who “will show the results of Japan’s devastating earthquake and tsunami and what has been accomplished since then, focusing on issues related to design.” Also, Universidad Europea de Madrid architecture professor Ramiro Lossada talks about the relationship of architecture and filmmaking. Saturday, September 15, 9:30am; free-$5. NewSchool of Architecture and Design, 1249 F Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

“Raw” This “rock n roll seminar” for women promises to “alter the way you think, change your outlook on life, men and communication. What drives men? Why do they drive us crazy? Gain tips on communicating with all of the men in your life.” Registration: 858-952-0012. Saturday, September 15, 4pm; $97-$147. 18 and up. (DEL MAR)


“The Controversial Margaret Sanger” On the occasion of her birthday, Palomar College women’s studies professor Wendy
Piano Care and Maintenance

SPACE WALK

2012 Sand Pit 5K Sand Pit 5K Beach Obstacle Run consists of eight obstacles in water and sand. Post-race party with refreshments, DJ, beer garden, timed results, and a T-shirt for all finishers. Saturday, September 15, 8am; 12 and up. Belmont Park, 3146 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Chargers versus Titans San Diego Chargers host Tennessee Titans for football game to broadcast on CBS. 877-CHAR-GERS. Sunday, September 16, 1:15pm; Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Kellogg’s Tour of Gymnastics Champions Members of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team join Olympic all-around champion Nastia Liukin and her fellow 2008 Olympic team silver medalists Chellsie Memmel and Alicia Sacramone as headliners in cast. Thursday, September 13, 7:30pm; Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

 Padres vs. Rockies San Diego Padres host Colorado for baseball fun. Games broadcast on radio station XX Sports Radio (1090 AM), XEMO (860 AM) in Spanish. Tickets: 619-795-5000. Friday, September 14, 7:05pm; Saturday, September 15, 5:35pm; Sunday, September 16, 1:05pm; Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)


San Diego Heart Walk American Heart Association sponsors 21st annual walking event, with 5K heart walk and one-mile survivor routes to “promote physical activity and heart-healthy living.” Health expo, food, educational booths, kids zone, pet zone, live music. Park in Presidents Way lot; shuttles to walk start at 5:15am. sdheartwalk@heart.org or 858-410-3849. Saturday, September 15, 6:50am; free. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Celebrate San Diego’s First Courthouse Commemorate 200th anniversary of courthouse’s dedication during event in plaza on grass in front of the courthouse. Enjoy historic presentation showcasing courthouse’s rich history, dinner catered by the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Reservations: glf@syby@mckeen&-long.org or 619-699-2584. Friday, September 14, 5:30pm; $38. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

Climate Conversations Presentations by top climate change scientists of California. Required reservations: publicprograms@ rnfleet.or. Thu rsday, September 13, 5:30pm; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Maritime Ghost Conference Conference organized by San Diego Ghost and Paranormal Group “celebrates numerous ships with history of unexplained phenomena,” including the Star of India. Topics include historic phantom ships, maritime mysteries, more. 619-384-8841. Saturday, September 15, 8am; $30-$425. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Tuna Classic San Diego Tuna Classic - San Diego’s only Open Tuna Tournament. September 14, 5:00am; $100. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Jam ’N Give The annual jam session for all levels of guitarists. Presented by the Community Music School and San Diego State University. Presented by the Community Music School and San Diego State University. September 13, 5:00pm; free. International Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (OLD TOWN)

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Climate Conversations Presentations by top climate change scientists of California. Required reservations: publicprograms@ rnfleet.or. Thu rsday, September 13, 5:30pm; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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Omakase: patrons sit down at the sushi counter, and the chef working it goes to town presenting dishes of his or her choosing, amped to share these items with anyone willing to put themselves into an expert's hands. It's a fabulous way to eat.

I recently turned my palate over to Rob Ruiz, the enthused and talented sushi chef at the top of Harney Sushi's food chain. What followed were a dozen small dishes both traditional and original enough that, in some cases, I'd never tasted anything like them before.

First up were blistered shishito peppers. Who could have guessed that these would ever be ubiquitous? It's getting to the point where I'm almost disappointed when I see them on a menu. I love peppers, but this variety can be an ingredient that's becoming duller with each passing year. Charring them and sprinkling on salt does nothing for me. Fortunately, Ruiz (who has eight years' experience and was named Chef of the Fest for creating the most-well-received dish at last year's San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival) ups the flavor, tossing the peppers in a soy-based sauce and adding bonito flakes. It's an uncomplicated preparation but heightens an ingredient that's becoming duller with each eatery that embraces it.

Turns out, the shishito treatment illustrates one of Ruiz's major talents: developing and effectively implementing an outside-the-box approach to vegetables. The third plate that came my way featured a trio of deep-amber rectangular planks. They looked like parsnips or carrots but were in fact daikon slow-braised in a mixture of sake, soy, and mirin. The dish was a revelation. The braising liquid gives the daikon a taste similar to carrots plucked from grandma's Sunday stew. I could make an entire meal of these tender radishes.

Also interesting were fingers of compressed sushi rice topped with tiny, roasted Specialty Produce baby carrots. These were secured with strips of nori and served atop a beet purée; Ruiz used his fingers to streak the purée artfully down the length of the plate. The dish was sweet and not as successful as the daikon or shishitos but won points for originality. I can envision a vegetarian enjoying it.

One of the bonuses of going omakase is communicating with the sushi chef throughout the meal. Over the course of my evening with Ruiz, I learned that shishito peppers contain more Vitamin C than an orange, and that daikon possesses natural antibacterial qualities that protect the human body from seafood impurities. (I'd forgotten that last fact, so the reminder was as good as new information.)

On the fish front, Suzuki, a sustainable Japanese sea bass, was served nigiri-style with shaved onion, shiso (a Japanese variety of mint), and a squeeze of ponzu sauce. Nicely dressed, the touches of salt and spice lingered post-consumption, but the fish was the star, as it was meant to be.

Ruby red grapefruit-hued sockeye salmon was served in a similarly simple way, drapped over rice and garnished with Hiwa Kai Hawaiian black lava salt crystals, plus a dash of fresh citrus. The result: an expression of the fish so pure that, if you're a fan of gussied-up sushi, you'll probably hate it. Purists, on the other hand, will go ga-ga.

Fatty tuna—a delicacy so special it was served naked, thinly and expertly sliced—was as clear-cut, fresh, and lovely as could be. Because Harney Sushi does so much business and goes through so much product, they have buying power when procuring their seafood. The result is high-quality fish and shellfish that stands on its own merits.

Warm dishes were an equally interesting part of the night's experience, and every bit as tasty. Albacore belly tataki with tobacco onions (sadly, not as crisp as desired) in a garlic-jalapeño ponzu nicely balanced earthy, salty, and spicy flavors. A

Instead of dessert, I was handed a bowl filled with thick slices of citrus-marinated, nicely browned black cod atop an island of rice. Carlsbad Aquafarm oyster was plump, warm, and rich, dressed with clarified butter and soy sauce. Bonito flakes added texture to a spectacular cooked-oyster preparation.

One of the most delicious dishes came as a surprise at the end of the meal. Instead of dessert, I was handed a bowl filled with thick slices of citrus-marinated, nicely browned black cod atop an island of rice. This was surrounded by a sweet-and-sour broth flavored with charbroiled pineapple, wasabi, and dashi. It was the closest a dish can get to a warm embrace. Comfort food at a sushi bar—whod've thunk it?

Being a “chef’s whim” dining format, one can never be sure what Ruiz will serve up if you opt for the omakase experience, though there's nothing wrong with requesting the oyster or black cod (you'll be glad you did). That's what makes it so exciting. For a food writer, formal dining can become predictable. My evening here provided serious rejuvenation—an impressive feat—but you don't have to be a food writer to experience it.
Romance of Egypt

“We’d have endless cups of tea, snorkel, fish. It was beautiful.”

When you bump it south from San Diego State along College Avenue, heading for El Cajon Boulevard, the first sign of civilization is this 1½ of 1940s salmon-colored stucco house. It sits on the corner of Adams and College. Its wooden deck buried in purple morning glory and dotted with blue umbrellas and curly wrought-iron purple railings.

The Egyptian Tea Room.

I climb up the steps to the deck. Big guy named John is putting up the umbrellas. This is late morning. Hot. Intense sun. They’re just opening, but already a student is looking for a hookup for his laptop on the veranda.

At first glance, inside’s like a regular deli, with the counter at one end, a few tables, and a settee or two. But then you start to notice other things. Some walls are washed cream and painted to look totally Egyptian.

Morning glory vines cover the railing of the front patio.

The wall decorations are, well, Egyptian. Ankh crosses, scenes from the lives of the pharaohs. Hummus and pita bread with pesto and chipotle is $4.95. Dolmas (okay, that’s Greek for grape leaves stuffed with rice, spices, and herbs) are $3.99, and ful madamas, a seasoned fava-bean dish, goes for $3.95. The Pharaoh’s Pheast combines all three for $8.50.

These are good prices. At least one breakfast item shows a Middle-Eastern influence: the Aswan Dam omelet (“It’s a dam good omelet!”) has three eggs and a gyro filling of lamb and beef, red onions, tomato, and chunks of feta cheese. Plus rosemary potatoes and toast, $5.95.

I go for that. Give my order to Harry Seval, the owner. Says he created this place in 2004.

Why Egyptian — and why a tea house?

“Long story,” he says. “When I was a student at SDSU, I got the travel bug. I worked on a kibbutz in Israel, then went to Egypt. I loved the cafés in Cairo, with their shishas, nargeelas — smoking hookahs — and Egyptian jokes adorn the bathroom walls.

In Egypt, I loved the cafés and Egyptian jokes adorn the bathroom walls.

Egyptian art adorns the café walls, and Egyptian jokes adorn the bathroom walls.

Stop the press! Due to a family emergency, Harry has had to sell the tea room. Naser Amira has taken the reins. Most menu items are the same, but breakfast is being temporarily eliminated. In two months, Naser says he’ll change the restaurant’s name to The Prince. It will remain a hookah lounge-eatery.

The Place: The Egyptian Tea Room, 4644 College Avenue (at Adams), 619-265-7287.

Prices: College Burger, $6.25; gyros sandwich (with beef and lamb), $6.25; BLT, $6.25; Caesar salad, $4.95; blackened salmon Caesar salad, $8.25.

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**Impressive Depth**

It’s tough to look at the 30th Street Cafe in North Park and try to infer what made the owners think it was a good location for a coffee shop. Not all blocks are created equal, and the segment of 30th that splits the distance between University and Upas is dismal in comparison to the territory a few blocks north or south. I don’t have the answer to why that section of road feels ten years out of touch with the rest of the neighborhood, but a quarter of a mile can make all the difference in the world, in terms of real estate.

As if to pile on the oddities, the café occupies two-thirds of its building, but they’re non-­con­secutive thirds. The dining area is separated from the miniature kitchen and coffee dispensary by a long hallway that leads to the offices of a small nonprofit. Peculiar. The patio seats out front are raised up off the sidewalk and well shaded by trees and umbrellas, so they trump the inside seating by a country mile.

Despite the physical limitations, 30th Street Cafe has some strong points. The staff seemed friendly and the coffee was inexpensive, though only average in quality. The menu reached impressive depth, considering the miniature kitchen’s lack of space. Egg dishes, waffles, pastries, bagels, and other breakfast staples all managed to fit into the minimal square footage mixing crimson against earth tones, and decorated with modern Japanese-inspired artwork; featuring an oversized bar plus a large glass display filled with charcuterie and imported Italian cheeses; and an outdoor lounge.

Located downtown near the Santa Fe Train Depot, Sora currently serves dinner from 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Starting September 4, lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

**Ensenada Trip**

Last weekend, I trekked down to Ensenada to spend the weekend with friends nearly dying of heatstroke during a bicycle race through the Guadalupe wine region. I incorporated as much local dining as possible into the trip because opportunity knocks almost constantly in the food-­ and drink-­saturated hospitality zones. I had to work as hard as I could to spend $150 over the course of the weekend — hotel and every other expense included.

The first noteworthy stop during the trip was Carbone’s Grill House, which is at the corner of Calle Delante and Bucaneros in Ensenada. It’s certainly not a secret, but it was new to me. As far as I know, I started this whole “potatoes” thing a little while ago, Ed Bedford ran with it, and then ran with it a little more. Now I’ve got the reins back and I’m confident that this most recent magical potato experience sets new standards for excellence in stuffed spuds.

Carbone’s has managed to enhance the experience of eating baked, stuffed potatoes in a way that defies the reality of potato bars and how they never really caught on in the States. Papas cost 30 pesos each, which is about $4, and come topped with everything from plain cheese to the “specialty of the house” that had enough meat and salsa piled on top to give the average vegetarian nightmares for a week. All the papas are available as tacos for about $1.50 each.

A significant number of the papas on the menu contained pineapple, which is pretty cool, but I had to go with the “papa campirana” with green chilies, corn, cheese, and sour cream because I have a soft spot for the rajas (peppers). Instead of merely stuffing a baked potato, Carbone’s kitchen transformed the tuber into something halfway between a mashed and a baked potato, then stuffed it into a tinfoil schooner that held everything together for a second round of toasting in the oven.

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Flamingo Fling

How’d I end up here?

I zoned out on the 904 bus, the one that trawls Coronado island and takes you to the ferry.

That’s where I had been heading. Except I dozed and ended up outside this hotel. The Marriott.

“This is the end of the line, sir,” said the lady driver.

“Lord. When do you start back?”

“Tomorrow, sir. This was the last run.”

Okay. Guess I’ll have to use Shank’s pony. Feel like a good walk, anyway.

Then I think, Six o’clock. Gonna need a little fuel for this.

So now I’m inside this low, wooly-modern Marriott Coronado Island Resort (2000, 2nd Street, Coronado, 619-435-3000).

Looking for... aha... A sign, in front of the bar area before you walk out onto a large patio with a beautiful view of the bay and the bridge: “Happy Hour, Tides Bar, 5-7 p.m. Daily.” A photo of a blue cocktail is on it.

I kinda want to go out on the terraza so I can watch the bay, the sunset, seeing as I’m here.

But Mike, the guy at the door, says you have to eat in the dark bar area, dammit.

Except he says it in a way that they wouldn’t send the heavies if you did sneak out with your beer.

So up at the bar, the deal is $3 off anything on the bar menu, $5 draft beers, including Stone, $6 house wines. I know I’ve got a Jackson in my pocket, so I’m not panicking.

Rudy, who tells me he’s been here for 20 years, ever since the days when this was Le Meridien, a classy French hotel, gets me a Stone IPA and a menu. And there’s quite a HH menu. A cheese plate, seasonal salads, and flatbread pizzas are $7 each (after the $3 off). “Our famous corn chowder” goes for $5, and buffalo wings are $7.

Some things are more up there, like their bacon cheeseburger ($11) and their crab and shrimp Cobb salad ($15). So I decide for the flatbread, whatever toppings it’s got, and the chowder. With the Stone IPA and tax, it comes to $17.93

And the chowder is worth every centavo. Damn, it’s good.

Mike, who’s the food and beverage manager, says it’s made from scratch right here, from roasted corn, onions, and other stuff the chef kinda zips up in a saucepan before adding it to the soup.

But the champ has to be the flatbread.

I’m surprised, cause bits of sausage on dough has never given me chills. But this is fresh, zingy-hot with peppers, and looks really colorful, too.

Mike says the chef Fernando kinda invents the flatbreads as he goes. Today he put in sausage, chicken, red and green bell peppers, two cheeses, onion, and marinara. Sounds pretty standard, but it’s good.

And how much of a deal? Angela and Jeri are having a cocktail next to me after eating outside on the terrace. “I had mahi, Jeri had a chicken ciabatta. No wine,” says Angela.

“We paid around $70 for the two of us.”

Not that price worries Angela right now. She’s from Victorville. Her company up there is Southern California Aviation, on a leased section of the Air Force base.

Basically she runs a foster home for unwanted jets. “We store planes for airlines when their business is slow,” she says. “We keep them mothballed but always ready to use again at a moment’s notice. So, business is good for us right now. Airlines’ downturns are our upturns.”

Whatever. Pricewise, for me, pays to stay indoors.

But I’ve got more than enough. What with the corn chowder and the beer, I’m running out of gut space. Gonna have to put some of this pizza in mothballs.

And here’s the part I like: they let me pack the half of the flatbread I can’t finish so I can take it back for a midnight snack with Carla.

Lot of places, they look at you funny if you want some of your bargain food to go.

My biggest temptation? To toss pizza bits at the (real!) flamingos in the pool outside.

Lucky for me, there’s a security guy nearby looking at you like he’s a living sign:

“Please don’t feed the flamingos.”

by Ed Bedford

A Tale from Inside Hotel Hell

Aside from admiring a chef with the chops and the gumption to make the rise he has, I just plain get a kick out of Gordon Ramsay. The scowl, the sarcasm, the expletives— he’s good TV. I regularly tune in to catch the latest edition of anger and consequence with Gordo, whether it be Hell’s Kitchen, The F-Word, Kitchen Nightmares, or even the relatively tame Master Chief where he’s a great deal more positive and even outwardly supportive with his cast of aspiring cooks.

Ramsay is good at telling it like it is; dishing out the hard truths that, in modern-day America, usually go unspoken. Even so, I had to wonder how well suited he’d be to take on the critical role for his new program, Hotel Hell. The premise of this show, which debuted in August and aired its final last night, is much the same as Kitchen Nightmares. A failing lodging establishment reaches out for help from Ramsay and his wealthy backers at FOX. Ramsay visits and immediately rinses the place to shreds in the most brashly confrontational manner possible. Ramsay gives his two cents on how to fix things, implements changes, and gives the hotel’s owners and staff a new lease on life before hitting the road, disappearing into the night with one last snarky comment. Fade to credits.

Despite the fact Ramsay is out of his element, the show works because, for the most part, he points out no-brainers that any layperson could offer about the hotel itself, then focuses heavily on the lodging’s restaurant component, which he is plenty qualified to beat down and build back up. This was how it went down with the one that trawls Coronado Island Resort that aired Monday, August 27, and focused on downtown San Diego’s Keating Hotel.

As soon as I saw this installment teased at the end of the
episode that preceded it, I was excited to see a local business go through the Ramsay rebuild machine. Mostly because it would mean I’d have a local resource to tap for information on the legitimacy of the show. This is television, after all, a medium where everything is not always exactly as it seems. To see a show play out over and over again the exact same way — business owners cursing Ramsay’s name with blood-thirsty hatred only to later hug it out while proclaiming him a godsend — well, it all seems a bit too dually extreme to be real.

I actually ended up watching the Keating’s episode from the private dining loft on the second story of the hotel’s restaurant, the Merk Bistro. Friends of the business and a few members of the media were invited to view the show while tasting items from the new menu Ramsay developed, all while in the presence of the hotel’s owner, Eddie Kaen, and his staff, none of which had seen the full episode. Talk about a tense situation. Still, going in, I had to give them props for having the stones to allow themselves to be so exposed. Ramsay really put them through the wringer.

It was one of the most hilariously episodic of the show yet. Ramsay fired off witty comments at a rapid and unrelenting pace. Everything from the linens and furniture (ridiculously expensive designer bath tub included) to chef Brian Ramsay’s name with blood-thirsty hatred only to later hug it out while proclaiming him a godsend — well, it all seems a bit too dually extreme to be real.

As is the case with almost every venue featured on Hotel Hell or Kitchen Nightmares, the staff didn’t hold back. To a person, they decreed over and over again that Kaen was the king of the hill. And, as with nearly every episode, the owner got severely pissed off and defensive. Yet, by show’s end, everybody — the owner, general manager, chef, front-desk clerk, guy who delivers their morning papers, homeless guy who squats outside the hotel’s front door hoping for a scrap of leftover food from the restaurant never knowing like the majority of mankind that the Merk isn’t even attached to the hotel — were all smiling, crying tears of joy and indulging in long, emotional embraces in-between choruses of “Kumbaya.”

Nobody cried more than Ramsay, who was overjoyed that Gordon had reignited the passionate inner flame that drove him to become a chef (and given him a traditional white chef’s coat to replace the gaudy bright red one he’d been forced to wear for the past half-decade). It was nice that the show ended that way — all warm and fuzzy. Hope, respect, and bidding guests adieu. But where was Rutherford? All night long, I’d kept my eyes peeled for him. I was eager to ask him how he was adjusting to the new menu. What was it like to work with Gordon Ramsay? What were his plans moving forward? At first, I’d hoped he was merely pumping out all those dishes from the newly renovated kitchen and didn’t have time to make an appearance, but when he didn’t take a bow with the rest of the crew, it was clear he’d already exited stage right.

Turns out, Rutherford is no longer there. Digging turned up multiple reports. Depending on who you believe, he was either sacked shortly after the taping of the show or decided he no longer wished to work there and resigned without giving a reason. Either way, the reality of the situation was a far cry from the neat, happy ending televised to the nation. I guess a week of Hollywood magic can’t fix everything — but we all knew that already.

Still, the rooms look better and the menu is much shorter (down from over 100 items to a single page of humble, more straightforward fare). I sampled a bit at the screening but will reserve judgment for when I taste it in the restaurant. Buffet style (i.e., as fresh as possible from the chafing dish) is no way to experience food at its finest. It’s a start. But will it be enough? Only time — or the big Gordon-returns episode — will tell.

by Brandon Hernández

Total Gringo Food

As we meandered back and forth through the streets of Ensenada in El Jefe’s van, looking for the tell-tale signs of a bicycle race about to happen, I spotted the word “microcerveceria” on a signboard. I assumed it was an advertisement for some brewery stationed elsewhere in town, but it turned out that the restaurant and brewery is right there at the corner of Sexta and Castillo. They even have a small parking lot.

We returned later to eat and to see what kind of beers were coming out of what is (if the sign is truthful) Ensenada’s first microbrewery.

The restaurant had seven beers courtesy of the onsite brewing operations, as well bottled beer, liquor, and a meager selection of wines. The Old Mission beers were all under $5 for pints and I tried a few. The Copper Canyon was a satisfying amber-hued glass of ale that had the easy-drinking character of English session biters. Two different IPAs were on the menu, the first being Dos Pablos, which had the straightforward hops and alcohol flavor of something like Long Hammer IPAs, neither fancy nor inferior. The Red Agave IPA, on the other hand, was a different kind of beer. Dark amber in color, it had a funky, musky taste that was not at all in keeping with

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Sometimes you don’t know why you do the things you do. Often you do what your parents do. I know for me, cooking was in my family. My mom was a waitress and my dad was a cook at Bob’s Big Boy in Burbank. One grandfather was a farmer in Nebraska and the other was a butcher and a grill cook. We didn’t have a whole lot of money growing up so we had a huge garden so we could grow our food. I was so fortunate and I had a lot of support to be a chef.

When I worked at Citronelle in Carmel, I had a lot of exposure to local farmers. I cooked with the best artichokes in the whole world and had access to amazing local food. Once you see that and you’re part of that, there’s no going back. Either you’re in it or you deny it. For me, it was an awakening. At Cusp, we have the same kinds of relationships with local farmers. We make our own pasta and bread from scratch and use local ingredients to make homemade vinegars.

When I cook at home, I like simple foods. I have a smoker, and the other day I smoked a pork belly for about four hours and got some grapefruit and gin and made cocktails while we cooked. It’s always about family and friends for me. A few weeks ago, I got together with my other chef friends and spent an entire afternoon making pizzas for ourselves. When I cook with family and friends it’s spontaneous and fun. Good food just magically appears.

INGREDIENTS
SERVES 4
To poach the pears:
4 c. water
1 c. white wine
1 lemon, zest and juice

2 star anise
1 c. sugar
3 Anjou pears, peeled, halved, and core removed
2 T olive oil
6 oz. baby arugula or mixed greens
2 oz. crumbled blue cheese
¼ c. candied walnut pieces

TO MAKE THE VINAIGRETTE
¼ c. apple cider vinegar

CARAMELIZED PEAR SALAD
RECIPE BY DONALD LOCKHART
Executive chef, Cusp Dining & Drinks

What the Chef Eats by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

Don Panchos Taco Shop (690 Highway 75, Imperial Beach, 619-429-7054), thinking I’ll buy a simple $1.99 fish taco.

The next, I’ve come away $15.04 poorer with a carne asada flying saucer ($4.99), a carne asada fries ($6.99), and, yes, the fish taco.

One reason I am about an hour late getting home. Figured only food would soothe the savage heart of Doña Carla.

The other reason is every now and then you have to bust out of the whole Eating What’s Good For You gal. Just felt like those fries with the carne asada and beans covered in lava beds of melted nacho cheese, sour cream, and guac. And the flying saucer: pretty-much the same on this big, crispy tostada. You get a bag of pickled carrots and limes with it.

While I’m waiting, get talking with Stephanie, the gal behind the gauze-covered window.

She says a lot of folks come up looking for those carne asada fries. “But if you want something that will fill you up but is also cheap, the bean and cheese burrito is only $2.79. Or $3.29 with beans, cheese, and rice.”

This is a strange ’50s-modern-looking roadside place, woody, blue, red, and gray. It’s about the first piece of civilization you arrive at coming down Highway 75. (The southbound 901 stops a ways back on Rainbow Drive.)

It’s just past the little bar I always meant to visit, the now-closed Little Vienna Lounge. (Would somebody please buy it and revive it?!)

And also just past El Camino Motel, where they anchored 2007 surfer series on TV. John from Cincinnati. That, too, is boarded up.

As for Don Panchos, Stephanie says it’s doing just fine. Been open at least 20 years under the same owner.

But I see the name has changed a bit. It used to be “Los Panchos.” Wonder what happened.

I could eat here out on the sheltered patio, but I have them pack it all so I’ll survive the trip back to the casa.

And, man, the offering of food works. I go from criminal to hero in three easy chomps. Carla gets the fish taco. I try the flying saucer.

Dive-lish. Tons of hot sauce tubs, lime wedges, and vinegary carrot slices. The tortilla is still crisp, and what I like is they’ve loaded great wads of guacamole and sour cream on top.

We both rip in like wolves.

Calendar
RESTAURANT

the conventionally popular American IPA. In a lot of ways, it’s what I would have thought a Mexican IPA would taste like, even if I couldn’t have described it until I’d tasted it.

All of the beers were on par with what mid-level American brewers are producing. Nothing was of exceptional quality, except perhaps the agave beer, which was noteworthy for its difference. Considering the relatively narrow scope of the present craft brewing scene in Mexico, Old Mission’s efforts show that the brewers in Baja understand the kinds of beers they want to make and they’re taking steps toward perfecting them.

Of course, the restaurant sold food. Like a sort of south-of-the-border Blind Lady Ale House, pizza was a big menu item. There was much in the way of “conventional” pie with sausage, red sauce, various cheeses, etc., but the “Green Valley” pizza stood out as a novelty. It sounds a little disgusting: topped with chicken, refried beans, salsa verde, pico de gallo, cilantro, and chipotle cream. It even looked pretty gnamly coming out of the kitchen after an extended wait because the first pizza met some ill fate during cooking.

Looks deceiving.

What could have been a Taco Bell/–Eleven nightmare on wheels was actually an artful combination of flavors and textures for just under $20. Refried beans cook down into a wonderful pizza topping, and the chipotle cream was fresh tasting in the company of chopped cilantro. It was the crust, however, that stole the show. Deeply flavored and striking a marvelous balance between crisp edges and chewy center, the bread on which the pizza had been built could stand up against any good crust I’ve sunk my teeth into. Investigating the pie’s construction, I deduced that the pizza had somehow been pieced together from multiple shards of dough. While that didn’t impact the experience any, it’s a curious mystery why the kitchen would do that.

Beyond pizza, the menu listed a grip of appetizers and entrées skewed toward, of all things, Italian-style American food such as shrimp scampi and spaghetti with meatballs. Some more characteristically Mexican touches made their way onto the menu, such as “spiedini,” which is an Italian kebab of shrimp in an espresso-chipotle marinade; or a dish of chicken in red wine and Jamaica sauce. For what it’s worth, the kitchen also produced a delicious, if otherwise unremarkable and haphazardly plated, hamburger.

It seems weird to eat this total gringo food in Mexico, with what so many tasty tacos around, but in a lot of ways it’s a pretty great look at the future. Pizza and beer is going to keep getting bigger and bigger in Mexico, and this sort of first-round brewpub is a look at what the scene is going to be like. El Jefe said he had heard that Mexico is one of the fastest growing markets in the world for pizza. How cool is it to see restaurants on the other side of la frontera rehashing the things we’ve been doing in California? Sooner or later, it has to turn into something new and unexpected. by Ian Pike

Wolves in Winter
Dunno what came over me.

One minute I’m standing outside the order peephole at

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What the Chef Eats

2 shallots, minced
½ c. grape seed oil

In a medium saucepan, combine water, white wine, lemon juice, star anise, and sugar and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and add pears to liquid. Turn heat to low and poach pears for 15 minutes or until soft. Remove from heat and drain liquid.

Add a small amount of oil to a large sauté pan and heat to medium heat. Once hot, add pears flat side down and sear until caramelized, about 3 minutes. Remove pears from heat and cut into slices.

To make the vinaigrette, add the vinegar, lemon juice, and shallots to a small bowl. Whisk together and, while whisking, add the oil. Mix well.

In a bowl, add walnuts, pears, blue cheese, and cranberries. Pour the vinaigrette on top and mix. Add salad greens, season with salt and pepper, and then toss.

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

in winter. Ten minutes later we come up for air, look at the carne asada fries plate.

The heart is willing, but... Sigh.

Carla looks at me like Scarlett O’Hara.

“Tomorrow’s another day,” she says.

by Ed Bedford

Smoking Woks

I feel as though Hong Kong Restaurant has watched fashionable spots and hip joints come and go as the Hillcrest scene has developed. After all, drunken scenesters are the number-one candidates for late-night Chinese food on the quick. Years of sitting there in semi-squalid pallor, neon signs glowing like the opening scenes of Blade Runner, have paid off and given Hong Kong a reputation as a go-to spot.

Sure, maybe the dim glow of the ancient lights make the dining room look a little... dystopian. After dark, it’s almost as if the sun has never shown on the inside of the restaurant; as though generations of dreams have died in the kitchens, burned away over a smoking hot wok.

Looks aren’t everything, though, and that run-down, shabby, hole-in-the-wall look is charming once you get inside and cozy up to a pot of hot tea, reading your fortunes on the zodiac placemats. Of course, the waiters are friendly, happy too help, and ruthlessly efficient as they bustle about the dining room and speak in clipped Chinese. The food that comes out of the kitchen’s recesses steams and promises satisfaction.

In a rush, I ordered takeout instead of lingering. Some other day, perhaps, I’ll occupy a booth and sit drinking hot tea late into the night.

The menu contained enough options that I could have sat and contemplated without an end in sight. I chose a simple “that looks good” approach that served me well in the long run. Steamed buns ($2.95) were filled with sweet and salty non-descript meat that was probably pork but tasted of Hoisin sauce. Fried chicken wings ($6.95) were covered in garlic and scallions. The breading was thick and salty, concealing fatty, rich chicken that required serious efforts to chew from the bone, but not in a bad way, more in a “rise to the challenge” way.

On the menu, Yu Hsiang pork ($9.95) bore the little chili-pepper icon emblematic of a spicy dish and, though it brought forth zesty overtones of Sichuan pepper, it’s spiciness was ultimately restrained. Most people would find it easy to eat. The kung pao triple crown — featuring shrimp, beef, and pork for $12.95 — could have been smothered in the sweeter cousin to the Yu Hsiang sauce. Both dishes were amply portioned, enough for two meals, and contained oceanic volumes of spicy oil. It was a light oil, so the effect wasn’t overwhelming greasy, and it carried all the salty, spicy, umami flavor that I expected out of the dishes.

There was little to distinguish the two dishes, and I predict that most of Hong Kong’s food follows the same pattern; huge portions of meat, smothered in flavorful sauces, served piping hot and quickly. I would say that the price was only somewhat justified, as dinner for two cost nearly $40, so that’s the major hang-up. Getting at least a meal and a half is only partial compensation because, while reheated Chinese food is pretty amazing, there’s no denying that leftovers lack charm.

But, hey, when it’s late and you’ve had a few drinks, Hong Kong starts to look better and better until, wosed by the divey charms, the wings, barbecued pork, noodles, and chop suey work their magic.

Hong Kong, 3871 Fourth Avenue.

by Ian Pike

Man Seeks Mango

I have become a believer in the combination of mango, hot sauce, and chamoy. The sweet, salty, spicy, savory flavor combo compels me to seek out new combinations of this fruity snacktime masterpiece. With fingers crossed and appetite high, I popped into the Aqua Fruit shop that’s, rather weirdly,

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Man Seeks Mango

I have become a believer in the combination of mango, hot sauce, and chamoy. The sweet, salty, spicy, savory flavor combo compels me to seek out new combinations of this fruity snacktime masterpiece. With fingers crossed and appetite high, I popped into the Aqua Fruit shop that’s, rather weirdly,
a bucket with cream and condensed milk and then brutalized it until the morass of fruit and cream had emulsified into a creamy, syrupy morass of fruit bits. Inelegant? Yes. Delicious? Most certainly, especially with a few almonds and some coconut sprinkled over the whole thing for texture.

I don’t usually go for escomocha or fresas con crema because I can practically feel my pancreas revolting when I eat such sugar-bombs, but I have to admit they are super tasty and worth a little self-indulgence every now and again. Still no spicy mango treats, though. The search must continue!

Sausages for Sail...! Carla’s gonna fright.
She’s the hot dog guru. Knows her kielbasas from her bratwursts, her American mustards from her French.
What happens is I’m at the Festival of Sail, by the long arcade of food and craft tents stretching north from the Star of India and the Maritime Museum of San Diego (1492 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153).

It’s late afternoon. Just yacht-ing with this guy Wolfgang Faller. He’s built himself what he calls the “Miniﬂower,” a tenth-scale version of the May-ﬂower. Beautiful. And he can actually get in and sail it.

So, we’re talking when I get this whiff. Oh, Lord. Not salty sea breeze, but sexy salbrosa sausage smells wafting from the food tents.

That’s it. Eyes glaze over, go into trance, follow twitching nostrils, find myself in front of this hot open grill searing a logjam sausages. They glisten, and if you listen, you can hear them calling, “Choose me! Get me off this grill!”

Two guys, Mike and Dave, from Fallbrook, are busy with tongs, rolling the suckers around so they cook evenly.

“What’s it to be?” says Dave. I ask him to help me decide.

“This is the half-pound kielbsa,” he says, pointing to the largest, darkest sausage. “Rope sausage, $8. This is the beer sausage, with Stone Smoked Porter in it. It’s $7.”

Most are third-rounders. He goes through the still-pale Polish ($5.50), the smooth Bratwurst ($7), the Cajun hot links, ($7) and the beef hot dogs ($4). Dave turns out to be a happy guy. “I was a data-processing manager for a bank,” he says. “Decided to break out.”

His wife Aida and he run this BBQ-type catering business. “Aida started it,” he says. “I learned to cook, and now I get all over the county. I’ve got a life!”

Carla’s thrilled.

Irony is, she loves the beer dog best. I’m happy to tackle the giant kielbsa.

“I almost got you the Polish,” says Dave. “Because it was the cheapest one, I’ll bet,” she says. “And I’ve got news for you: you’re eating the Polish. ‘Kielbasa’ is just the Polish word for sausage. Or Ukrainian.”

“Wow. How’d you know that?”

“My daddy knew sausages. We ate out a lot. Like, outside, over a campfire. I’ve had hot dogs in 48 states. That was my childhood.”

Wow. Makes you realize. After how long? You think you know someone, then they spring a life of 48 hot dogs from 48 states on you. We’ll never run out of conversation, that’s for sure.

Dave’s hot dog stand, Matheny Wagon Works (760-518-1386), gets around farmers’ markets and caters anywhere.

by Ed Bedford

Hot in Kearny Mesa

“It’s 900 degrees outside and we’re next to a flaming-hot grill.” John was laughing as we sat down. We were in Jeong Won BBQ, on Convoy Street between Engineer Road and Opportunity Road. Thanks to decent ventilation and strategically placed fans, it was pretty warm inside but not unbearably stuffy.

Jeong Won serves all-you-can-eat Korean barbeque; that is to say, they prepare everything you need to grill your own Korean barbeque. Each table has its own blistering hot grill in the center. Along the back of the room, a variety of nice-looking meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetables are on a refrigerated buffet, waiting for you to load up on a plate and toss, hissing gloriously, on your grill.

Beef, pork, lamb, and chicken are thinly sliced, along with some offal offerings — tripe, liver, and chicken hearts; some are tossed with marinades or spices. Seafood and ambiligious choices that day included frog legs, basa fish, scallops, green-lipped mussels, shrimp, squid, and octopus.

Another case holds a large assortment of pickles, kimchi, salads, sprouts, condiments, and sauces. A soft-serve machine completes the picture.

I can never pass up soft-serve, but that’s another issue.

Since the cooking is up to you, it’s wise to get your dipping sauces and condiments before you start to cook any of the protein. With thicker, denser items, such as long slabs of sliced sweet potato or fat mushrooms, you’ve got a few minutes of cooking time, but the thinly sliced beef and pork cooks in a flash. It needs your undivided attention or you’ll be pulling smoking, blackened honey pork off the grill, much to your tablemate’s amusement.

My favorite items were the short ribs, lamb, brisket, and both versions of honey pork, smoked and non. I meant to ask John for a taste of his frog leg, but it was gone before I even noticed it was off the grill. He also loved the squid and octopus. The meal comes with serviceable miso soup and not great rice.

At $20 per person ($17 before 4 p.m.), Jeong Won is reasonably priced. A variety of canned or bottled beverages are available.

Jeong Won is located at 4690 Convoy Street in Kearny Mesa.

by Mary Beth Abate
Crushing the Eighties.
With most performers working hard to promote digital downloads of their newest music, singer/songwriter Scott Wilson is building an online archive covering three decades’ worth of everything from acoustic solo tunes to songs written for glam band VFX. “Eighties music was basically crushed in the early 1990s, thanks to Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Smashing Pumpkins. I couldn’t stand all the bands that VFX was compared to, and I wasn’t sad to see that style of music go, although I hear it’s still a popular underground form in Europe and Japan. VFX turned into a cult-like band that had its detractors... I walked away from this style of music in 1994 and never looked back.”

Also archived are songs from Wilson’s alt-rock group Cruel World and more recent recordings done solo and with his acoustic band (the Complications) and an electric ensemble (the Contradictions). “So far, I’ve uploaded about 120 songs. I think I have 28 hours left, so I’ve been going through my DAT collection.”

Wilson, whose video for “Coffeehouse 101” features around 50 local performers (each lip-synching a line from the song), began recording a new full-length in March. “Nathan Walsh-Haines [the Broken Stems] played drums in my theatrical studio downtown, I played the bass and most of the guitars, and, so far, Jonathan Hayes [VFX], Tim Orrahood [Vaccscene], and Norm Merton [John Stanley Band] have all played lead guitars on the tracks. I’m working my way through guitar solos, then lead vocals, percussion, and then polishing, which may take a while.”

A new demo called “I Know,” featuring guest guitarist Dave Gladhish (Ristband, Roxy Monoxide), is currently streaming online, as are newly shot videos for “Take It Away” and “Shade of Eden.” — Jay Allen Sanford


“We went from a full staff of eager people to just three of us with the help of David Robles and Barrio Audio/Video Productions,” says Letey McKenzie, who cofounded Ship Records alongside members of the New Kinetics, Schizophonics, and musician Spencer Gallop. “The motivation behind Ship Records is helping bands record music and get the word out about them,” McKenzie says. “These bands that we have chosen are following the DIY movement that was paved for us many decades ago. None of them was dedicated just to the commission — then I’ll go to Iceland, Reykjavik, for a workshop, solo concert, and gigs with Icelandic musicians for three days...then back to Copenhagen. They are having a 2012 bass convention of sorts — organized by some Danish bassists. It’s an international event — and I’ll play a solo concert and do a solo seminar. I’ll be demonstrating some of the things I just showed you. Then we’ll perform a version of ‘Tones for Peace’ (a piece he wrote for multiple bassists), and then I’ll come home...to chill for ten days, which will be nice.”

There won’t be much time for chilling, though. “Then, there’s a bass festival in Tijuana, and I’ll be going...” (continued on page 72)
Paul Ryan the runner

Twin Cabins: Nostalgia That Could Never Be

Melissa Morgan Quartet at 98 Bottles

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Whitney Shay’s Soul Tonic Album Release Party Sept. 24 @US. Grant

at the New School, on the 9th master class, on the 7th a gig Moser, the 6th I’m doing a the 5th, a duet gig with Diane [Moser] for Clean Feed Records. On the Coast Quintet with my East recording making a sec-

Cafe, and I’m doing a gig at Cornelia Street to New York, and I’m going into September Then we’re going to New York, where I have a double bill with guitarist Joe Morris, then we’re going to do the same thing on the 15th in Hartford, Connecticut... “Then I’ll come home around September 17, because that’s ’Welcome Week’ at UCSD.” — Robert Bush

I’ll be recording a new album with Diane [Moser], and on the 10th a gig in Baltimore. Then on the 11th I have a gig with Sarah Weaver at the Iridium back in NY, and on the 13th a solo gig at Shape-shifter Lab in Brooklyn. I’ll go to Boston on the 14th where I have a double bill with guitarist Joe Morris, then we’re going to do the same thing on the 15th in Hartford, Connecticut... “Then I’ll come home around September 17, because that’s ’Welcome Week’ at UCSD.” — Robert Bush

Bossa Nova on the Breeze. From her hometown of Poços de Caldas, Brazil, where she ran a music school, Fabiana Passoni pulled up stakes for New York City, where she cultivated a sound fusing classic-style jazz singing with bossa nova beats. Later she moved to Los Angeles, where she began recording. But when asked why she chose Oceanside in which to settle down and raise her triplets, the 2012 Brazilian International Press Awards winner for Best Brazilian Female Singer Living in the U.S. invokes a mixture of pragmatics and love for sand plus surf. “We used to live in Orange County and had outgrown our home,” she says. “We found the rents more attractive in Oceanside and some great-looking neighborhoods. I like living in Oceanside so far. My neighbors are friendly and I can still feel that ocean breeze. I’m feeling right at home already... “There is a large group of Brazilians living in the beach areas there. Anthology and Encinitas.” And the triplets? “They just turned two, and their names are Levi, Leilah, and Lylah. When did she find out she was having triplets? “About six weeks after learning I was having twins.” Belly Up attract Brazilian performers at times. I still don’t know much about what takes place here in Oceanside. It will be fun to explore the musical and artistic scenes in Oceanside, Carlsbad, and after learning I was having twins.” When does she find time to sleep? “Sleep?” she asks as though she’s lost the meaning of the word. “They are certainly a lot of work, but we try to keep them to a fixed schedule. When that works, we might even get some sleep.” (Being a healthy mother of healthy triplets is especially remarkable for Passoni, who’s beaten breast cancer twice.)

Asked her plans for the immediate future, she replies: “I have a new single (that was) released the first of August. My last single, ‘Lovin’ You,’ was on the smooth-jazz charts for a couple of months, so I am really optimistic about this new release... After that, I will be back in the recording studio finishing up an EP CD that we hope to release by the end of the year.”

For more information, consult fabianapassoni.com. — Andrew Hamilton

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**SAN DIEGO**

**Reader**

September 13, 2012

73
Thursday 13
Listen to the music. Wo oh oh. Bay Area boogie-rock band the Doobie Brothers will be takin’ it to the streets of Harbor Island when they play Humphreys by the Bay tonight. Behind founding guitarists/singers Tom Johnston and Patrick Simmons, the Grammy winners and Vocal Group Hall of Famers will deliver four decades of swamp ‘n’ roll radio staples. Love me some “Black Water.” Did you know the Doobies were originally called Pudd…? L.A. dance-punk trio Moving Units bring Tension War to Casbah. The E.P. is the band’s first self-released record, on the heels of which lead vocalist Blake Miller got an Artist of the Week award from musicyourneed.net. With garage pop from Mini Death and Lemon Grove funk-punks Mermaid setting it up, this is a hot ticket at the Middletown mainstay.…” Else: D’s Heather Hardcore, Diana Death, and Kylee Mayer are spinning vinyl history at Til-Two. Get in on the ground floor as they Rock ‘n’ Roll Preservation Society starts to take off at Casbah...” With garage pop from musicyouneed.net Miller got an Artist of the Week award from record, on the heels of which lead vocalist Blake called Pudd?... L.A. dance-punk trio of swamp ‘n’ roll radio staples. Love of Famers will deliver four decades of garage pop...and country-fried singer-songers Palace Ballroom, Manuok, River City, and Drew Andrews fill a bill at Tin Can Alehouse. ’Scrooge hip-hop hit Brother Ali will be at Porter’s Pub at UCSD. He is out to tout this year’s Mourning in America and Dreaming in Color, on which Ali sticks to his throwback flow to address contemporary social issues... And From N.Y.C., intelligent, if angsty, indie act the Walkmen rock into House of Blues behind this year’s critical hit Heaven. It is a considered collection for the band, which doesn’t just tip a hand but goes all in on the adult-rock ticket. Wives and kids yadda yadda.

Friday 14
The San Diego Music Thing spreads its wings all over town this weekend with way too much good stuff in way too many locales for my small space, so click on this for the master list: sandiegomusicizing.com. What jumps out Friday night? AC/DC guitarist Wayne Kramer at Bar Pink, for sure...the mods-rocking Blackout Party and Heavy Guilt around the bend at U-31...Hune and His Punx. Shannon and the Clams, the Kabbs, and Mrs. Magician will be doing their take on fuzzed-out doo-wop rock at Casbah...Smile Now Cry Later. Rafter, and Father John Misty, delivers this year’s SubPop platter Fear Fun to Casbah after Get Back Loretta and Dead Feather Moon. Low Volts plug in at the Atari Lounge...Outside “the Thing”: ’80s pop star

Saturday 15
SDMT’s Saturday-night highlights include indie hits Pinback and Jammul Saxton at the all-ages Sunset Temple in NoPark...Public Enemies DJ Lord and Chuck D will be spinning ‘round sets by Illuminat...and Parker & the Numberman at the Office...loud-ass locals Lord Howler and the Long and Short of It turn up at Bar Pink...while Fleet Fox folie J. Tillman, aka Father John Misty, delivers this year’s SubPop platter Fear Fun to Casbah after Get Back Loretta and Dead Feather Moon. Low Volts plug in at the Atari Lounge...Outside “the Thing”: ’80s pop star

Sunday 16
The 94/9 Independence Jam Coastal Invasion is up at the Oceanside Pier Amphitheater on Sunday and if features Fiona Apple, Best Coast, Oberhofer, and Gardens & Villa. I like Best Coast, I’m just not sure how if they fit with the other three acts on this bill. Do they even play these bands on the radio? I clicked on that Oberhofer band name and got a pop-up that said if I buy an 18- pack or larger of Miller Lite I get $10 off my ticket. Man, the wheels have really come off the 94/9 bus...Best of the rest: L.A. darkwave duo She Wants Revenge will be at Belly Up behind their latest goth-rock album Blood, Sweat & Tears (“You’ve Made Me So Very Happy.” “Spinning Wheel.” “Got to Get You into My Life”) rolls into Anthology Sunday night.

Monday 17
As Dave Good Of Notes in this week’s issue, Ringo Deathstarr lands at Soda Barr. The Austin act stands as one of the best shoe-gaze groups going, as last year’s excellent Colour Trip put a charge into ’90s noise pop, goosing the Mary Chain with a stumbling punk gait. Tennis System and Short Eyes open the show...If that one sells out, right down the road you got proto-punk five-piece Barbarian...
San Diego Reader  
September 13, 2012

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Post-Folk Bootgaze

“The ghosts of our past get in the way of our future.”

The theme of Manuok’s newest album is “ghosts, change, and traps,” says multi-instrumentalist and frontman Scott Mercado, whose résumé includes a foundational role in post-rock trio Via Satellite and recording/touring stints with Black Heart Procession, the Album Leaf, Tristeza, Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects, and Ilya.

So, perhaps it’s no coincidence that Traps departs from the ethereal indie-folk sound that guided the band’s previous three albums (and landed their rendition of “Untitled 1” at the top of a band-endorsed list of Sigur Rós covers) to instead find a more urgent, disconcerted tone that draws lyrical parallels between Mercado’s personal tribulations and a lurking dystopian paranoia.

“In broad terms, I wrote about how the ghosts of our past get in the way of our future — how we trap ourselves,” says Mercado. “More specifically, or song to song, I cover this in terms of politics, fear of life change, relationships, death, and capitalism.”

The struggle to embrace change and thwart recurrence is evident in the evolution of Manuok, whose résumé includes a foundational role in a solo project begun in 2004 by Mercado into a collaborative instrumental nine-piece KATA, with whom guitarist Andrew Trecha performed as a visual artist.

In Traps’ opening single, “Count on Us,” Mercado appears to take on the first-person voice of his tyrannical doubts and, in doing so, invokes a candidness that carries on through “Sinking In” with the self-aware warning, “I’ve been this way before, so careful where you go/ I’ve felt this way before, so careful who you know,” and on to “Buried in the Sand,” which kicks off with the caveat, “Be careful when you talk to others.”

As such, you may hear evidence of bassist Erik Berg and keyboards/vibesman Jeff Grasmick’s time with rock outfit Rochelle, Rochelle, or drummer Geoff Hill’s chops with Ilya and cinematic instrumental nine-piece Traps, with whom guitarist Andrew Trecha performed as a visual artist.

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From the melancholy lament of “NC” to the howling closer “Some Voices,” Traps rings with a probing ferocity that Mercado likens to aspects of Helmet, Failure, and Led Zeppelin.

That really doesn’t describe it, however. The album is too mercurial, paradoxically embodying the changes that it supposes to dread.

Between jangly indie-pop verses, fuzzed-out bridges nodding toward dream-noise supergroup Astrobrite, and straight-ahead rock breakdowns (think Radiohead’s more wrathful moods), one is tempted to place Manuok in a well-deserved genre all their own: like, say, post-folk bootgaze.

Whatever you end up calling it, Traps — written and recorded in and out of European and domestic tours — solidifies why Manuok (which was listed as a best new band name in Dave Eggers’ “The Best American Nonrequired Reading”) has been the most frequently cited favorite of fellow artists in Jay Allen Sanford’s musician interviews, accruing over a dozen shout-outs from contemporaries including Sven-Erik Seaholm, Marie Haddad, Drew Andrews, Michael Tierman, Bart Mendoza, and Marcia Claire.

Already out on Japan’s Kilk Records, Traps drops September 15 via Bay Area–based 500 Records and Macaco Records (Italy).

Fall into the trap on September 14 at the Tin Can Ale House with a San Diego Music Thing party featuring Via Satellite partner Drew Andrews, alt-country outlaws River City, and the Palace Ballroom. Five bucks. Change welcome.

Scott Mercado: “Every single one of us has hardcore, punk, or rock roots. So — bang! — a rock album.”

Almost everything by myself,” Mercado says. “After the album was released, the band would then take the songs and make new versions. On the new album, most of the songs were played live first and recorded last. As a result, the recordings are real close to what you’ll hear live. Additionally, the guys helped arrange songs, wrote parts, and so much more. The result is the combination of all our old bands, influences, and tastes. As it turns out, every single one of us has hardcore, punk, or rock roots. So — bang! — a rock album.”

Mercado says he saw “Manuok” written on a bathroom wall and liked the ambiguity of it.

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• Hargo • Hills Like Elephants • Low Volts • Maren Parusel • Nena Anderson & The Mules • New Mexico
• Red Lotus Revue • Robin Henkel • Sara Petite & The Sugar Daddys • Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra
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also submit information online at San Diego, CA 92186. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com/music.

THIS WEEK’SSHOWS

4th&B:
Saturday, 8pm — Adam Ant. English musician Adam Ant gained popularity as the lead singer of new wave/post-punk group Adam & the Ants. With The Good, the Mad, and the Lovely Posse.

98 Bottles:
Saturday, 8pm — Daniel Jackson. Dizzy’s presents tenor saxophone mentor and composer Daniel Jackson, alongside drummer Chuck McPherson, bassist Jeff Littleton, and pianist Joshua White. 619-255-7885. $15. 21 and up.

Sunday, 8pm — Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers. Dizzy’s presents Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers, featuring blues guitarist/vocalist Nathan James, bassist Troy Sandow, and drummer Marty Dodson. 619-255-7885. $10. 21 and up.

Anthology:
Thursday, 7:30pm, Friday, 7:30pm — Stephanie Mills. Grammy Award winning singer (“I Never Knew Love Like This Before”). $26-$96. 21 and up.

Friday, 9:45pm — Jade Element. CD release party. $10-$26.

Saturday, 9:30pm, Thursday, 7:30pm — Tina Johnson Finn. “Queen of the Night — The Show: A Celebration of the Music & Legacy of Whitney Houston.” R&B, soul. $10-$44. 21 and up.

Sunday, 9pm, Sunday, 7pm — Blood, Sweat & Tears. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Future of Forestry. Wednesday, 7pm — Erika Davies & Burt Brion.

ArtLab:
Wednesday, 8pm — Robin Henkel Band with Whitney Shay and Billy Watson. A night of jazz and blues. Free.

Bar Pink:
Friday, 9pm — Wayne Kramer. The American guitarist, singer, songwriter, producer, film and television scorer performs for San Diego Music Thing.

Beaumont’s:
Thursday, 8pm — Simeon Flick. Free.


Belly Up:
Thursday — Mutaytor. Friday, 7:30pm — Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo. $69-$74. 21 and up.

Friday, 8pm — Michelle Menert and Govinda. North County Ocean Beats with SuperDre and Sublimnal Sound System. Saturday, 8pm — Atomic Punks. Van Halen tribute.

Block 16 Union & Spirits:
Saturday, 7pm — Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash. $10. 21 and up.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, 8pm — The King of the Hills. Presented by Electro Shock Junkies. Friday, 8pm — The Briggs. $8-$10.

Saturday, 8pm — Smashing The Hills. Presented by Electro Shock Junkies.

Saturday, 8pm — Arsonists Revenge. With The Start, The Hellions, and Billy Watson. A night of jazz & blues.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps:
Wednesday — Steve Poltz. Singer-songwriter.

Friday, 9pm — Joe Troutman and Midnight Starr’s EDM.

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Moonface started out as a lo-fi solo project by Spencer Krug in what little time off he had from his other bands, Wolf Parade, Sunset Rubdown, and Swan Lake (among others). To show how seriously he took Moonface, one early release was titled Dreamland EP: Marimba and Shit-Drums. But Moonface’s Heartbreaking Bravery, released this spring, was named by Spin magazine as one of the best releases of the year so far. And Spin’s right.

Krug first gained widespread attention with Wolf Parade, the band he started in Montreal in 2005. It was initially a more country/folk influenced project, but with the release of 2008’s Atwood EP, Moonface was born. Their first album, 2010’s Moonface, gained a great deal of critical acclaim, especially from Pitchfork, who ranked it #1 in 2010.

Moonface’s sound is a mix of moody guitar rock and distorted electronic sounds, along with Krug’s bizarre lyrics and slightly deranged delivery. It’s a dark, unsettling record whose most upbeat song hasKrug repeating the line “Teary eyes and bloody lips make you look like Stevie Nicks.” The nearly eight-minute “Headsed for the Door” sounds like M83 having a nightmare. The title track is a slow ballad equally reminiscent of the Twin Peaks soundtrack, side two of David Bowie’s Low, and “Purple Rain,” with Krug creepily singing, “I’m not the fox/ with bloodstained lips/ standing over the kill.” By the five-minute mark, he’s singing a wordless hook, “oh-oh-oh,” and you can imagine this playing for the last dance at the weirdest and most wonderful prom ever.

Moonface: Casbah, Tuesday, September 18, 8:30pm. 619-232-4355. $12 advance/$14 door.

Find more Of Note columns online at 101readers.com/notes

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Nova. San Diego Music Thing
showcase with Mini
Mansions and KATA.
Saturday
— Tomorrow’s
Bad Seeds. With Through the
Roots. $15-$27.
Humphreys by the Bay:
Thursday, 7:30pm — The Doobie
Brothers. Southern rock/country.
Friday
Pal Joey’s:
Saturday, September 22
8:30pm • Blues
Stoney B
Stoney B
Stoney B
5pm • World Rock
Sister Speak
9:30pm • Blues
John Lee Hooker Jr.

BY DAVE GOOD
Shoegaze, done loud. Ringo
Deathstarr falls into the
sub-grouping of rock bands
that have learned a valuable
lesson from
forbearers such as My Bloody
Valentine: play your music loud
enough and people will think
you are important. Ringo
Deathstarr, otherwise, is an
act that gets mixed reviews. I
think the lines of like/not like
are age-related. Younger
pop critics swoon, older pop
critics have heard this all
before, and then some. So, what’s
to like about R5? They are the
sound of the 1990s London
distortion, an era Ringo
Deathstarr was late for but
manages to duplicate well.
I like them for that alone. They
are the sound of the
shoegazers of old, but with the
occasional surprise.

Ringo Deathstarr
Soda Bar, Monday,
September 17, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224, $7.
Excludes holidays and concert nights.
Find more Of Note columns online at SDR reader.com/notes

LaZY HUMMINGBIRD
Friday, 7:30pm — Kalisa Moa
and Danielle Marriot. Original
Saturday, 7:30pm — Jefferson
Jay, Nancy Trusdall, Patricia
Mueller. Free.

Lestat’s Coffee House:
Sunday, 5pm — Tiff
Timberly and Rebecca Loube. Free.

Museum of Making Music:
Saturday, 7pm — Vinny
goldia Sextet. Ensemble will
expose the audience to
to saxophones of all
shapes and sounds. The sextet
features saxophone, trumpet,
guitar, electric bass, and
percussion. 760-438-5996. $15-$20.

Oceanside Pier Plaza
Amphitheatre:
Sunday, 4:30pm — FM 94/9’s
Independence Jam. With Fiona
Apple, Best Coast, Pinback,
Oberhofer, Gardens & Villa,
Father John Misty, Blake
Mills, and Mrs. Magician. 845-855.

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Mills, and Mrs. Magician. 845-855.

Office: Wednesday, 10pm — Ed Ghost
Tucker. $5. 21 and up.
Palm Jos’:
Friday, 9pm — Night Shift. Free.
Saturday, 9pm — Late Edition.
Patricks Gaslamp Pub:
Thursday, 9pm — Bill Magee
Blues Band.
Friday, 9pm — 145th Street.
Saturday, 9pm — Len Rainey & the
Midnight Players. Free.
Sunday, 9pm — The Stilettos.

Robert H.每次检查前必须将所有物品放入袋子中。
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EVERYONE’S A CRITIC

Live in Europe 1967
Miles Davis
By Andrew Hamlin
So, Wayne Shorter remembers how he’d step up to the mic and the rhythm section (Herbie Hancock on piano, Ron Carter on bass, Tony Williams on drums) would mostly or wholly drop out, leaving him hanging, as we say today. And that was partially provocation — “Can you do it?” — and partly its opposite — “We trust you to do it. We wouldn’t leave you hanging, if we didn’t know you could swing.” And so the five men caper across the then-mid-Miles catalog, waving cursorily at head melodies, Williams’s bottomless all-of-six-piece set collapsing time into half time, afterburning half time into double time, roaring like a logic storm presented with the problem of a farmhouse.

Shorter blows just a little more lyrical than most beboppers, dovetailing with Miles for some brief impeccable exchanges, horses cooling off before the next rodeo run. Miles tries simple, fancy, loud, soft, cool, and more-space-than-sound, and the rhythm usually sticks closer to him.

Carter suffers undermiking, though try the first two discs for sweet solos; picking him out and stitching him into the action makes for a fascinating weekend with headphones. Herbie methodically stitching him into the action makes for a fascinating weekend with headphones. Herbie methodically makes sense — not the R&B sense of his earlier concert series. Donations appreciated. Reception follows. 858-538-8158.

Soda Bar:
Thursdays, 8:30pm — By Sunlight, Kenseth & Brandon, The Tall Ships.

Friday, 8pm — The Seks, War of Aggression, Heroes at Gunpoint, Saturday, 8pm — Los Sindicato.

Searsucker:
Saturday, 6pm — Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind.

Midas Touch, Moonsorrow, Tyr, and Metsatoll. Metal. $20-$25.

Appleseed: Thursday, 8pm — News From the Front, Hoodrat, Mercy Ties.

Shakedown Bar:
Thursdays, 8pm — News From the Front, Hoodrat, Mercy Ties.

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Saturday, 6pm — Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind.

Midas Touch, Moonsorrow, Tyr, and Metsatoll. Metal. $20-$25.

Appleseed: Thursday, 8pm — News From the Front, Hoodrat, Mercy Ties.

Searsucker:
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Midas Touch, Moonsorrow, Tyr, and Metsatoll. Metal. $20-$25.
**OCTOBER 24TH**

**IN SHOW & CONCERT!**

**BOB DYLAN**

and HIS BAND

PLUS **MARK KNOPFLER**

**DON’T YOU DARE MISS IT!**

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**TICKETS & INFO**

BellyUp.com • 858-481-8140

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and sign up for our VIP email list!

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**143 SOUTH CEDROS AVE., SOLANA BEACH**

**Upcoming Shows:**

**9/24** Dragonette

**9/25** Rob Delaney

**9/26** Bebel Gilberto Trio - seated show!

**9/27** Serj Tankian

**9/28** The Psychedelic Furs - SOLD OUT!

**9/29** The Greyboy Allstars w/ Matthew quaint

**9/30** The Spazmatics - Ultimate New Wave 80's Show

**10/1** Stephen Marley

**10/2** Nick Lowe - Solo Acoustic - seated show!

**10/3** The Toadies and Helmet

**10/4** Leon Russell

**10/5** The Spazmatics - Ultimate New Wave 80's Show

**10/6** Particle

**10/7** Ben Howard – KPRI pres

**10/8** Dark Star Orchestra

**10/9** Kinky Boots - SOLD OUT!

**10/10** The Spazmatics

**10/11** The Raveonettes

**10/12** Mike Gordon & The Tube Show

**10/13** The Allman Brothers Band

**10/14** The Mothers of Invention

**10/15** The Spazmatics - Ultimate New Wave 80's Show

**10/16** The Mothers of Invention

**10/17** The Spazmatics - Ultimate New Wave 80's Show

**10/18** The Mothers of Invention

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**AimLoan.com**

**SAN DIEGO BLUES FESTIVAL**

A BENEFIT FOR THE JACOBS & CUSHMAN SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK

Saturday, Sept. 22

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On the downtown waterfront

General admission: $10 plus two cans of food

VIP: $75

www.sdbluesfest.com

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**Upcoming Shows:**

**9/24** Rome

**9/25** Rome

**9/26** Rome

**9/27** Rome

**9/28** Rome

**9/29** Rome

**9/30** Rome

**10/1** Rome

**10/2** Rome

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**10/27** Rome

**10/28** Rome

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**10/30** Rome

**10/31** Rome

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**Happy Hours!**

**Fridays 5PM** • **9/21**

**Atomic Groove**

Email beth@bellyup.com to rent the Belly Up for your next Event!!
There’s no room for shoulder angels at Seven Grand. They already had their share. They’re afraid of the tartan carpet and the dark wood paneling. They panic at the sight of the wall of whiskey. They want to know where the PBR is, but they have to glumly order a $5 High Life and hide in the corner as far as possible from the stags, jackalopes, displays of rare whiskey and cigars that summon visions of old men with mutton-chops and shotgun collections.

Not that any Highland barons or Tennessee gentlefolk will be setting foot inside Seven Grand anytime soon. The patrons seem displaced from downtown in their collared shirts, cocktail dresses, and occasional Ed Hardy. Yup, this L.A.-owned lounge is definitely the next step in the re-scening of North Park. Tattoo’d, Tecate-quaffing hipsters have already ceded Seven Grand to the young professional types who can afford to drop upwards of $25 on a glass of whiskey from time to time.

The sarcastic shoulder devil says, “Sweet, another place with stuffed animal heads on the walls. I bet the bartenders wear suspenders.”

The thristy shoulder devil says, “Holy shit, dude, look at all that whisky!”

In all fairness, the crowd is amicable. They seem to appreciate the finer things in life more than kicking in your head “True North style.” Getting served can take forever because the labor-intensive cocktails put the barkeeps in the weeds when the place gets busy, but the wait is mostly worth it.

The whiskey selection is beyond killer. Even being unfamiliar with whisky drinking, it’s easy to have a mind-bendingly delicious experience tasting strange, often expensive, whiskies from parts familiar and unknown. If a $13 glass of rye can taste that good, imagine the gustatory assault that a $60 glass of spirits will deliver to the tastebuds! Cocktails ($10 whisky-based and otherwise) are elevated to fine art at Seven Grand. The old-fashioned, while perhaps a touch sweet, is addictive and made with Maker’s instead of cheap hooch. Good as it is, it plays second fiddle to the mint julep, which is like the Kentucky Derby and Gone with the Wind doing burnouts in the General Lee on your tastebuds.

Take that, shoulder devils!

— Ian Pike

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Take that, shoulder devils!

— Ian Pike
September 23 — Daryll Hall and John Oates.

Hilton San Diego Bayfront: 1 Park Bl., Downtown San Diego, 619-564-3333.

September 22 — Steven Ybara.


September 21 —啖iated Love.

Sunday, September 22 — Owl City.

September 23 — Corelia.

September 24 — Amanda Palmer & the Grand Theft Orchestra.

September 26 — Citizen Cope.

September 27 — Amos Tobin.

September 28 — Wide Open, The Swellers, Such Gold.

September 29 — The Luminaries.

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

September 27 — Mercedes Moore.

September 28 — Detroit Underground.

Humphreys by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.

September 23 — Tony Bennett.

September 24 — Brett Floyd.

September 25 — Bonnie Raitt.

September 29 — Crosby, Stills & Nash.

The Irenics: 3090 Polk Ave., North Park, 619-624-9335.

September 29 — Azure Ray and Soko.


September 29 — Chris Clarke & Dane Terry.

Kt’s Restaurant: 2591 S. Coast Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-486-5544.

September 28 — Robin Henkel and Whitney Shay.

September 29 — Robin Henkel, Whitney Shay, Billy Watson.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church: 4690 Palm Ave., La Mesa, 619-486-4163.

September 23 — Classical Piano Recital.

Lazy Hummingbirds: 4876 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-200-5016.

September 21 — Playpuss Egg & Old Man Wizard.

September 22 — Destructo Bunny, Hayes, Rising Sons of Beaches.

September 28 — Katie Leigh.

September 29 — Justin Werner & Friends.


September 23 — Robin Henkel Band with Horns.

Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD. October 23 — Staff Benda Bilili.

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge: 400 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-6441.

September 28, September 29, November 2, November 3 — Stone Wolf.

McDini’s: 105 E. 9th St., National City, 619-474-6771. September 29 — Almost Islanders Part II.

Mission Theatre: 231 North Main St., Fallbrook.

September 22 — Southern Stue.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.

September 21 — Outta Line.

September 28 — Natural Selection.

Montrey Bay Canners: 1325 North Harbor Dr., Oceanside, 760-722-3474.

September 21 — MoonDance Band.

September 21, October 19 — Band of Gold.


September 29, September 30 — Adams Avenue Street Fair.

Open Air Theatre: 5500 Campanile Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6947.

September 30 — The Shins.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.

October 12 — Australian Bee Gees.

Patricks Gaslamp Pub: 428 F St., Downtown San Diego, 619-233-3077.

September 20 — Phil DiSorio.

September 21 — Bill Magee Blues Band.

September 22 — Mystique Element of Soul.

September 23 — Myron & the Kypontians.

September 26 — Mystique Element of Soul.

September 27 — Johnny Vernazza.

October 29 — Missy Andersen.

Porter’s Pub at UCSD: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-587-4828.

September 22 — Mac Lucci.

La Posta Casino: 777 Crestwood Rd., El Cajon, 619-824-4100.

September 22 — Band of Gold.


September 22 — “O Berkeley, Where Have Thou?”

Prescott Promenade: 211 1/2 E. Main St., El Cajon.

September 21 — Caliber.

September 28 — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclubs: 826 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.

September 22 — Faster Pussycat.


Saint Germain’s Café: 1010 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411.

September 22 — Deborah Abrams Duf.

September 29 — A Bit of Alright.

The Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.

September 21 — Friend of the Devil.

September 22 — Calabrese, Pass the Axe, Some Kind of Nightmare.

September 24 — The Beat Dells.

September 27 — Billy Don Burns & The Freight Shakers and Bill Cardinal & the Canyon Band.

September 28 — Decoy.

Neverland Ranch Hands, Purdy Spit.
Smith Recital Hall at SDSU:
5500 Campanile Dr., College Area, 619-594-5200.
September 26, September 26 — Joshua White Trio.

Soda Bar:
3615 El Cajon Blvd., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
September 20 — Gloomday, The Lyon Crowns, Takahashi.
September 21 — Holo Torch.
September 23 — Bottom Dollars, Nacosta, Royal Canoe.
September 24 — Holograms, Teenage Burritos, Dream Buddies.

Soma:
September 21 — Rum For the Pirates.
September 28 — In Fear & Faith and Lion I Am CD Release Party.
September 28 — In Fear and Faith, Lion I Am, Killing the Messenger.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church - Chula Vista:
580 Hilltop Dr., Chula Vista, 619-427-5515.
September 20 — Soul-Junk.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
217 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, 760-529-9140.
September 21 — Southern Stue.

Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre:
September 30 — Mark Chesnutt.

The Tower Bar:
4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.
September 28 — Gone Baby Gone, SGO, Schizophrenics.

Veranda at Rancho Bernardo Inn:
17550 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-335-8555.
September 20 — Steven Ybarra.

Vision Center for Spiritual Living:
11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Tierrasanta, 619-303-6609.
September 20 — San Diego Jazz Quartet.

Winstons:
1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
September 24 — The Electric Waste Band.
September 25 — Bassquake.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
September 22 — The Abyssinians.
More information about these establishments can be found online at SDRReader.com/drinks, including driving directions, coupons, and more.

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Please fax to 619-293-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hour, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at SDRReader.com/drinks.

ALLIED GARDENS
San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Sunday 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. Include appetizers.

ALPINE
Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 10% off $35 wines, $4 house wine, $4.75 call.

Donato’s Italian Restaurant: Mondays 4-7pm: $3.5 glass of wine, $6.75 pasta, $7 appetizers. Bar or patio only.

BALBOA PARK
The Prado: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: 10% off wines, $30 house wine.

BANKERS HILL
Bertrand at Mister A’s: Monday-Friday, 5-10pm: $4.5 house wine, $4.50 call.

San Diego Brewing Company: CA 92186, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks. Please visit the Reader Happy Hour page online at SDReader.com/drinks.

BAY PARK
The High Dive: Monday-Thursday, Sunday 9-11pm: $3 wells, $7.50 local & import drafts, $8 off well drinks.

BONITA
Sapphire 18+ Lounge & Hookah: Monday-Friday 3-6:30pm: $1 off wine and bottled beer, 2$ off well drinks.

BROOKLYN TIDE
Downtown Johnny Brown’s: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 flavored well drinks, $4 domestic & $4 imported beer, $5 wells.

BROOKLYN SAN DIEGO
The Local: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 flavored well drinks, $4 domestic & $4 imported beer, $5 wells, $5 wine.

BURBANK
Diggidy’s: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic & $5 imported beer, $5 wine.

BURLINGTON
Pacifica del Mar: Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-6pm: $2 domestic well drinks, $3 shrimp, fiesta tacos, $6 fish tacos.

CABRILLO BEACH
Sushi Deli: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $3 bottled beer; $4 drafts, wells; $5 wines.

CABRILLO PENINSULA
Bully’s Del Mar: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 Brug brew, $4.75 margarita, $5.50 chardonnay, $1 off featured wine. Discounted fish tacos.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Conway’s Irish Pub: Daily, 10am-8pm: $2.75 domestic drafts & bottles; $2.75 & $3.75 wells.

CARMEL VALLEY
Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar: Daily, 4-6pm: $2 off drinks. 1/2-off seasonal spreads & pizzas. Includes special events and promotional nights.

CHULA VISTA
BJ’s Brewhouse: Monday-Thursday, 3pm-7pm: $1 off draft & cocktails. 10pm-close: 1/2-price mini pizza, $2 off appetizers (snacks and small bites not included). Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off beer & cocktails.

VENI VIDI VICI: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $1 off all draft & well liquors. 1/2-price appetizers.

CITY HEIGHTS
Black Cat Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $1 off every drink, $5 wells, $5 wine.

The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells & import drafts.

CLAIREMONT
Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-4pm, 4-7pm: $5.50 call.

Fat Tony’s Pizza: Monday-Thursday, 4-8pm: $2 glass/$8 pitcher Yellowtail, Blue Moon, Big Eye, Coors Light, $5 pizza, wings, salad.

COLLEGE AREA
Effin’s Pub & Grill: Monday, noon-10pm: $4 Jack Daniel’s, Southern Comfort, $7 Bećir’s, $7 Jäger.

Island pitcher. $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO
Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, $5 premium wells; 1/2-off artisan flat breads.

Analog: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, $5 house wines, $6 specialty drinks. 1/2-off loaded skins, hummus, sweet-potato fries.

Current: Daily, 4-7pm, 9-9pm: $3 domestic & $4 imported beer, $5 wells, red/white wine, specialty cocktails. 1/2-off tempura green beans, mac & cheese, popcorn.

Downtown Johnny Brown’s: Monday-3pm, 6-10pm: $1 off wine, 40% off bar menu.

Dublin Square: Daily, 2-5pm: $2 off drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off sliders, fish tacos, meat pies.

Dussini Loft Bar: Monday-Thursday, 4-8pm: $2 glass/$8 pitcher Yellowtail, Blue Moon, Big Eye, Coors Light, $5 pizza, wings, salad.

DUSSELDORF
House of Blues: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 off drinks. 1/2-off sliders, fish tacos, $3 domestic, $3 wine, $4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

The Local: Tuesday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic & $4 imported beer, $3.50 tacos. Wednesday, 4-10pm: $1 off well drinks, drafts. 1/2-off sliders, onion rings, calarm. Friday-Saturday, 10-11pm: $1 off well drinks, $2 off sliders, onion rings, calarium.

La Gran Tapas: Daily, 5-6:30pm: $3 artisan drafts, $4 wines. $3 marinated mushrooms, bread/dipping sauces; $4 salad, frittata.

House of Bluest: Daily, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3 wells. 1/2-off sliders, fish tacos, $4 draft beer, $5 wine, $5 domestic wine.

The Shout House: Monday, 4-7pm: $4 domestic & $4 imported beer, $5 wells, $5 wine.

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

STOUT PUB HOUSE: Daily, 4-8pm: $4 bottles, $4 drafts, wells, $5 domestic, $5 imported beer, $6 wine.

SUSHI DELI: Monday-Wednesday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-off all beer. $3.50 large beer & house small hot sake, $4.50

Yummy Sushi: Monday-Sunday, 3-6pm: $3 pints, $4 large hot sake. 20-50% off appetizers.

DEL MAR
Brigantine: Daily, 4-6pm: $4 Brig brew, $4.75 margarita, $5.50 chardonnay, $1 off featured wine. Discounted fish tacos.

Bully’s Del Mar: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Discounted food, beer, cocktails. Sunday, all day: $3 Bud Light, Coors Light, $4 bloody marys, margaritas, mimosas.

Pacificia del Mar: Wednesday, 4-6:30pm: $6 vodka & gin. Oyster night: oysters on the 1/2 shell and oyster shooters. Thursday, 4-6:30pm: 1/2-price on all bottles of wine.

Zel’s Del Mar: Daily, 4-6:30pm: $1 off drafts & premium drinks, $2 off wines by glass, $3.50 wells. $4 fried calamari, $5 fish tacos, $10 burger & beer.
Large beer & small craft milk. Thursday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-off all beer, $3.50 large beer & house small hot sake, $4.50 large beer & small craft milk.

Tequila 100: Daily, 3-7pm: $3 drafts, $5 margaritas, mojitos, tequila shots, $4 bottled tacos, $5 quesadillas, $6 tacos, $7 chips, $8 burritos, $9 quesadillas, $10 fajitas.

Yard House: Monday-Wednesday, 3-6pm & 10pm-close: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Sunday, 10pm-close: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more.

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**EAST VILLAGE**

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: $4.95 house wine, $5 bottles, house wine; Free pizza samples.

Cafe Chloe: Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: $4 to $6 beer, wine, $4 house salad, sauces, $5 turflamb, soup, $6 custard, fromage plate.

Dragons Den: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: $1 off all drafts, $4.50 well, $5 house wines.

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.25 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: Monday-Thurday, Saturday-Sunday, 7-9pm: $5 menu cocktails. Friday, 5-9pm: $5 menu cocktails.

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

Monkey Paw: Monday-Friday, 5-9pm: 1/2-off drafts and cocktails.

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**EASTLAKE**

The Brew House at Eastlake: Monday-Friday, 3-4pm: 2/3-off craft cocktails, $3 house beer/wine, well. $3 off sliders, nachos, flatbread.

El Cajon

Barony Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1-$2 off liquor, $1-$3 off beer/wine.

Cafés: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.75 bottled beer; 12 oz. water, $3.75 beer/wine.

Yard House: Monday-Wednesday, 3-6pm & 10pm-close: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Sunday, 10pm-close: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.25 martinis; 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more.

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**Flinn Springs Inn:**

4-7pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells.

Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints; pizza, appetizers, and more. 3-6pm & 10pm-close: $3.50 domestic pints; $6.50 ceviche. Drafts, $5 margaritas, mojitos, tequila shots; $4 bottled tacos, $5 quesadillas, $6 tacos, $7 chips, $8 burritos, $9 quesadillas, $10 fajitas.

**Calypso:**

Friday, 4-7pm: $1-$2 off liquor.

**Blarney Stone Pub:**

Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2.25 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

**The Brew House at Eastlake:**

Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: 1/2-off all beer, wine, $3.50 well, $4 house wine, $4.50 domestic, $5 wells.

**Café Chloe:**

Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 off craft cocktails; $4 drafts, $6 select wine glasses. $9 flatbreads.

**ESCONDIDO**

Vino Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; $4.50 wells. Saturday, noon-5pm: $6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; $4.50 wells.

**FALLBROOK**

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

**GOLDEN HILL**

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: $1 off beer/wine/spirits, $5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links + chips.

**GRANTVILLE**

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

**HARBOR ISLAND**

The Boathouse: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, well, $5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

**KENSINGTON**

Clem’s Tap House: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off all beer and wine flights.

Kensington Cafe: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 Bohemia, Fat Tired, $6.50 Darvel. $3 red/white wine special, mimosas; $5.50 pinot noir. $4 taco, $8 chili crunch.

The Kensington Club: Daily, 10am-6pm. $2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

Kensington Vibe: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $5 glass of wine. Saturday-Sunday, 3-6pm. Discounted champagne. $13 bottomless mimosas and bellinis.

Til-Two: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

**LA JOLLA**

Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Daily, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 small sake, $4 large sake, $3.95 select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 California spicy tuna, veggie roll.

Barrella: Monday-Friday, 3-30-6:30pm: $4 drafts (Stella Artois, Hofmannen, Trumer Pils), bottles (Corona, Newcastle, Moretti), wells, select wines by the glass, $7 Barbarella martini. 1/2-off appetizers.

Beamont’s: Daily, 3-6:30pm: $5 margaritas, mules, & mojitos; $5 cocktails. Philly special: $5 for bottle of PBR with a shot of whiskey.

Wine Steals: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 for 8 different glasses of wine. $2 select pizza slices. Saturday, 4-6pm: $10 wine tasting of 10 wines. Sunday, 11am-run out: 1/2-off red & white wine flights, $10 for 6 half glasses wine.

**IMPERIAL BEACH**

The Salty Frog: Tuesday, 6-10pm: “Toss it Tuesday” — each drink has 50/50 chance of costing a quarter. Thursday-Saturday, 5pm-close: $5 Burger bombs and Fireball shots. Sun, 1-9pm: $4 bloody mary bar, $3 Smirnoff flavors.

**KEARNY MESA**

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3-30-6:30pm: $2.75 glass wine, draft beer, $3.25 most domestic bottled beer; $3.50 margaritas. Free buffet: pizza, quesadillas, veggies.

**Bud’s Louisiana Cafe:**

Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: 1/2-off all beer, $5 cocktails. 15% off cup jam-balaya, oyster shooter, cajun chicken taquitos.

Khan’s Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.50 sake, $3 Bud light draft, $5 pinot noir, chardonnay. $4 gyro, egg rolls, $6 sliders, dumpling sampler.

**Ruby Room:**

Sunday, 4-6pm: $2 off drafts, $5 glass wine, $8 off bottle wine, 1/2-off craft cocktails; $4 drafts, $6 select wine glasses. $9 flatbreads.

**ESCONDIDO**

Vino Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; $4.50 wells. Saturday, noon-5pm: $6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; $4.50 wells.

**FALLBROOK**

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

**GOLDEN HILL**

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: $1 off beer/wine/spirits, $5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links + chips.

**GRANTVILLE**

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

**HARBOR ISLAND**

The Boathouse: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, well, $5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

**KENSINGTON**

Clem’s Tap House: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off all beer and wine flights.

Kensington Cafe: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 Bohemia, Fat Tired, $6.50 Darvel. $3 red/white wine special, mimosas; $5.50 pinot noir. $4 taco, $8 chili crunch.

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Til-Two: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

**LA JOLLA**

Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Daily, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 small sake, $4 large sake, $3.95 select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 California spicy tuna, veggie roll.

Barrella: Monday-Friday, 3-30-6:30pm: $4 drafts (Stella Artois, Hefe-
**Happy Hour**

cerviche, $7 pork spare ribs, $4 three-meat sliders.

**Bird Rock Pizza & Sports:** Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30 pm; $2.50 off selected appetizers, $3.50 domestic beer, $3.50 domestic wells.

**La Jolla Brew House:** Tuesday-Friday, 4-7 pm; $2.50 domestic beer, $2.75 domestic wells.

**Charcoal House:** All day Tuesday and Friday: $2 Mexican margarita, $2.75 fish taco, $4 clam California sparkling wine, $4.75 house selected red or white wine; $3.50 California sparkling wine.

**The Shakedown Bar:** Monday-Friday, 2-8 pm; $2.50 domestic drafts, $3 tall boys, wells, $3.50 Jack & Cokes.

**The Calypso Cafe:** Daily, 5-30 pm; $4 wells, sangria, margaritas.

**Lincoln Park**

**L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza:** Monday-Friday, 4-8 pm: $2.50 domestic drafts. $1 off appetizers. Monday, all day: $1.50 tacos.

**Linda Vista**

**Bull's Smokin’ BBQ:** Daily, 2-7 pm; $3 pits, $9 Bud & Coors Light pitch- ers, $12 Sierra Nevada, Red Trolley pitchers. $2 pulled pork or beef brisket sliders, $4.95 1/2 sandwich & side.

**Mira Mesa**

**Abbay’s Real Texas Bar-B-Q:** Daily, 11 am-10 pm; $2.99 fish fry, $6.99 pitcher draft. $1.49 hot link, $2.99 small brisket, pork, ham, or sausage sandwich.

**Brewski’s Bar:** Monday, 2-2 am: $2 PBR and Bud tall cans. Tuesday, 2-2 am: $2 Dos Equis and Coronas. Wednesday, 2-2 am: $1.50 domestic beer.

**Tio Leo’s:** Monday-Friday, 3-7 pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pits, $4 house margaritas, $5, $7.50 domestic pitchers.

**Little Italy**

**The Glass Door Restaurant & Lounge:** Daily, 5-7 pm: specialty cocktails (Mohijito, Ginger Pear Smash, mint-tea juleps, margaritas, & Cali Lime) & 3 French dinner sliders, $10 charcuterie platter & artisan cheese plate.

**Puerto La Boca:** Daily, 4-7:30 pm: $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, wells, $6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

**Midway District**

**The Shakedown Bar:** Monday-Friday, 2-8 pm: $2.50 domestic drafts, $3 tall boys, wells, $3.50 Jack & Cokes.

**The Calypso Cafe:** Daily, 5-30 pm; $4 wells, sangria, margaritas, $4 house wine. $3.50 beer.

**Lincoln Park**

**L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza:** Monday-Friday, 4-8 pm: $2.50 domestic drafts. $1 off appetizers. Monday, all day: $1.50 tacos.

**Linda Vista**

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**Pacific Beach**

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

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

**Baleen:** Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off beer, wine. All day. $2 off all wells, drafts, selected wines.

**Firehouse American Eatery and Lounge:** Monday, 4pm: $1/2-off specialty drinks. $2 mini-inferno burgers. Tuesday, 4pm: half-off well

**Johnny V:** Tuesday, 4pm: 50% off; $3 well, 2/5-off select wines. Wednesday, 4pm: 1/2-off beer of wine, $1 oysters. Thursday, 4pm-7pm: $2 all drinks, all day.

**Flaheg's Fish & Bar Restaurant:** Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic drafts/$7.95 pitcher, $3.50 imported drafts/$11.95 pitcher. Friday, 4-7pm: 10% off for military.

**Ramona:**

**Bowell's Restaurant:** Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $10 all drinks, all day.

**Sinbad Café:** Daily, 4-7pm: $1.50 drafts, $2 all drinks. Thursday, 4pm-7pm: $1 off all drinks.

**Tony Roma's:** Daily, 4pm, 1/2-off beer and wine. All day.

**The Turquoise Cafe-Bar Europa:** Tuesday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $2 all drinks, $3 cash wine, sangria, $4 wine.

**Point Loma**

**Jimmy's Famous American Tavern:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off all appetizers, drafts, wine.

**Old Venise:** Daily, 4-6pm: $4 glass of wine and $3.50 drafts, 1/2-off appetizers, including mac & cheese, focaccia & bruschetta, walnut gorgonzola salad.

**Paradise Lounge and Grill:** Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $2.50 well drinks, domestic bottles, $6.50 domestic pitchers.

**Rancho Bernardo**

**Bodner's Restaurant:** Monday, 4:30-7pm: $4.50 domestic, $3.50 imported specialty, $4.75 house margarita. 1/2-off house wine.

**Café on the Park:** Monday-Thursday, 5-6pm: $3 all drinks, $4 house margaritas, 1/2-off house wine by the glass. $1 off beer. Complimentary cheese & crackers, 1/2-off appetizers.

**Kelly's Public House:** Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off draft and a shot.

**Deli Stop Sports Pub:** Daily, 4-7pm: $1 all drinks. $3 ozo ozzie, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

**CozyMex's Mexican Grill:** Monday-Saturday, 4pm-6pm: $2.25 Coors Light draft. $3.25 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**

**Small Bar:** Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $1/2-off all drinks and cocktails.

**Valley Center**

**Casa Reveses Mexican & Seafood Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $2 domatico, $3.95 imported specialty.

**Jumping Bean Café & Mexicali Grill:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic bottles, $3.25 Dos Equis drafts, $3.25 Pacifico drafts, $3.25 Corona draft. $2.50 Mexican beer.

**Vista**

**Chili Coast Burgers:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 1/2-off tap beer.

**UCSD**

**Porter's Pub at UCSD:** Daily, 11am-7pm $3 Menu; 4pm-7pm $1 all beer.

**Barra Barra:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 shot drinks, house wine, house margaritas, $2 off absinthe specials. $2 house wine.

**Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:** Daily, 3-6pm: House drinks and drafts. $4. House drinks. $4.50.

**Old Town Mexican Café:** Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $2 beer specials. $2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish, carnitas), $2.50 margaritas, Tefaca tequila.
The Old Globe Theatre presents
Musical Allegiance: A New American Shakespeare

2 Across
The Broadway Theater stages Jerry Mayer’s comedy about a man and a woman, strangers, doing crossword words on a train. He throws his away unfinished. She hits the ceiling. Randall Hickman directed.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Intrepid Shakespeare Company presents a musical version of Shakespeare’s comedy of mistaken identities. Co-directors Christy Yad and Colleen Kollar Smith have incorporated music from the 1960s. The show is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

September 13, 2012

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of a musical (music and lyrics, Jay Kuo; book, Marc Acitor, Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione) about U.S. internment of Japanese Americans in WWII. Stafford Arima directed.

As You Like It
Run to it! Dana Green’s doing a spectacular Rosalind, one of Shakespeare’s smartest women, and the Adrian Noble–directed production’s a wall-to-wall charmer. Banished gentry flee to a wintry Forest of Arden (Deidre Clancy’s costumes sport a modern dress, Nordic look), where the New Yorkers get to fall in love. The ensemble work is tops, as are individual efforts by Jacques C. Smith, as the melancholy Jacques, Dan Amboyer as Orlando, Vivia Font as Celia, and, of course, Green’s conjuring Rosalind [runs in repertory with Inherit the Wind and Richard III]. Critic’s Pick. Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, 619-234-5623. 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 21.

Cowgirls
PowPac stages the Mary Martin/ Betty Howie musical about Jo’s desperate attempt to save her father’s once-famous Country and Western saloon. Mary L. Smith directed. PowPac, PowPac’s Community Theater, 13250 Poway Rd., Poway. 866-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.

Death at the Doo-Wop
The Murder Mystery Company presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853—once-famous Country and Western saloon. Mary L. Smith directed. POWPAC, POWAY’S COMMUNITY THEATER, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 619-234-2544. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23.

Inherit the Wind
Put the “right to think” on trial at the Old Globe Theatre through September 25. The play, based on the famous 1957 play about U.S. internment of Japanese Americans in WWII, is always entertaining— and memory-provoking. (Note: Lamb’s Players has extended the run several times.) 619-437-0600. Worth a try.

Night Stage to Big Shaft
Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. “When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect.” The Playhouse, 3369 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Perfect Wedding
Scripps Ranch Theatre opens its 34th season with Robin Hooden’s contemporary farce about a groom-to-be who wakes up on his wedding day and finds a strange woman next to him. Jessica John directed. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMEROAD RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 7.

Pippin
Diversionsary presents a reimagined staging of the musical about the son of Charlemagne’s search for fulfillment, James Vasquez directed. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4454 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 14.

Richard III
This Richard’s an acquired taste: Jay Worth a try.

The National Comedy Theatre presents a 110-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.” NATIONAL COMEDY THEATER, 3717 INDIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 9:45PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 9:45PM SATURDAYS, OPENENDED RUN.

Perfect Wedding
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Death at the Doo-Wop
The Murder Mystery Company presents a dinner-theater production about “one killer prom” in 1957. SAN DIEGO HALL OF CHAMPIONS, 2135 PAN AMERICAN PLAZA, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-2544. 7PM FRIDAYS, THROUGH NOVEMBER 9.

Inherit the Wind
The play, based on the famous Scopes “Monkey Trial” of 1925, puts the “right to think” on trial as well. Director Adrian Noble’s production unfolds physically, like a musical: 25 actors fill the stage. Randall Hickman directed. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25.

Labor of Love
For three days only, Visionary Musical Theatre Company presents a musical tribute to the common man and life’s most universal challenges. TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE, 619-237-4510. 7PM THURSDAY, 7PM FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY, 7PM SATURDAY.

miXtape
Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith, creators of this revue of 1980s music, say that favorite songs “mark your memories.” miXtape is performed with rampant energy and polish by an eight-person cast. Memory-triggers zip past: Pet Rocks, Pac-Man, Nelson Mandela, AIDS. Most of the songs are actually song-bites. But backed by Andy Ingersoll’s versatile band and under Kerry Meads’s feisty direction, miXtape is always entertaining.
Worth a try.

Philip King’s classic farce (1944)
See How They Run
VICTORY THEATER, 2558 IMPERIAL
Chronos Theatre presents Ivan Valley
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE
has a knack for orchestrating keen
between. Director Robert Smyth
Act Three, these instances are far
vocal attack farce requires, but by
three — then four! — vicars and three
extended, downhill chase scene, as
the end of Act one), it becomes an
moves like a train chugging uphill.
DAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.
FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUN-
AVE., GRANT HILL. 619-236-1971. 8PM

Scandal in the St. Florian Valley
Chronos Theatre presents Ivan Cankar’s comedy. A mysterious
stranger and his sexy companion
Cankar’s comedy. A mysterious
SEPTEMBER 29.
DAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH
BRENGLE TERRACE PARK, 1200 VALE
MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE IN
STEVEN SMITH directed.

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds
Patio Playhouse stages Paul Zandlist’s award-winning drama about a
single mother, her two daughters, and
the most dysfunctional families. O.P.
Hadlock directed.
ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE.,
CHULA VISTA, 619-422-7787. 8PM
THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SAT-
URDAYS, THROUGH OCTOBER 9.

The Mystery Plays
Ion Theatre’s known for edgy scripts
and daring risks. Roberto Aguirre-
Sacasa’s two one-acts, on paper and on its intimate, black-box stage, are
not Jon show. The Filmmaker’s Mystery (a man’s saved from a
train-wreck) and The Ghost Children (a
woman returns to the scene of an
axe-murder) have occasional glim-
more Pixar than scary. Karin Fil-

San Diego’s Longest Running Interactive Mystery Theatre

written by Michael Ari Wulffhart
produced & directed by Bud Godown
Crime Pays is a live radio game show
brought to you from the Flamingo Hotel
in Las Vegas. Join the excitement and
become involved with “the family” who
run more than just a game show, let’s
just say it’s a mob scene and the hottest
ticket in town!
Help solve this hilarious mystery!

Call 619-460-2200
Every Fri & Sat 8 PM

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North Coast Rep theatre stages Steve Martin’s farce The Underpants through September 30.
BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURS-
DAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS,
8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.

Twilight Zone
Encore Theatre satirizes the current “Twilight” craze: the “comedy
spoof rock musical melodrama,” entitled Twilight Zone, promises “a third
less teen angst!”
ENCORE THEATER, 9620 CAMPO RD.,
SPRING VALLEY. 619-670-1627. 7PM
FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY, 7PM SATUR-
DAY, 2PM SUNDAY.
W.C. Fields by Himself!
Dale Morris performs the world
premiere of his one-act biography of
the great comedian “as he was
— demons and all.” Ira Bateman
Gold and Eric Poppick co-directed.
TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH
AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510.
7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM SAT-
URDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.

Welcome to Ramallah
Sonja Linden and Adah Kay’s
drama concerns a Palestinian
man (Daoud) in love with a Jewish
woman (Marz). When they and two
others are trapped in a West
Bank hotel, they must confront the
history of the Israeli — Palestinian
conflict.
SWEDENBORG HALL, 1531 TYLER AVE.,
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-237-4510.
7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30.

Tuskegee Love Letters
Community Actors Theatre presents Kim Russell’s drama based on the let-
ters of newlyweds during WWII: a pilot
Kim Russell’s drama based on the let-
TERS OF NEWLYWEDS DURING WWII: A
Pilot
COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2857
VICTORY THEATRE, 1254 COARCH AVE.,
CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM
THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM SAT-
URDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15.

The Underpants
North Coast Rep stages Steve
Martin’s farce about the wife of
Theobald Meke; her underpants
won’t stay on.
NORTH COAST REPETRORY THEATRE,
987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA
BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURS-
DAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS,
8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.
San Diego Reader
September 13, 2012

Iranian musician Nasser Ali Khan has haunted, buggy eyes, an unruly moustache, a broken heart, a wife he does not love, two children he does not know, and a mysteriously stalled career. But Nasser Ali Khan is a great violinist who believes that art guides us through the darkness of existence, and so all of this might have been bearable but for one thing: his instrument is broken, and he cannot find a worthy replacement. So, after contemplating various methods of suicide (illustrated via a Gorey-tinged gag reel), he takes to his bed to await death. Eight days later, death is signaled by a whiff of sulfur, a ghastly sort of melancholy, and enough is revealed to tease out a measure of sympathy for the dying. Fans of Persepolis’ animation will delight in the Angel of Death’s Appointment in Samarra—style anecdote, and fans of the visual glories of smoking will positively swoon at the exhaled atmospheres.

— Matthew Lickona

Interview with Samsara producer Mark Magidson and director Ron Fricke

When I first tried to describe Samsara to my wife, I said, “Think of Life magazine in its heyday, the photographs opening up the wider world to the viewer. Except here, the pictures move, and so does the camera. So, the images get revealed in new ways.”

Later, I worried that this would seem like a backhanded compliment — who remembers Life magazine in its heyday? Who even knows what a heyday is? But, if you were ever young and bored and poking around in your grandparents’ house and found a stack of back issues of Life and spent the next few hours lost in delight and wonder, well, at least you know what I mean. Also, you can probably understand why I was delighted to have an opportunity to speak with Samsara producer Mark Magidson and director Ron Fricke.

(And even if you don’t find yourself curious about a non-narrative portrait of the titular concept — birth-death-rebirth, universal interconnectedness, and temporal impermanence — all shot in stunning 70mm, you might find something to enjoy.)

[Full disclosure: I massaged some of my own text to give the piece a rosy sort of melancholy, and what happens in the interim is the recollection of a life. It’s a gutsy move, placing a sour, despairing, even hateful man at the heart of a story and expecting the viewer to play along, no matter how engaging the surrounding cast or how whimsical-tragical the vignettes. Happily, the gradual revelation of those vignettes and their various connections turns the story of one man’s failed life into something broader: a mystery, a whodunit before the deed is done. (Also, a whodunit in its heyday? But, if you were ever curious about a non-narrative portrait of the titular concept — birth-death-rebirth, universal interconnectedness, and temporal impermanence — all shot in stunning 70mm, you might find something to enjoy.)

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Matthew Lickona: What shots were difficult?

Ron Fricke: The shot of the sulfur miners in Indonesia was the most horrific location on this film, and I think on any other film we worked on. We were right down in the volcano where they were mining, and that vapor that you saw was sulfuric acid. When the wind changed, it got right in our eyes and down our throats, and we couldn’t breathe or see. Those miners do that all day long; they make two trips down into the volcano and back, with no protection. We were gagging and stumbling around, just trying to shoot it.

Matthew Lickona: How did you pitch the people you wanted to film?

Mark Magidson: We have a little synopsis about the film. Also, a lot of people know about our previous film, Bakara. We were pretty surprised with how big that has become over the years. It made things a lot easier.

Matthew Lickona: You mention
that the making and destruction of the sand painting was a key structural element. When I hear “structure,” I think screenplay, and I notice that you are listed as co-writers. People might not think of a non-narrative film without dialogue as having writers in the typical sense.

Mark Magidson: Well, there’s content, and there’s themes, and there’s kind of a rough structure. But, really, it gets refined in the editing process. You make the film with the imagery you bring back. So there was an outline, but it was subject to change.

Matthew Lickona: Can you give an example?

Ron Fricke: It’s like doing a painting — you’re just very open to the process. But once we had the opening and closing of the film, we just cut the rest in silence, in these three- or four-minute subject blocks. Then we started arranging the blocks to find the flow between them. That’s what we really concentrated on — showing how, through the power of flow, you could see that the people and the places and the planet are all interconnected.

Mark Magidson: There were sequences. There was organic imagery — meaning nature without people in it. There were manufacturing images, there were subway components...there are categories of material that you’re researching, trying to locate specific places where you can go and gather that.

Ron Fricke: And after the edit, we found that the film sort of has a message of its own going — the kind of blurry boundary between animate and inanimate objects. There are dolls that replicate humans...

Matthew Lickona: ...and those faces that moved to the mechanical noises.

Ron Fricke: Yeah, it’s like the robots are more human than the humans.

Mark Magidson: We actually had to add some of those mechanical noises, because no one was picking up on the fact that those faces were robots.

Matthew Lickona: Ah. And, of course, some of your human faces stayed motionless for a long, long time. Some of those stares went on long enough to make me uncomfortable in my seat.

Ron Fricke: I like shots that are long. I miss them. Usually with films, it’s cut, cut, cut. The whole idea of the portraits was that they were set up on the King Tut death mask in the beginning; his stare coming at you from eternity, you could say. We tried to make that a connection to all the other subjects we did portraits of — they’re connected to that stare, that soul in all of us. It’s like really good still photography; you get an essence of who is inside that skin.

Matthew Lickona: Speaking of the blurred line between man and machine, those factory shots from China were pretty striking. Was there any difficulty in getting access?

Ron Fricke: We tried here in the U.S., and we just got a, “No.” Nobody wants you in their kitchen here. But China was, “Yes!” They wanted to show us how efficient and clean they were.

Matthew Lickona: The sequence with the fellow smearing clay on his face seemed more stagy than anything else in the film, at least to me. It stuck out.

Ron Fricke: We had a lot of performers in the film. He was a Frenchman, and his performance was all about the shadow side, the parts inside you that you don’t want people to see. You could say that when the flow gets broken, the images become more intense, more powerful. There are a lot of those moments in the film — animals in cages, people in cages, walls around religions... Those break the natural flow, and I think that’s why they stick out.

— Matthew Lickona

Interview with Arbitrage writer-director Nicholas Jarecki

Nicholas Jarecki’s industry calling card was the 2001 book Breaking In: How 20 Film Directors Got Their Start. After several music videos and commercials, Jarecki collaborated with novelist Bret Easton Ellis on the screenplay to The Informers. Jarecki, 33, admits to not being a great fan of The Informers and that Arbitrage allowed the screenwriter and first-time director an opportunity to see his unadulterated vision through to completion. Richard Gere stars as a fraudulent hedge-fund magnate whose cool head shatters after an accidental homicide claims his mistress’ life. Watching the unflappable Gere squirm as his life in the boardroom and bedroom slowly unravels is one of the film’s great delights.

Arbitrage opens Friday at a theater near you. Jarecki is out stumping the film and was kind enough to spend a few minutes speaking with The Big Screen.

Scott Marks: Arbitrage is currently playing on On Demand. How do you feel about having your film debut on television the same day it opens in a theater?

Nicholas Jarecki: I’m very excited. With these types of non-narrative special effects driven 4000-screen release pictures, you never expect to have the same type of theatrical life as Batman. Of course, I wish people would see it in the best presentation format possible, but for people out there not located near one of the few hundred theaters playing Arbitrage, it’s great for them to have access to it.

SM: Your brothers are Andrew Jarecki (Capturing the Friedmans, All Good Things) and Eugene Jarecki (Why We Fight, Freakonomics). I was going to ask what you had been like to have three budding filmmakers seated around the Jarecki family dinner table until I learned that you shared the same father but had different mothers.

NJ: There is a big age gap and we ally sat around the dinner table. And our dad was really not a big fan of films. That said, I think my brothers are making real good movies and hopefully they’ll feel about me. It’s nice now to be able to show each other our stuff and have a shared interest, but where that developed from is truly bizarre. The only thing I can think is that our family is very modern; not futurists, but we like all the cutting-edge stuff.

SM: When was the first time you sat down and watched the film assembled in its entirety?

NJ: Two days after we finished shooting. I’m not sure I’m going to do that again because I immediately wanted to kill myself. Assemblies are awful. The film that should run a little over an hour and a half currently clocks in at 2 hours and 40 minutes.

SM: You had a cut of the film assembled two days after you called a wrap to the shoot?

NJ: The editor is working while we’re shooting. It’s in rough form, but at least you can see something. We edited the film in my home for 5 months — 12 hours a day, 5 or 6 days a week. There was a lot of editing.

SM: Is there a particular moment where you sat back, smiled, and said “I nailed it?”

NJ: Absolutely not! [Laughing.] I am a completely obsessive person and ultimately had to take my hands away because I was down to changing individual frames. They say that you never stop working on a film, you just abandon it.

— Scott Marks

Free movies of the weak: Iron lungs on film

The last time I cried during a movie was when I glanced at my watch and realized there were still two hours left to go in Schindler’s List. The Sessions doesn’t even open until October 28, but any feel-good comedy featuring a lead character in an iron lung that brought tears to my eyes must be heralded. The studio asks that I refrain from talking about the best American film so far this year until opening day, but that won’t stop me from giving a brief historical overview of iron lungs in cinema.

“What’s an artificial lung?” I was six at the time, and I would give anything to relive the look on my dad’s face when I posed the question. “What do you know about artificial lungs?” he grumbled. Glancing over the top of the Chicago American, Dad spied an image on the TV set that explained my odd line of questioning.

A “what the hell kinda thing is this?” look crossed Dad’s face. “I don’t know,” he replied, quickly returning to his newspaper. He never once questioned why the sight of Daffy Duck with his head jammed in an iron lung brought such joy to his little boy’s heart.

It’s an image that once planted, is not easily degaussed. I took great delight in sharing Bob Clampett’s The Daffy Doc (1938) with animation students. Gaps choked laughs the first time they caught sight of this disturbingly daffy flash of operating room actuality grafted into a squash-and-
**The Magnet (1950)** is a satirical gem from England. James Fox was ten years old when he starred as Johnny Brent, a lad who is accused of stealing after he trades an “invisible watch” for a magnet. The title object winds up affixed to an iron lung that’s part of a hospital fund-raiser.

No Pain is an episode of the popular Alfred Hitchcock Presents television show. Sandwiched between two sets of twins — Hayley Mills squared in *The Parent Trap* of twins — Hayley Mills squared in *Magnet*. The title object winds up affixed to an iron lung.

**2 Days in New York** — A couple’s relationship is put to the test when the her adorables relative decide to pay a visit. Never had one before, probably because I gave up on network sitcoms decades ago. Julie Delpy’s follow up to *2 Days in Paris* is so sickeningly sweet, there’s the only way to consider stationing board-certified doctors in the lobby to administer insulin shots after the show. The audience has the same 20 minutes of the jolly French man’s insufferable antics, will pray for a birthday celebration just so they can use the old life of the party — a-gift. Starring as Delpy’s partner, Chris Rock again makes it clear that as an actor, he’s a brilliant stand-up comedian. With Alexa Landeau, Alexandre Nahon, and Kate Burton. 2012. — M.L.

**Bachelorette** — Bachelorette takes the great emblem of feminine matrimonial anxiety — the wedding dress — and goes to town on it. First, it’s torn. Then it gets bled on. Eventually, it’s also stained with both semen and vomit (the bodily fluid trifecta!), but not before it gets stuffied in a garbage bag and mislaid. There is little time to meditate on the symbol, however, because the cocaine-fueled plot is busy sending you hurling through one crazy night in the life of four unlikely high-school besties just before the fat one (formerly known as Pig Face) gets married. The dialogue frequently veers into the realm of “Ooh, girls talk dirty, too,” and most of the better bits sound like stand-up monologues, but underneath all the muck and bucking, there is some attempt to address romantic state of things in the post-romantic age. A guy gets hurt when he finds that a willing hubby doesn’t even know his name, a girl wants to know why her boyfriend didn’t show up to drive her to her abortion, a Type-A control freak just wants a man to know she’s not easy. If you’re tired of fish, Lisa Fisher, and Lizzy Caplan are all game, though Caplan proves gamest. 2012. — M.L.

**The Bourne Legacy** — Jeremy Renner, apparently tiring of his second-tier superhero status as Hawkeye in *The Avengers*, takes a page from the more glamorous Captain America (better living through chemistry). Also a page from his fringe predecessor (ruggedly handsome sand-haired super-agent seeks refuge from government baddies with a fetching female). But this time, the big car chase is on motorcycles! Totally different! Alas, leaving the sequels means plucking the ante means blowing the action means stretching the credibility of romantic state of the drama. With Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton. 2012. — M.L.

**Branded** — A guy discovers what you and I know already: advertising rules the world. The difference is, he decides to do something about it. 2012.

**The Expendables 2** — Simon West hasn’t printed one watchable frame of film since setting the bar high with his debut feature, the uproarious *Con Air*. When it came to reassemble the almighty half-dozen or so (plus JCVD and Chuck Norris), and the like, West learned that you just had to tough the neuralgic to give flight to his testosterone-fueled gasp of a sequel. Don’t expect anything in the way of plot or dialogue; everything that comes out of the actors’ mouths is a brain-plumbing, self-referrential one-liner. (Sylvester Stallone, co-scrump, clearly has the upper hand,سة. I am always to complain about lighting not matching from shot to shot, but The Expendables 2 occasionally fails focus between the stars. There appears a vain Stallone pulled the Lucy in-Mame card, demanding they smear Vaseline on the lens to act as age-defying shield. One edit later, the focus is so sharp you can cut butter with it. Camp isn’t made, it’s born. Why this elite corps of action has-beens agreed to intentionally dumb all over what little of their
reputations still endure, all in the name of spraying bullets and schoolyard zing-ers... Oh, right. A lot of these guys haven’t worked in years and crave a return to the fold. They’re like the Bad, Bad Ass World, quantity-over-quality approach to casting is the film’s obvious and perhaps even a chore for Bourdin. No wonder people have kicked him out of bars! It’s appropriately off-balance, keeping things appropriately off-balance, masterful job of shifting perspectives and keeping things appropriately off-balance, masterful job of shifting perspectives and making the story is as sprawling as the kudzu, innovation: Juno Temple is introduced by a charming, Zippo-flicking sociopath (Smokey and the Bandit) and a hospital scene where the kid literally can literally deliver a child from bondage, and those who follow him as little more than miniature grown-ups; it’s better to call it a movie that views kids with ugliness, and spiced with sexual references of varying heat. Perhaps it would be better to call it a movie that views kids as little more than miniature grown-ups. All the best gags land squarely in the adult solar plexus. Eleven-year-old Norman can see dead people, so when dead people start making trouble for his mom, he turns to him to solve the mystery at the heart of the problem. Don’t be distracted by the heavily-rafted anti-bullying message (for the J-horror special effects they lade on to keep your eyes busy during the climactic sermon). The real point here is that life is nasty, brutish, and short, and you better find that one decent thing in this rotten, ugly world and hold on for dear life, lest you wind up as another of the zombie mob. 2012. — M.L.

Premium Rush — It’s a fun premise, take a practitioner of a universally loathed profession — New York City bike messengers, a group that treats traffic laws and those who follow them as little more than video game obstacles — and make him a hero, a guy whose Special Delivery can literally deliver a child from bondage. And it helps that the hero is played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt. The story is as sprawling as the kudzu, innovation: Juno Temple is introduced by a charming, Zippo-flicking sociopath (Smokey and the Bandit) and a hospital scene where the kid literally can literally deliver a child from bondage, and those who follow him as little more than miniature grown-ups; it’s better to call it a movie that views kids with ugliness, and spiced with sexual references of varying heat. Perhaps it would be better to call it a movie that views kids as little more than miniature grown-ups. All the best gags land squarely in the adult solar plexus. Eleven-year-old Norman can see dead people, so when dead people start making trouble for his mom, he turns to him to solve the mystery at the heart of the problem. Don’t be distracted by the heavily-rafted anti-bullying message (for the J-horror special effects they lade on to keep your eyes busy during the climactic sermon). The real point here is that life is nasty, brutish, and short, and you better find that one decent thing in this rotten, ugly world and hold on for dear life, lest you wind up as another of the zombie mob. 2012. — M.L.

Last Ounce of Courage — “A tale of family bonds and free expression, the film seeks to encourage all Americans to take a stand and raise their voices in support of their beliefs.” 2012.

Lawless — Southern-fried Godfather: diminutive kid brother (Shia LaBoeuf, who seems to be trying a little too hard) wants in on the family moonshine business, but his godlike (read: unkillable) elders (a more impressive Tom Hardy and Jason Clarke) will hear none of it. We even get a botched assassination attempt and a hospital scene where the kid literally can literally deliver a child from bondage. The Shape of Things to Come is here played with grating oddity by Guy Pearce as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyone pay for protection. The South looks great (if a little washed-out as a dandy, dirty Chicago lawman set on making everyon
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<th>Movie</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Gruffalo's Child</td>
<td>(NR) Fri &amp; Sat: 10:45 AM, 1:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15</td>
<td>AMC Oceanside (760-945-8888)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted</td>
<td>(PG) Fri-Sun (11:20, 2:05, 4:50) 7:20, 9:45</td>
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<td>ParaNorman 3D</td>
<td>(PG-13) Fri-Sun: 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15</td>
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<td>The Odd Life of Timothy Green</td>
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<td>Last Ounce of Courage</td>
<td>(PG-13) Fri-Sun: 7:30, 10:20</td>
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<td>The Bourne Legacy</td>
<td>(PG) Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:00, 8:00, 10:30</td>
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<td>The Expendables 2</td>
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Across
1. Tiger
2. QB’s scores
3. Blackjack decision
10. Stock-ticker symbol for Barnes & Noble
13. ___, man, ___, mouse? (A Gershwin composition)
14. Aforementioned
15. Suffin with Milan
16. “106 & Park” network
17. Autobiography of a short-tempered person
19. Bagel topping
20. Boxer’s warning
21. Coagulate, as blood
22. Some radio stations
23. Vibes

Down
1. “You can’t mean little ol’ me?”
2. They may have you in stitches, in brief
3. Northeast China region
4. Thit and that?
5. Sonar’s measurement
6. Utter
7. Batter’s need
8. ___, triangle
9. ___, circle
10. Requested gift in a “Christmas Story”

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

Mary Arana, Encinitas, 4.

Bob Carlson, Sierra Mesa, 4.

Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 4.

Jane M. Reilly, University City, 4.

Michael Rothmann, Mission Beach, 1.

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New – puzzles and limericks!

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 results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name and a clean limerick. 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. You may submit a new limerick weekly. This is a great way to express yourself. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) We will award writers of the best limericks, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous Reader baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning limericks – screened for plagiarism – in the paper and online.
4) The puzzle contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85603, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPEG format, 100 by 200 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or reviewed.
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.

EASY:

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

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We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name:______________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
City:_________________________________________
State:________________ Zip Code:_____________
Limerick:____________________________________

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Pay by the Week or Month...

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<th>Peachtree Inn</th>
<th>Trolley Court</th>
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<td>901 F Street • 888-506-9052</td>
<td>940 Park Blvd. • 888-506-9053</td>
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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.

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NORTH PARK, $850. 1BD+1BA. Extremely large, dishwasher, A/C, parking. No pets. 619-229-1406.


NORTH PARK, $825. 1BD+1BA. fully furnished or unfurnished apartment. Low $150 deposit. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (first 5 and 9), 619-420-5074.


NORTH PARK, $1250. 2BD+2BA. low $150 deposit. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (first 5 and 9), 619-420-5074.

CITY HEIGHTS, $1200. Large, very clean, well kept. Quiet 31-unit community. Gated. Laundry, tennis court, barbecue. Must see 4544 Winona Avenue, 92115. 619-225-4520.


CITY HEIGHTS, $1100. Large, very clean, well kept. Quiet 31-unit community. Gated. Laundry, tennis court, barbecue. Must see 4544 Winona Avenue, 92115. 619-225-4520.

MISSION HILLS, $825. 1BD+1BA. Nicely appointed. New paint and carpet. Great location. If you can find one better… rent it! 504 Flower. Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Dan, 619-116-0903.

CHULA VISTA, $850. 1BD+1BA fully furnished or unfurnished apartment. Low $150 deposit. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (first 5 and 9), 619-420-5074.

CHULA VISTA, $850. 1BD+1BA. Nicely appointed. New paint and carpet. Great location. If you can find one better… rent it! 504 Flower. Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Dan, 619-116-0903.

CHULA VISTA, $925. 1BD+1BA apartment. Low $150 deposit. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (first 5 and 9), 619-420-5074.

CHULA VISTA, $975. 1BD+1BA. Nicely appointed. New paint and carpet. Great location. If you can find one better… rent it! 504 Flower. Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Dan, 619-116-0903.

NAVAL Base, $1200. 2BD+2BA. Low $150 deposit. Section 8 OK. No pets. 1100 11th St. 619-652-5326.

NAS Medical Center, $1200. 2BD+2BA. Low $150 deposit. Section 8 OK. No pets. 1100 11th St. 619-652-5326.

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LEAD STORY
— Chinese media reported that on May 4th, at the Xiangyan Middle School in Hubei province, high school students studying for the all-important national college entrance exam worked through the evening while hooked up to intravenous drips of amino acids to fight fatigue. A director of the school’s office of academic affairs reasoned that before the IVs were hung, weary students complained of losing too much time running back and forth to the school’s infirmary for energy injections. After the media reports, there was a public backlash, but less much importance on the exams than against reports that the government was subsidizing the cost of the injections.

Can’t Possibly Be True
— Desmond Hatchett, 33, was summoned to court in Knoxville, Tenn., in May so that a judge could chastise him for again failing to to court in Knoxville, Tenn., in May so that a judge could chastise him for again failing to report, there was a public backlash, but less much importance on the exams than against reports that the government was subsidizing the cost of the injections.

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW
— All almost companies that collect customer data publish their policies on how they keep the data “private” (even though those “privacy” policies almost always explain just precisely the ways they intend not to keep the data “private” — and are not required to by law). Researchers writing in the journal I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society (sumarized in an March post on the TechDir t.com) found that if typical consumers bothered to read all of the privacy policies they encountered, it would take from 181 to 304 hours per year (22–38 workdays), depending on shopping habits. If every consumer in America did it, it would take from 40 billion to 67 billion hours a year, or 5 billion to 8.3 billion workdays a year.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT
— In April, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it was fining Google for deliberately impeding the agency’s investigation into the company’s collection of wireless data by its roaming Street View vehicles and that the agency had decided, based on Google’s “ability to pay,” that it needed to double its staff-proposed fine in order to “deter future misconduct.” Hence, it raised Google’s fine from $12,000 to $25,000. (As pointed out by ProPublica.org, during the previous quarter year, Google made profits of $2.89 billion, or $25,000 every 68 seconds.)

— District of Columbia Councilman Marion Barry initially was scorned in May for criticizing the influx of “Asian” shopkeepers into the ward that he represents. “They got to go. I’ll say that right now.” Later, after rethinking the issue, Barry announced that his ward should be “the model of diversity” and issued an apology to Asian-Americans. But, he lamented, America has always been tough on immigrants. The Irish caught hell, the Jews caught hell, the Polacks caught hell. (The preferred terms are “Polish” or “Poles.”)

BLESS THOSE RESEARCHERS’ HEARTS!
— A team of scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, following up on a Harvard study that found dramatic weight-loss qualities from eating yogurt, did its own yogurt study. The results, summarized in Scientific American in May, noted that yogurt-eating male mice have ten times the follicle density of other mice, producing “luxuriously silky fur” and larger, outward-projecting nipples that made them far more attractive inseminators.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 58503, San Diego 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com


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