Adorable when I dress up
2-hour CEO Package... $79
• 90 min body massage • 15 min body detox
• Vichy shower • Skin conditioning • Sauna & Hot Towel

2-hour President Package... $79
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• 60 min body massage • 15 min body detox • Vichy shower
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• Swedish massage (Deep Tissue $45)
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Cosplay in the park — page 20

Consider two decapitations — page 55

Bad cop, bad cop — page 78
**NEWS TICKER**

**There's a body in there**
Family said they noticed the car of missing man parked at shopping center

Fallbrook — The family of a man reported missing two weeks ago found his gray Toyota 4Runner in a Fallbrook shopping center, and when deputies investigated last night, they noticed the body in the back.

San Diego County sheriff’s deputies saw a man “zipped up in a sleeping bag” in the “back seat area,” according to Lt. Glenn Giannantonio. He stated the body had “signs of trauma.”

The family of Alvin Bulaoro reported last seeing him on December 21, 2012. The body was found Thursday evening, January 3, 2013.

Giannantonio stated the case is being investigated as a homicide.

*Eva Knott, January 4*

**Still paying for cop criminal**
Council asked to approve spending up to $250,000 in cases against Anthony Arevalos

Downtown — Former San Diego police officer Anthony Arevalos continues to cost the city for the sexual assault crimes he committed on women in San Diego’s Gaslamp District over a two-year period from 2009 to 2011.

On Tuesday, city councilmembers will be asked to approve paying up to $250,000 to legal outfit Haight, Brown & Bonesteel to defend the city in court. The city attorney’s office has decided against representing Arevalos in court due to a conflict of interest.

The expenditure is just the latest in what has been a series of payments to Arevalos’s victims. For more than a year, the city has settled five cases costing a total over $1.25 million, excluding legal fees.

The latest came in November 2012, when the city agreed to pay one woman $675,000 in damages.

*Dorian Hargrove, January 3*

**Homicide?**
Woman found on roadside with head injuries later succumbed to her wounds

Lemon Grove — Sheriff’s deputies are searching for information regarding an apparent homicide this morning.

Around 2 a.m., deputies were patrolling the 7600 block of Pacific Avenue when they found a woman lying on the side of the road. Stopping to check on the woman, they discovered injuries to her head. Paramedics were called to the scene, and the victim was transported to Scripps Mercy Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 2:37 this morning.

A bullet casing was found at the scene, though it’s unclear at this point whether or not the shell is related to the crime.

The victim was identified Thursday afternoon as 30-year-old Jennifer Rene Krajnak. The sheriff’s department is encouraging anyone with information to contact their homicide detail at 858-974-2321 or submit an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477.

*Dave Rice, January 3*

**Show us the $$ — or else**
Qualcomm hit with suit by N.Y. comptroller, who alleges San Diego cell-phone giant obscures its political spending

Sorrento Valley/Beyond S.D. — New York state comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli has announced that he is suing Qualcomm, the San Diego-based technology company founded by La Jolla billionaire Irwin Jacobs, in an effort “to inspect the company’s books and records to determine how shareholder funds are being spent for political purposes.”

According to a news release that accompanied a copy of the lawsuit, DiNapoli’s action on behalf of the New York State Common Retirement Fund came after Qualcomm refused to open its books “relating to the use of corporate resources for political activities.”

“Without disclosure, there is no way to know whether corporate funds are being used in ways that go against shareholder interests. The Fund has taken a leadership role in pressing the issue of disclosure of political spending since the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision.

“Shareholders have a right to know how Qualcomm spends money in the political arena.”

Qualcomm’s public disclosure of its political spending is so deficient that the company received a score of 15 out of 72 on the 2012 CPA-Zicklin Index of Corporate Political Accountability and Disclosure (the “CPA-Zicklin Index”).

*Matt Potter, January 3*

**Engineers dislike H-1B; bosses gloat**

American engineers, scientists, and mathematicians can convincingly show that they are not in short supply, as corporations claim. But increasingly, politicians are siding with big business, which wants the government to loosen restrictions on the H-1B visa program, by which low- to mid-level technologists come to the United States each year from foreign countries.

The H-1B visa recipients, who must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience, can stay for three years with an option to extend to six years. Now, the number permitted to enter is capped at 85,000 yearly. (This has changed through the years.) More than half of H-1B entrants are in computer-related fields, mostly from India.

San Diego’s Qualcomm is the fifth-largest user of H-1B talent among major U.S. multinational companies. The other four, beginning with the largest, are Microsoft, Intel, IBM, and Oracle, according to a study published last year by the Brookings Institution. In the 2010–2011 years, San Diego County was the nation’s 15th-largest user of H-1B employees.

Brookings interviewed numerous corporations for that study. The report stirred up a storm with such statements as “employers have a difficult time recruiting residents with the skills they need, largely blaming the weak foundation of secondary education in the United States...employers complain that there is a shortage of skilled workers...[some employers] mentioned that they must recruit at overseas...make a good case that the program is basically a scheme to lower the overall wage level in the engineering/computer profession, thus jacking up corporate profits and paving the way for absurdly high top-management pay.

But the opponents’ point of view is coming against powerful obstacles. In the 2012 election, both President Obama and Mitt Romney favored a loosening of H-1B restrictions. Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York wants to eliminate the H-1B caps altogether.

Last month, 25 chambers of commerce from across the country announced a coalition named Business for Skilled Worker Immigration, which is pushing to increase availability of H-1B workers. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is one of the 25 founding members.

Barrales, former head of the local chamber, is a member of Partnership for a New American Economy, which is promoting similar goals. Co-chairs include Mayor Bloomberg, Microsoft chief executive Steven Ballmer, and publisher Rupert Murdoch. The partnership claims that 76 percent of all voters favor reform of the skilled worker visa laws, including 87 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of Republicans, and 68 percent of Tea Party supporters.

“The status quo is not working,” laments the United States Chamber of Commerce. “The H-1B cap should be significantly raised...so that companies are able to respond adequately to real-world demands.”

At year end 2012, the House of Representatives passed the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Jobs Act of 2012, which would allocate 55,000 visas to high-skilled immigrants holding master’s or doctoral degrees from U.S. institutions. (This program, dealing with highly educated visa holders — not the kind generally admitted through H-1B — is not opposed by some anti-H-1B activists.)

Last August, a federal judge in Alabama threw out a lawsuit filed by an American employee of an India-based company providing H-1B services. The employee claimed that the Indian outsourcer broke the H-1B immigration rules; when the employee tried to complain, he was harassed. The judge said his

*continued on page 44*
Bald eagles have landed in Ramona

By Siobhan Braun

It’s 11 a.m. on a rainy Monday morning. I am sitting in the passenger seat of biologist Dave Bittner’s Toyota 4Runner as we drive down Rangeland Road in Ramona. Wedged between us are a pair of binoculars, a 60x scope, and a camera bearing a lens so bulky that Bittner has to lug a tripod out of his backseat to use it.

“There is a great blue heron over there behind that rock,” Bittner says, rolling down his window and pointing toward a minuscule dot in the distance. I squint and adjust my eyes. Still, I can’t make out the form of the bird. Bittner slows his SUV and hands me his binoculars. I peer through and see the curved neck of the bird.

“There goes a red-tailed hawk,” he says, motioning to my right.

In a matter of ten minutes we view 19 more raptors — five red-tailed hawks, three ferruginous hawks, seven turkey vultures, three kestrels, and one golden eagle. All are spotted on land maintained by the Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona, where Bittner serves as executive director.

Bittner is taking me to view a pair of nesting bald eagles that have set up their territory a half mile off Rangeland Road. It’s the first time in recorded history that bald eagles have nested in Ramona.

Bittner says, “We weren’t shocked, but pleasantly surprised to see them. It’s not unusual to see bald eagles this time of year. It was unusual to have them here for so long. They’ve been here since the summer. Three or four weeks ago our biologists spotted [the bald eagles] building a nest. It’s exciting. It shows that all our efforts are paying off.”

The effects he refers to are the institute’s research and the Nature Conservancy–brokered land purchases that have preserved more than 3500 acres of natural grassland in Ramona. Since that time, the Wildlife Institute has seen a resurgence of nesting owls, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and now bald eagles. The endangered fairy shrimp, which live in rain-fed pools within the grasslands, have also grown in numbers. They in turn attract migrating shore birds.

Pleased as he is, Bittner isn’t quite satisfied. “We continued on page 43
Featured Deals This Week

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50% off choice of 1-hour horseback riding lesson or farm field trip
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Thursday–Sunday, January 10–13

holidays fell in such a way that we could not get accurate movie times in time for publication. — Editor

Fish Wrap
What’s become of the movie times? Now one has to go dig up the local fish wrap, otherwise known as the San Diego Union-Tribune.
Name Withheld via voicemail

No Reviews Necessary
Please continue to publish the movie guide, theaters, and showtimes. We can do without the reviews, but we do need the theater, address, phone number, and showtimes.
Helen Bourne via voicemail

Christmas and New Year holidays fell in such a way that we could not get accurate movie times in time for publication. — Editor

Half Puzzled
Please go back to the larger crossword puzzle you used to have. For the past two weeks it has been on half of a page and is too small to read.
Ken Brennan via email

Wasting Space on Pit Bulls
“When Pit Bulls Escape” (Neighborhood News, December 27) both saddened and sickened me. As the owner of a 15-pound Shih Tzu, my heart goes out to the owner, Nancy Linhardt. To witness your beloved pet being torn apart by three bloodthirsty, vicious pit bulls must have caused so much heartbreak that I tear up just thinking about it.
When are people going to use the newspaper to report news? — Helen Bourne via voicemail

LETTERS
We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460; address them to Letters, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or submit them at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

The L.A. Reader?
Last week you forgot the remaining part of Barbarella’s column. This week you forgot the movie showtimes. I think you guys are drinking over there or something. You’re really missing things up the last few months. Do you guys proofread this before you send it out? Somebody ought to because you’re screwing shit up. You just lost another reader. I won’t be reading your magazine anymore because you guys are out of control. You don’t finish articles; you forget to include your name, address, phone number, and showtimes.
Name Withheld via voicemail

The Diary of a Diva column finishes on page 42, as noted on page 8. Also, the reviews are out of control. You don’t proofread this before you send it out. Somebody ought to because you’re screwing shit up. You just lost another reader. I won’t be reading your magazine anymore because you guys are out of control. You don’t finish articles; you forget to include your name, address, phone number, and showtimes.
— Helen Bourne via voicemail

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SPRING VALLEY
Worker rescued from trench
Takes 20 minutes to free him from underneath 1400-pound concrete form
A 31-year-old construction worker in Spring Valley fell into a 5-by-15-foot trench and was subsequently pinned by a 1400-pound concrete form on the morning of January 4.

After being rescued by CalFire personnel, the worker was taken to Mercy Hospital, where he is in stable condition with chest and back injuries, according to San Miguel Fire Department spokesman Leonard Villareal.

“It took nine firefighters and his crew and a crane to get him out,” Villareal said.

The crew was working on a project for Pacific Hydrotech, near the intersection of Jamacha Road and Omega Street, when one of the forms fell on him and pushed him into the trench, Villareal said. “The extraction took about 20 minutes.”

The worker was conscious at the scene and, though injured, is expected to recover.

LUCY D. BARKER, JAN. 5

NORMAL HEIGHTS
No water
Blocks without running water after water main breaks, neighbors share buckets
Hundreds of people in Normal Heights were without water Friday night, January 4, after a water main broke at 32nd and Meade Avenue at around 4 p.m. Crews were still working to repair the main at 8:30 p.m. and estimated it would be finished by midnight.

Houses, apartments, and condos were all dry in the blocks from El Cajon Boulevard to Meade Avenue, from 32nd Street to 34th (which is actually five blocks).

Neighbors north of Meade shared buckets of water for flushing toilets, and residents ran to neighborhood grocery stores to stock up on bottled water, worried that the repair would run into problems and not be finished by Saturday morning.

“I figure that buying the water means I won’t need it,” one resident said.

LUCY D. BARKER, JAN. 5

LA JOLLA
Parking peeve
Shortage causes problems for patients and employees at VA Medical Center
The troublesome parking situation at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla began to percolate about a decade ago. It has now boiled over.

Most mornings, lines of employees’ and patients’ cars wind slowly up the hill from La Jolla Village Drive while drivers wait their turn to funnel into the lots. More than 6000 employees cannot park in the fewer than 3500 parking spaces.

Eddie, a third-floor nurse, told me, “I have to leave for work extra early from the South Bay or I don’t know about getting a space.

And I can never leave work during the day for lunch or an appointment because, once I do, forget about ever getting another space.”

Patient parking is no better. The medical center’s patient population has grown over the past ten years, making the fewer than 2000 designated patients’ spaces inadequate. For a 10 a.m. appointment this week, I knew to arrive by 9 a.m.; still, when I arrived, drivers were already circling the lot.

Allison, a counselor, finds it worthwhile on many workdays to take a southbound express bus from her home in Escondido to downtown San Diego, then another express bus back north to work in La Jolla instead of driving. She said any extra travel time spent on the bus is “much better than sitting in traffic backups. I really hate that. Plus, I get to read or use my phone.”

Future multilevel parking structures still remain on the medical center’s five-year plan; however, none are listed on the latest construction announcement.

Work is forecast to begin in February 2013 on a new administration building, situated within a current parking area — which will eliminate 100 or more spaces.

GARY CORNAGLIA, JAN. 4

TIJUANA
Instant karma?
Alleged bus thief run over by bus after pistol-whipping driver
Minutes after pistol-whipping a bus driver unconscious, an alleged thief was run over by the same bus he had just robbed in the Nueva Tijuana neighborhood of the city, the Tijuana daily Frontera reports.

The incident occurred on January 2 at around 6:35 p.m., when two men boarded a city bus, pistol-whipped the driver, and stole 900 pesos (about $72). The assault knocked the driver unconscious, causing him to lose control of the bus, which then ran over one of the alleged thieves as he tried to run away from the scene of the crime.

The bus careened through a fence, hit three parked cars, and came to rest after slamming into the front of an apartment building. The alleged thief, Jorge Silva Murray, 21, was hospitalized under police custody.

BOB MCPHAIL, JAN. 4

SAN CARLOS
Mayor to SDG&E: it’s on
Filner to address utility’s undergrounding, collecting info from planning groups
Mayor Bob Filner announced at the January 2 San Carlos Area Council meeting that he will “take on” San Diego Gas & Electric. Filner also said that he was interviewing to hire an energy advocate to serve the public.

He made those statements while answering a resident’s question about the progress of undergrounding, the burial of overhead utility lines.

The resident and the mayor also questioned the need for utility boxes in residential areas. Filner said he needed a memo about these issues. “SDG&E acts like a sovereign entity; they don’t really support alternative

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I squeezed the plastic dropper and watched the first tiny glob break away and plummet into the big bowl. The droplet was supposed to slip through the surface of the liquid and end up at the bottom of the bowl as a tiny, perfect sphere. Instead, the amber droplet smashed against the water’s surface like a bug on a windshield and just floated there.

“Ugh. Why didn’t it work? I bet it’s the air bubbles from the hand-mixer. I read something about that being a problem,” I said.

“Why don’t you watch the DVD again?” asked David. “Your laptop is right here. Just pop it in and — ”

“No. I just want to do it and have it work,” I snapped. I squeezed again. This time, the droplet did what it was supposed to do. I had created an orb of peach schnapps liqueur inside a bowl of water. But I soon realized my perfect circle was a fluke. The next and the next and the dozen or so droplets after that, all splattered on the surface of the water, just like the first. My experiment was a failure.

“Well, I guess I’ll start cleaning up this huge mess I made,” I said, my head hung low.

“Chemistry is an exact science,” David said.

“Who said anything about chemistry? This is molecular gastronomy,” I paused as I felt the epiphany turn to a burst like a bubble in my brain. I thought I had been playing with my food — but all those measurements and mixtures... “Oh,” I said. “Well, if I’d thought about it that way, I wouldn’t have even tried. I hate chemistry. The only reason I skated by with a C-minus in my high school chemistry class was because I made a deal with my lab partners that I would handle all the paperwork if they would take care of the boring stuff. I wanted to do this because it looked so pretty and easy in that video. And, you have to admit, my idea was innovative — they don’t even have it in their recipe pamphlet — little red balls of Chambord floating around in a glass of champagne? Pretty and tasty.”

David smiled a knowing smile. “This was not an unexpected outcome,” he said.

“So, you knew as you were over there watching me all this time that I was going to eff it up? Why didn’t you say anything?”

“I’ve never seen you so excited about a project,” he said. “I didn’t want to discourage you.”

“I guess I should have realized this wasn’t going to work out the moment I decided a ‘pinch’ of sodium alginate was probably ‘close enough’ to 1.6 grams.”

“I guess I should have realized this wasn’t going to work out the moment I decided a ‘pinch’ of sodium alginate was probably ‘close enough’ to 1.6 grams.”

“Like I said, it’s an exact science,” David said. “You can’t guess at chemistry. You know how I’m always saying there’s room for error with cooking, but not with baking? That’s because baking is more like chemistry. Well, cooking is also chemistry — however, with cooking, there’s more flexibility; you can rescue things if they’re going wrong. Whereas, with baking, once things are set in motion, it’s all over. Certain ingredients react with other ingredients in a very specific way.”

“Well, I’m happy I used the peach schnapps as a tester. Imagine if I’d just wasted a whole cup of Chambord — that stuff’s not cheap. Okay, well, back to plan A. It’s your job to take all this and create something magnificent both to look at and to taste.”

“No pressure,” David joked. But it was his own damn fault my expectations were so high. He’s spent years demonstrating his aptitude for both cooking and baking. So if I guess I’ll start working on the bubbles of the golden champagne. Gorgeous, decadent; a way to sur-

David continued to tell me, you can’t “wing” chemistry. But I’d had no choice — our kitchen scale wasn’t sensitive enough to parse out exactly 1.6 grams of sodium alginate, a binding chemical derived from seaweed.

If I’d done more studying, I could have created something beautiful. In my mind’s eye, the Chambord caviar (balls of liquid floating around in a thin gel casing that dissolves in the mouth) would be vibrant, scarlet balls of the raspberry liqueur dancing on the bubbles of the golden champagne. Gorgeous, decadent; a way to surprise and delight cocktail-party guests or to enjoy ourselves.

“You have to make this happen,” I said. My failed experiment couldn’t be the end. David had to make things right. He was the only person who could — he’s patient, experienced, and, most importantly, he would be willing to take the time to do all the necessary research. I’m the kind of person who bitches when something takes longer than four minutes to microwave.

As I rinsed the gelatinous peach schnapps from the giant glass bowl, I turned to catch David’s eye over my shoulder. “Do you think I’m stupid? I mean, because I never really ‘got’ chemistry? Because I don’t have the patience for this kind of thing? I mean...what I mean is, are you disappointed in me?”

“Look,” David said (the way he always continued on page 46
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Turner on Ryan: “Spoilsport!”

Chargers’ Coach-Provocateur slung slur at Jets’ Jellicose General after Ryan benched hapless quarterback Mark Sanchez prior to late-December matchup. “You didn’t see me benching hapless quarterback Philip Rivers, did you?”

UNLESS: Was there a hidden message of acceptance in overseeing a team that notched 11 sacks in a single game?

Turner disappointed: “I worked very hard this season to turn a Pro Bowl quarterback into a bad joke. Ryan clearly did the same with Sanchez — though he needed to bring in a little Tebow drama to glam things up. That Sunday would have been the Big Showdown: Fumblebum vs. Fumblebee. But, instead, Ryan benched Sanchez and brought in some sort of basically competent backup. Where’s the sport in that? It’s not like either of us were going to the playoffs this year. Why not have a little fun, give the people a show?”

Fans irate: “I paid good money for what I fully and reasonably expected would be a comedy of errors,” said longtime Chargers fan May Zokist. “Between Rivers’s 15 fumbles and 15 interceptions this season and Sanchez’s 12 fumbles and 17 interceptions, I had every right to look forward to a proper greased-pig chase, one where the ball went squirtin’ out this way and that and everybody goes jumpin’ after it, whoopin’ and hollerin’ and carryin’ on. Dogpile! What’d I get? One interception, one fumble, no fun. Phooey.”
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Heymatt:
So, everyone likes different kinds of music, clothing, TV shows, beer, food, jobs, cars, etc. My question is: if everyone likes all sorts of different things in life, why does everyone love pizza? At least, everyone I know does...
— Jacob

Pizza has so much going for it! For starters, it’s poisinously salty and greasy. That may not be good for our hearts, but try telling that to our brains. Through a combination of natural impulse and cultural conditioning, foods high in salt and fat (sugar, too) might as well be smothered in purest awesome sauce, sprinkled with fairy dust, and served by tail-coated unicorn butlers at a five-star restaurant built of rainbows. Our brains and tastebuds just love that stuff.

Pizza’s other big advantage is that small children often receive it as a reward, or a special meal, at least. “Hey, kids, who wants to go out for pizza?” is one of the most cherished phrases a parent can utter. Being easily brainwashed, little pizza-munching grommets immediately decide that pizza = treats. Even into adulthood, pizza becomes a treat that you get yourself when you’re feeling low and wish to be cheered, or it’s what you eat when you’re having a party, or maybe if you’re out on an epic night with friends you go for after-hours pizza. It’s a food that’s always eaten for after-hours pizza. It’s a food that’s always eaten

Heymatt:
If fire extinguishers use carbon dioxide to snuff out flames, why is it that the CO2 in expelled breath doesn’t blow out a fire? In fact, blowing on a hot ember usually causes it to burn brighter.
— Paul

It’s the same reason that artificial respiration (sort of) works. Namely, exhaled breath contains more than enough oxygen to sustain combustion. In fact, blowing on a fire makes the flames flare up because the rapid air circulation introduces more oxygen to the flame than is available in ambient air. Carbon dioxide gas will extinguish a flame; provided the concentration is high enough, although it’s technically correct that lack of oxygen (rather than the presence of CO2) is the cause of extinguishment.

Blowing out a candle, on the other hand, is a different process, and a fascinating one at that. It’s not lack of oxygen that puts out a candle when you blow on it. Fanning it out works just as well and uses fully oxygenated air. With candles, what’s burning is a miniature cloud of vaporized wax gases, not the wick itself. The heat of the fire evaporates the wax, which provides more gas to burn, which in turn vaporizes more wax and the cycle repeats until the candle is all burned down. When you blow on a candle, the little bubble of wax disperses and the flame goes out. Don’t forget to make a wish.

Hi Matt:
Travelling between San Diego and Oceanside via the 5 I’ve noticed a couple of things. At the Via de la Valle turn-off on both sides of the freeway there are white PVC pipes standing like antennae. They’ve been there for years, but what are they? I’ve also seen a lot of dead and dying oleanders in the freeway medians. Does Caltrans plan on replacing them anytime soon?
— Roy

Those are story poles. You want to know, “what are story poles?” Well, story poles are erected prior to construction projects as a way to demarcate where the outlines and boundaries of new buildings will be. Building codes vary by city, but Solana Beach has strict regulations about building height and there are story poles all over town on the sites of proposed projects. The poles stand in for buildings and demonstrate that the potential buildings will conform to the municipal building rules. Neighbors have a chance to assess how new construction will affect their views and lodge objections if there’s a consensus that the neighborhood will be impacted negatively by the new buildings.

Story poles are a complete, albeit small, industry in themselves. Most of the story poles in North County are put up by C Story Poles in Encinitas. Chris, who owns the company, is a professional surveyor, which gives him a leg up in matters of property lines. The “Ida Avenue Project,” which is the one visible from I-5 just before Via de la Valle, is an older, but still viable, plan to erect a series of townhouses. The details in matters of property lines. The “Ida Avenue Project,” which is the one visible from I-5 just before Via de la Valle, is an older, but still viable, plan to erect a series of townhouses. The details are a matter of public record and can be seen at Solana Beach’s city hall.

For the oleanders, their future is nebulus since “oleander leaf scorch,” a relatively new disease that preys on them, has reared its head in San Diego County and beyond. It’s likely that the ubiquitous oleanders will be replaced with something else until the population of insects that spread the disease (an invasive species called “sharpshooters”) stabilizes and declines.

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDReader.com/hip

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— Debra H.

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I was on Sunset, a block away from the Château Marmont, and I was looking to be inspired. I wanted to come off as a writer. I was hoping to immerse myself with all the showbiz types and burnouts, and just get a vibe. Instead, I paced back and forth outside the hotel, looking like a suspect paparazzi. I couldn’t find the entrance — very symbolic of my life. I can never find the entrance… I make excuses for not finding the entrance. The valet guys surrounded the driveway like the queen’s guards at Buckingham Palace.

I was hoping to bump into Lindsay Lohan and have an AbFab day with her, gossiping and sipping hard liquor — which I’m sure I’m allergic to. I mean, we were both born in the Year of the Tiger, we’re both freckled, and we both have a love/hate relationship with Disney. She would naturally gravitate towards my look of innocence, and then we would have a makeout sequence à la Clueless. We would share secrets and pillow talk, and she would then give me full permission to sell her story. She would feel like she owed me something, because the bitch stole my role in The Parent Trap! I never auditioned; I just felt like I was destined to play twins and avenge my parents’ divorce.

But I was wearing Old Navy — not cool enough to be Château Marmont chic. C’est la vie. Eh, West Hollywood wasn’t that charming anyway.

With my country-bumpkin insecurities, I went back to my car. On my way down Melrose Avenue’s freshly waxed runway, I had an existential crisis! I decided to window-shop and play The Price Is Right.

Who really wants to buy a dress that should be insured?! You could give me all the money in the world, and I still wouldn’t sell my soul for a blouse. It’s just wrong to buy a dress for $5000. Do these people realize that people are suffering globally, and they’re buying a dress that costs more than 10 months’ rent?! A gaggle of Japanese girls was taking pictures on the sidewalk of all the stores and the glamorous people. When they saw me coming down the sidewalk, they didn’t even part ways to let me by! I had to detour to on the street. I was street-worthy, not sidewalk-worthy. I kept thinking, I have fuzz balls on my pants.

L.A. made me feel like I was the new girl in the cafeteria of life, looking for a group to sit with and being rejected for trying to sit with the popular kids. In Less Than Zero, Brett Easton Ellis writes, “People are afraid to merge on freeways in Los Angeles.” They are afraid to merge. L.A. is a huge high school cafeteria, where the popular kids have insurance on their clothes.

I decided to have a beer at the King’s Head in Santa Monica. The pub was cluttered with cliches of each and every age above 25. I felt like I was at Cheers, but no one knew my name. Then someone approached me. He allowed me into his clique. I felt unworthy because they were solidified in the industry as writers. I then shut myself up, and acted like, yes, I’m worthy of being invited to a writers’ club. They liked me. They really liked me!

One of them was one of the contributing writers for Lost. I told them my developing story, and they were interested somewhat, but they were quick to warn me about the harsh realities of writing in the industry. I told them about Diablo Cody rocketing to fame as a blogger-turned-Oscar-winning script writer. They cringed and looked a little bitter at the fact. One of them said, “Most people have to pay their dues and do a lot of bitch work.” It was nice that they listened to me with open ears and engaged eyes — I felt seen! I was nervous about divulging too much about my ideas, though, and I didn’t want to seem star-struck by asking them too many questions about their careers. I covet my ideas out of fear they’ll be out in the universe and subsequently stolen.

[Post edited for length]
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My dear friend Smokee was always the life of the party in college, and she was also the most generous with her cigarettes. But college was a long time ago, and now she’s ready to quit and looking around for help.

“I’ve been teaching people how to quit smoking for 36 years,” said Dr. Stan Lederman of Smoke Stoppers San Diego in North Park (619-206-8700; smokestoppersofsdu.com). “I offer 11 hours of information presented in seven classes, Monday through Saturday, and then the following Monday ($269).

If during that time you do not quit smoking, then there is no charge. In the unlikely event that you do start smoking again in the months or years to come, you can come back, tuition-free”—though there is an administrative fee. “You may also attend, at no charge, monthly follow-ups at the Friday or Saturday classes.”

Lederman’s class sizes run between three and eight people, “so that everyone can contribute and everyone can learn from each other. For my first class, I have people come and smoke a cigarette—I want to condition them to think about cigarettes in my class. By the second day, when they come to my office, it will have been only a few hours since they quit, and they will be drooling for a cigarette”—partly for psychological reasons and partly because “nicotine is addictive. For the majority of the population, there are 36 to 72 hours of physical withdrawal.

That second night, my job is to teach people to identify the cigarette desire and dismiss it. You can’t just ignore the desire; you have to teach people to identify the cigarette desire and dismiss it. You can’t just ignore the desire; you have to deal with it.”

Most people who decide to quit, said Lederman, try to throw their cigarettes away and not think about them. “That seems to work for a while, but after a few months, on average,” they get to a point where “nothing else matters until they smoke a cigarette. They give up because they can’t stop thinking about it. In my program, I teach people how to identify cigarette desires instead of ignoring them. They need to have cognitive control of those desires when they come about, and as any good scout knows, the better rehearsed you are, the better you are going to perform.”

Cognitive thought-based programs, said Lederman, “have a 50 percent success rate a year down the road.” He said that was superior to other methods, such as hypnosis. “We talk about that in class.”

But Lynn Whitmire at Advanced Hypnotherapy, downtown (858-270-5756; advancedhypnotherapyonline.com), disagreed. “Hypnosis is especially helpful for something like quitting smoking,” she claimed. “The conscious mind knows that smoking is not good for you, but it’s the subconscious mind that takes responsibility for habits like smoking. My job is to help you access the subconscious.”

People smoke for a positive purpose, said Whitmire. “Maybe it helps to alleviate stress or manage boredom. We ask the subconscious about that and use the information to come up with a new program. It’s critical to have that new program, that healthier alternative. You can’t just leave a void, or the old program will come back.” Say the smoking is brought on in response to stress. “If it’s okay with the person, I suggest taking a deep breath. It’s impossible to be as tensed or stressed after taking a deep breath.”

Whitmire’s sessions last around 90 minutes and cost $150. “There are studies that show an 80 to 90 percent success rate if the person is doing it for the right reasons. I also work with an acupuncturist. We find that if we combine modalities ($299), the success rate increases. The acupuncture helps you detox and helps support your attitude.”

On a similar note, Darlene at the Labbe Health Center in Mira Mesa (858-483-4770; sandiegostopsmokingdoctor.com) explained the center’s smoking-cessation treatment ($399). “Dr. Labbe uses a low-level laser, known as a cold laser, on different parts of the ears, wrists, and feet. This increases your serotonin endorphin levels. The feeling of well-being helps to fight the craving for nicotine. We also stimulate points that speed detoxification. The session takes 45 minutes to an hour. It’s painless and about 86 percent effective. A second session is usually done one to three weeks later, but you can come in sooner if you feel the need for a cigarette.”

“By the second day, when they come to my office, they will be drooling for a cigarette.”

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Taken out of context, I look ridiculous. I am standing in front of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center among a group of costumed anime fans, and I am wearing Mary Janes paired with a powder-blue dress in an old-fashioned bicycle print. A large bow decorates the neckline — I am going for an *Alice in Wonderland* look.

Last night, I scoured my closet, the goal being an outfit that may or may not be read as a costume. When I asked my husband what he thought, he said, “If you’re trying to look like a kindergarten teacher, or one of those freaky twins from *The Shining*, it works.”

“Close enough,” I said.

Of course, I should be dressed as an obscure Japanese comic-book character, like everyone else at the Balboa Park cosplay meeting.

Five days earlier, I’d emailed 19-year-old Shannon Downer, a diehard cosplayer (“cosplay” is short for “costume play”) who agreed to allow me to tag along with her at Saturday’s event. I asked to borrow an outfit.

“From the tone of Shannon’s written response, it was clear she was not pleased with my request. As a result, on Friday night, with less than 12 hours until the cosplay event, she called off our interview. I had crossed a line. According to Shannon’s cosplaying friend, Marina MacDonald, “That is just not how cosplay works.” She said this with a heavy sigh, making it clear that I just don’t get it. Anime fans dress the way they do because they are passionate about it. Loaning out costumes is not something they do.

Nevertheless, I managed to talk Shannon into following through with the interview.

“Nine years old Marina emerges from a nearby bathroom.

“You’ll have to excuse us,” she says. “We’re still getting our undergarments on.” Marina is wearing fishnet tights, a T-shirt, and no pants.

Mrs. Downer lowers her gaze. “It’s okay,” she mumbles in the voice she’d
used to speak to her cats. “It’s just us girls and the kitty cats here today.”

Mrs. Downer goes into the kitchen and shuffles around. Moments later, she is standing near the front door with car keys in hand. She turns to me. “I’m going to have to ask you to move your car. I’m on my way to a Bible meeting, and you’re blocking me in.”

When her mother leaves, Shannon finally makes her way down the stairs. It’s hard to believe this is the same girl I ran into three weeks earlier in Balboa Park. Her dishwasher hair has dusty blond roots, and her skin is so pale she’s nearly translucent. The last time I saw Shannon, she had on a long black wig and was toting a fake rifle — she looked like an Amish girl gone rogue. That day, her friend Marina was a steampunk version of the white rabbit from Alice in Wonderland in platinum wig, a monocle, and an extremely short skirt. Today, Marina’s hair is long, a mousy brown.

Both Shannon and Marina are full-time students. Shannon attends Grossmont College. Marina goes to SDSU and shares an apartment near campus with her dad. Neither girl works.

They rush around Shannon’s house. The cut-off heels of pantyhose hug their heads, a trick to make their wigs fit better.

“Anime characters are perfect,” Shannon says as she layers on foundation. “They are tiny and pale. We have to wear a lot of concealer.”

Marina again emerges from the bathroom. She’s now wearing an emerald-green corset. “Shannon is made for anime,” she says. “She’s tiny and pale. It’s hard for plus-sized girls like me to do cosplay... we’re both dressing as men today. Shannon is Ciel Phantomhive and I’m Undertaker from the Kuroshitsuji series, also known as Black Butler.”

“This turns my C-cup into a man’s chest,” Marina motions to her corset. “Anime characters are usually thin. I always wear a corset. It gives me an edge. I buy a lot of our stuff on eBay, and I make the rest. If I were really dedicated to cosplay, I would cut all my hair off to make it easier to wear wigs, but I like to be pretty in real life.”

Shannon and Marina are now seated on the Downers’ 1980s style couch, applying more makeup. The coffee table is cluttered with powders, lotions, and creams. On the far wall hang family photos — awkward Christmas studio shots of Shannon and her sister. There is one of Shannon as a toddler in an angel costume, a fluffy halo perched on her head. On the back wall, a clunky bookshelf holds books; most are religious — dozens of Bibles, audio books on Jesus, and texts with titles such as Christ in the Home, The Rapture Trap, and Catholic Prophecy. A smaller section of the bookcase is reserved for sci-fi, Stephen King novels, and comic books.

“My mom is a super-Catholic,” Shannon says. “I don’t tell her when I dress up as demons. I had a pentacle on my head once, and she freaked out. But most of the demons in comic books are adorable. She never knows.”

Shannon tells me that her parents have come to terms with her cosplay hobby. But in the beginning, they weren’t so accepting.

“My parents thought it was really weird. They thought I would turn into a total geek and just fail at life. They don’t think that anymore. Now they think it’s adorable when I dress up.”

The first time Shannon cosplayed was at Comic-Con 2010. She was 16. During the first few days, she didn’t dress up. She felt too uncomfortable.

“Finally, I just decided that I would jump in and try it. I was kind of nervous about going around dressed up. But once people started coming up to me and joking around, it became a lot of fun. I took a bunch of pictures with people dressed up from the same anime as me. I think cosplay opens people up; because you’re in costume, it’s easier to let go and enjoy yourself.”

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closely resemble what their favorite comic-book heroes wear. She has a knack for designing costumes, though she decided against a degree in fashion. (“I’m a nursing student. I want to do something that will sustain me.”)

The girls attend a handful of conventions each year. Their favorite is a three-day event called Anime Conji, held each spring at the Town and Country Resort Hotel and Convention Center in Mission Valley. Once a month, and sometimes more frequently, they meet with other cosplayers at the big fountain in Balboa Park. Most members of their cosplay group are in their teens and early 20s.

“We communicate and plan events mostly through Facebook,” Shannon says.

“Our oldest member is 23,” Marina says. “There is one girl that comes who is 14. I think that’s our youngest.”

“We’re not going to be doing this when we’re 30,” Shannon says. “That would be weird.”

When asked how they feel about being gawked at, both girls agree that it’s no big deal as long as they’re in a big group.

“Can you blame them for staring?” Marina asks. “We’re very stareable. I avoid going out alone dressed like this.”

Shannon adds that it doesn’t really matter what non-cosplayers think. “The cosplay community is very inviting, eager to accept new people, even if your cosplay isn’t top quality. It’s about having fun and meeting people. When you have an extravagant cosplay, more people will want to take pictures and talk to you. That’s what motivates us to try our hardest when making costumes. At conventions, I’ve met many people just because they see my character and want to talk to me about the anime.”

When we pull into an empty parking lot adjacent to Balboa Park’s Spanish Village Art Center, we are over two hours early for the event. While Shannon and Marina gather their items from the car, a little girl points at us. I overhear her say to her mom, “Mommy, look, show people!”

I follow Shannon and Marina past the Balboa Park fountain and down a set of stone steps to the butterfly pavilion.

“Sometimes,” Marina says, “we have to fight over this spot with a group of parkour guys. They can be real a**holes. We always meet at the fountain because it makes it easier for new people. We usually end up here, though.”

The girls fish their wigs and hats out of a large paper bag and begin putting the finishing touches on their costumes. Shannon places a small red hat on her head and realizes it doesn’t fit right. Meanwhile, Marina

*   *   *

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is upset because her wig doesn’t look like her character’s.

She turns to me in frustration. “Cosplay is rough on perfectionists. This is what we call a complete disaster. My wig is frizzing! The spirit gum I used to apply my scar is peeling off, and my hat won’t fit on my head because my ponytail is too high!”

Shannon shoots Marina a helpless look.

Marina’s voice rises. “When [cosplay] goes right, it’s really fun. When it doesn’t, it can be really depressing.”

Shannon apologizes to Marina, taking full responsibility for the wardrobe malfunctions. “I sent Sabrina a text,” she says. “She should be here any second with scissors to fix your wig.”

Thirty minutes pass with no sign of Sabrina.

Both girls are seconds away from tears. They sit on a stone wall in the Butterfly Pavilion while groups of women speed-walk past, pushing strollers. A little girl in a bright blue tutu and leopard-print leotard strolls by with her family. She takes one look at Marina and Shannon and erupts into a fit of giggles. Neither Shannon nor Marina bat an eye.

After a lengthy silence, Marina announces, “I think I might just go wigless.”

“Really?” Shannon says.

“I don’t know how we’re going to fix this before the Long Beach convention,” Marina says. From the top of the stone steps, someone shouts, “Hey, sluts!”

A pretty blonde in short-shorts, a black shirt with an anime print, and five-inch stilettos decorated with silver studs approaches. She’s accompanied by Sabrina, the one with the scissors, supposedly a whiz with wigs.

Sabrina’s costume can best be described as “deranged blackjack dealer.” She’s wearing a pantsuit, a white button-down shirt with a bow tied around her neck, and a red trench coat. Orange contacts make her eyes glow. Her vivid red wig is waist length and ratty more of a nightmare than Marina’s. She holds a handmade wooden chainsaw. Her teeth are jagged. At first glance, she appears to have a dental issue, but upon closer inspection, I realize that she has blacked out a few teeth.

“I used waterproof eyeliner,” she later tells me. “As long as I don’t eat or drink anything, my teeth will stay like this all day.”

Immediately, Marina apologizes for the state of her costume. “No offense, but at first I thought you were Osakar,” says the pretty blonde whose name is Aimee.


An overweight woman approaches. With panic in her voice, the woman asks if they have seen a young girl dressed up as Italy from the manga series Hetalia. “She’s only 12, and she got in the car to come here with someone she doesn’t even know. She’s going to the Hetalia meet-up at the Organ Pavilion.”

Marina scrunches up her nose “We are not a Hetalia group,” she says. “Sorry.”

When the woman walks away, Marina turns to me and says, “Hetalia groups are weird. They’re obsessed with [cosplay]. They’re diehards and they freak me out!”

At 11:30, after two hours of sitting around at the Butterfly Pavilion, I follow the four girls to the fountain to join the rest of their cosplay group. As we make the short walk, all eyes are on us.

A man in a Hawaiian
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Qualified participants may receive study-related psychological evaluation(s) and may also receive compensation for time and travel.
shirt snaps a photo. "Yay, we’re a freak show!" Aimee shouts to the gawkers.

At the fountain, Aimee straddles a guy on a bench. He’s dressed in all black and wearing women’s ballet flats. The two make out in front of a 14-year-old girl (at first, I think she’s a boy, but then she introduces herself as Alana Maddox). Alana wears a canary-yellow top with a red ribbon tied around the neck, skinny jeans, and Vans tennis shoes. She holds a camcorder.

I stand next to a guy named Ryan. He’s over six feet tall and has a beard and mustache. He appears to be dressed as a bunny...or maybe a yeti.

More characters arrive. A friend brings Aimee her costume, a bright red dress that makes her look like a par-lormaid. She’s wearing a matching red chin-length wig.

A tall, round man shows up. He looks to be in his 40s, maybe 50s. He stands out in this group of teens and early-20-somethings. He has on blue pants that hit just above his ankles. The pants are pulled up above his waist, paired with a red-and-white-striped shirt and an unbuttoned forest-green trench coat. His hair is slicked back. Three black dots have been drawn on either side of his scalp. With eyeliner, he’s made himself a monobrow.

For the most part, everyone ignores him. "Who is that guy?" I ask Marina. She gives a disgusted shrug. "I don’t know. Randoms show up."

The man introduces himself as David Kenan. He’s 47 and dressed as a popular cartoon character from the late ’90s. He pushes his chest out and throws his arms back in a strange pose.

"Recognize me now?" he asks with a smile. I shake my head. He’s disappointed. "I’m Ed," he says, "from Ed, Edd n Eddy."

A group of mimes has set up near the entrance to the Reuben H. Fleet. They eyeball us. "Mimes freak me out." A woman sitting a few feet away on a picnic blanket watches the anime fans’ activities as if it’s a movie. She looks thoroughly perplexed. A toddler walks past hand-in-hand with her mother. When she sees us, she begins to cry.

"It’s okay, honey," 
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DO YOU HAVE…..AK (ACTINIC KERATOSIS)

Has the sun damaged your skin, leaving small thick, scaly, or crusty patches on your face or head? A 3-month medical research study is underway to evaluate a generic investigational gel or placebo to presently-marketed, solaraze 3% gel for Actinic Keratosis. AK, frequently caused by sun damage to sensitive skin, is often seen as pre-cancerous and left untreated may lead to skin cancer.

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Interested Call

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A medical research study is underway for prevention of frequent migraine headaches. If you are 18-65 years of age and are tired of one migraine after another you may want to consider this investigational medication given every 2 weeks.

To possibly qualify:
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Interested Call

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3) Have not used etanercept in the past
4) Have at least 10% body surface involvement

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Interested Call

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...bloated...uncomfortable
...abdominal pain
...then...DIARRHEA

A research study is underway for men and women 18 years of age or older suffering from diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. An oral investigational medication will be used in this research study for those who have been previously diagnosed or in those who suffer with abdominal pain, bloating, and episodes of diarrhea or watery stools daily.

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• Examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
• Lab studies, EKG, and study medication

Interested Call

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The Contribute Study is looking at whether a study medication (an investigational medication that is under development) is safe and effective in people with **ulcerative colitis** that is not well controlled using their current medication.

You might be able to participate if you:
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- have been diagnosed with mild or moderate **ulcerative colitis**
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The Contribute Study will last for approximately 12 weeks and will require six visits to the study center. If you are eligible to participate in the Contribute Study, you will receive study-related medication and health assessments at no cost and may be reimbursed for transportation costs.

For more information, or if you are interested in taking part in the Contribute Study, please contact:

**Precision Research Institute**
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www.prisandiego.com
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**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.

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make it so hard to work & travel

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Visit www.StudyIBS.com
Hetalia is a comic-book series based on WWII and other historical events. Each character represents a country, and each has a negative and positive "stereotype." "I really into history, so I love Hetalia," Alana says. She was 12 when a friend introduced her to the anime. She became wrapped up in it. "When I started dressing up as the characters from Hetalia, some people found it different. I am different. They think I’m obsessed with it. It isn’t true." She shrugs. "I just like pretending to be someone I’m not.”

She explains what they do at a regular Hetalia meet-up. "We hang out, we have food, we play games, and we role-play. We try to keep it clean. We don’t allow drinking or smoking. There was a guy who showed up a couple of weeks ago. He started fun of other people’s costumes.”

Alana tells me that, today they will role-play Hetalia scenes on the Organ Pavilion stage.

"It’s okay, honey," a mother says to her toddler. “They’re just playing dress-up.”

I spot Marina nearby. She’s standing with a girl in a blond wig wearing an elaborate princess dress. I ask Marina if she’ll take part in the role-playing with the Hetalia group. "We don’t do that," she says with exasperation. “That’s a little too extreme for me.”

Aimee’s boyfriend, Joshua Rodriguez (the young man wearing ballet flats), is sitting in one of the only spots of shade on the stage. He motions for me to join him.

He rattles off the reasons he loves cosplay. “What got me interested in cosplaying was anime itself. Seeing fictional characters and how cool they look had me excited to dress up in a totally different way.” Joshua works at the Animal Protection and Rescue League thrift store in Clairemont, a few shops away from Comickaze, a local comic-book store. “I’ve never been made fun of for doing this,” he says. “I’ve always been a cool guy. People just figured that, if I was into anime, it must be cool.”

Joshua wants to start his own cosplay group.

“It’s going to be a Teen Titans one. Like the cartoon. I’m going to be Robin. My group is going to be more organized than this one. We aren’t just going to stand around. We might do some larping [live-action role-playing] and a few stunts. I’m hoping to get a cameraman to film reenactments.”

I look over to see Sabrina, Shannon, and Marina posing for more photos. The photographer instructs them to use
their weapons. Marina draws her wooden stakes. Sabrina points her chainsaw at Marina. Meanwhile, other cosplayers stand around in small clusters, as if gathered in a high-school cafeteria. A few people are acting out comic-book scenes. On the seats that face the stage, random park visitors sit and watch everything unfold. They seem amused. I join the spectators and wait for something to happen. Nothing does. It’s late afternoon when I decide to head home. While I’m gathering my things, an elderly woman and her two granddaughters sit down beside me. “What are you guys?” the woman wants to know.

“They dress up as their favorite comic-book, cartoon, and video-game characters,” I explain. “I can see that,” the woman says patiently. “What I meant was, what do they do — besides wear costumes?” I think a moment, then say, “I’m still trying to figure that out.”

— Siobhan Braun

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Anatomy of a Tuna Clipper, Part One

An Imaginary Voyage

The horn just blew three times. Our vessel’s about to sail south in search of skipjack and yellowfin. It’s June 1946, and the 11-man crew’s eager to do work that, one boasts, will be “heavier and longer than most men can bear.”

What William McCloskey once wrote of salmon fishermen applies to tuna men as well. They “lead lives closer to death than most Americans. Compared to them, the sailors on modern tankers and freighters, and the Navy salts of the great electronic warships, are clock-punchers who live in luxury.”

The 130-ton, 100-foot-long vessel — we’ll call her the Margie L — will continue until it finds fish, to the stormy Gulf of Tehuantepec, or Isla del Coco off Costa Rica, or the Galapagos, 3000 miles from home, if necessary. The goal is to “make the trip”; plug the hold with tuna.

Newcomers learn rules fast: if you’re in the crow’s nest, and other boats are in the area, don’t point out a potential school: you give away the position.

Wear rubber knee- or hip-boots, but never all the way up. Go overboard in full-length boots and water seeping will tug you down. Keep the top open, rolled over like a movie pirate or with slits cut down the sides. Then you can kick them off fast.

Some boots come with holes punched around the ankles to help them drain.

Most boats have superstitions: don’t wear green (bad luck), don’t grow a beard (the voyage will be long), don’t bring dirt on board (symbolizes a shipwreck). Ours has only one: don’t whistle. Why? Whistling attracts breezes.

A local captain will tell you there’s “no

QUOTATIONS

1. Don Estes: “Kondo [Masaharu] was the catalyst who brought the men and their personal skills together at the right place and time to set in motion...a whole new industry.”

2. Edward Soltesz: “People would get hurt...the only time anyone could take pictures was when they were hurt and couldn’t perform in the rack.”

3. August J. Felando: “Though its economic crisis was not foreseen by the California tuna industry in 1946, the government had already introduced policies that would cause future tuna trade problems for the entire industry.”

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**San Diego Reader January 10, 2013 33**
bad luck, just bad seamen-ship.” Then he’ll head out to sea with a sprig of garlic on the bow.

Most important: don’t be a hero. Always keep “one hand for the seaman.” For long stretches of time, you will work in cramped quarters. You will work on surfaces slippery as ice—not just the wild ocean salt stinging your eyes and drenching everything, but tuna slime and gurry on the decks and alleyways. And when the fish start flying on board, work your pole, but know that a four-inch, galvanized hook can crack a skull.

Tuna fishing’s a team competition. The score gets tallied in tons. Ships battle for the biggest catches: for the money (every time a long-finned albacore or 200-pound yellowfin pops out of the soup, the crew hears a chorus of cash registers); and for bragging rights—even for the cleanest boat—and license to spin yarns that stretch the truth from Point A to Point Loma.

Like captain Guy Silva’s. In 1929, Silva was the first to install a shortwave radio on a tuna boat, the Emma R.S. He also claims that, a year or so later, off Cabo San Lucas, an enormous leopard shark surfaced alongside. Silva swears that he jumped onto the shark, stood up like a surfer, and ran down its back. When he climbed onboard, he grinned as wide as Magdalena Bay.

But here again, there’s a time to boast and a time to clam up. Rather than broadcast success, a captain will pinch the truth. He’ll use what Michael Orbach calls “partial honesty.” A boat riding low’s a dead giveaway; it’s “made the trip.” Other than that, captains will downplay good fortune. Competition’s so fierce, radio operators use codes. They only tell a small alliance—a “code group”—where fish have been spotted, where not, and where the more successful ships are headed. Edward Soltesz, an operator from 1937 to 1941, learned to decipher Morse code messages. Soltesz admits that, except for allies, “we lied to each other, because we wouldn’t tell them where we were! “We gathered more and more information that would be fed back to the skipper: ‘no bait in this bay…such and such a boat is catching some in Costa Rica.’ That would save weeks and weeks of time.”

Some skippers swear that coding mumbo-jumbo’s a waste of time. What counts is “fish sense.” That said, they’ll keep an ear for information as sharp as their squinting eyes will scan the rolling sea.

Ours is a “bait boat.” The first order of business: fill tanks on the stern with live anchovies and sardines. A net-tender skiff uses a purse seine. The net
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has buoyant corks on top and metal leads beneath. When skiffers spot bait fish, they circle the net around them, pull in the sides and the bottom, and bring the contents onboard.

“Bait came first,” says Julius Zolezzi, who captained a tuna boat for 27 years. “Getting it was hard work. You had bait watch. Leave a single light on all night. Sometimes, at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, a voice’d say, ‘Time to get bait.’ And you hop to it.”

Some of the most favored bait spots in 1946 are Turtle Bay and Magdalena Bay, off Baja, and Banderas Bay, off Puerto Vallarta.

The fishermen work by hand. In the 1940s, most tuna boats use poles. Nets required favorable conditions and the process often damaged the fish.

More than anything else, manually hauling in heavy, ocean-soaked nets, set after set, was a back-breaker. (In 1953, Mario Puratich patented his power block. The mechanized winch — it resembles a giant set of headphones — hangs from a boom and pulls the nets aboard the stern. It requires far fewer men to do the job. By the late 1950s, the power block and nylon nets, introduced in 1956, had revolutionized the fishing industry.)

Once in the wooden box, bait fish become “chum.” To keep them alive, the chum-mer regularly ladles fresh brine over them. He stands under a permanent canopy, of plywood or pine, to protect him from airborne hooks or 100-pound fish, whose flapping tails alone could break a rib. When the ship reaches a school of tuna, the chummer scoops bait over the stern. Think Richard Dreyfuss in Jaws, but without the trail of blood. The point is to host a banquet.

Schools of tuna often spread out over a wide area. Chumming can gather them close to the stern, the live bait suggesting a much larger number. When tuna spot the thrashing, they often, though not always, go into a feeding frenzy and will bite at anything that shines in the whitewater, including a hook on a wire leader.

Until around the 1920s, tuna boats chopped up sardines for bait. Chummers used to cover their noses from the monstrous stench of sardine scraps baking in the sun. Many chain-smoked cigarettes for the same purpose. When Japanese fishermen came to the West Coast, they introduced several innovations: one was live bait. The splashing created a more realistic feeding ground.

A pole-fisherman doesn’t cast his line in a rainbow arc. He slaps the pole hard on the surface. Sensing a rich cluster of food created by the sudden pop, hungry tuna charge into the roiling circle.

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Many claim that pole-fishing techniques don’t harm the porpoises that often swim with tuna. “They didn’t like the lures,” says Edward Soltesz. “Ours had feathers and catgut wrapped around them, and when they got wet they looked like squid in the water. That apparently was a delicacy for the tuna. The porpoise didn’t care for it. I don’t know what the porpoise ate.”

When the tuna are really biting, it’s slap-pull, slap-pull; pole-pop the water, tug out a fish. The frenzy’s on both sides of the railing.

Poles have changed little in the past 30 years. In 1908, Masaharu Kondo, who taught oceanography at Tokyo Imperial University, toured the world to study how people fished. In 1912, he returned to San Diego and Baja, where he established MK Fisheries. Along with live bait and new refrigeration techniques, Kondo and the other Japanese fishermen introduced the bamboo poles still used by tuna boats in 1946.

Both firm and flexible, the eight- or nine-foot pole brings in tuna without damaging them the way purse seines do. To assure a good grip, the base of the pole is two inches in diameter; the tip’s three-fourths to an inch thick. To protect themselves, fishermen strap a thick leather padded socket right below the stomach holds the pole. Many wonder how former anglers survived without one.

Like baseball players’ special bats, each fisherman has a personal pole. Wet bamboo is slippery. For secure handholds, each fisherman carries a file in his tackle box to cut indentations in the grip. Some wrap adhesive tape around the base, for the left hand, and a foot or so higher up, for the right. Others use twine. In no time, sweat and the elements turn the grip to coffee-brown.

Using a single pole with a six-foot line, wrote Motose Tsuida, captain of the White Cloud, “the Japanese fisherman could catch the fish fast. Our men fished with a certain rhythm, and the fish would come off the hook in mid-air. From a distance, the tuna looked like silver petals falling from a tree.”

For larger tuna — from, say 40 to 80 pounds — two fishermen work in tandem. The heavy cotton lines from their two poles go through a swivel, then join to a single leader and hook. For even bigger fish — as at the Galapagos — three poles, sometimes four, are necessary. The larger the fish, the larger the hook and the smaller the pole.

“When a tuna struck,” writes Edgar E. Crane, “all three men lunged backward simultaneously, catapulting the great fish out of the sea. The teamwork of the men exceeded the trained tactics of any football squad or shell crew that was ever seen.”

The bamboo comes uncut from Japan. Fishermen are careful to shape them as alike as possible, so they’ll work as a matched set. “We had to cut off the knots from the bamboo to make fishing poles,” says Soltesz. “For a limber pole, you cut the bottom off, and for a stiff pole, you would cut off the top part and the bottom would get real big.”

Kondo didn’t invent these techniques, which may have begun with the first Japanese fishing community in San Diego in 1899. But he had a definite influence. In 1922, the Pacific Fisherman journal named him the “Fish Magnate of California.”

In 1886, the naturalist Charles Frederick Holder saw his first school of “leaping tuna” in the Santa Catalina channel: “they came like a cyclone, turning the quiet waters into foam, in and out of which the big fishes darted like animated arrows or torpedoes.”

Others in those early days reported seeing schools so large you could walk across the water on their backs.
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Tuna have irregular migrating patterns. By the 1920s, they still came from the west, but yellowfin would arrive farther and farther down the Pacific Coast (albacore, which prefer cooler waters, moved farther north before turning toward Japan). The San Diego fleet moved south. In 1926, captain Manuel O. Medina and the Campbell Machine Company of San Diego built the Atlantic, the first “tuna clipper.” It was at least 110 feet long and designed for distant voyages. When such a large boat was under construction, Medina confessed, “people told me I was crazy, and, until the vessel proved herself, I thought maybe they were right.”

In 1929, the wood-hulled Atlantic was the first American tuna boat to cross the equator. In 1930, Medina fished 500 miles off the coast of Ecuador and made record catches. A pioneer like Kondo, Medina was the first to use sonar and to install refrigeration in the holds.

Around 1900, a fishing trip lasted one or two days, since there was no way to preserve the catch much longer. In 1946, one might take at least two months. The fish are now farther from San Diego, storing techniques are improved, and “tropical tuna” — striped skipjack (the least desired) and yellowfin (the most) — run yearlong. In 1925, a “short ton” of yellowfin paid $80; in 1946, it’s $200 to $280.

“January 1, 1946,” writes August J. Felando, “can be considered a starting date for the final era of the tuna clipper fleet. The foreseeable future excited fishermen, war veterans, shipyards, and investors with promises of economic growth, security, and new wealth.”

Where, specifically? Well, as the saying goes, “fish got tails.” Quirky and unpredictable, tuna go where they go like stampeding broncos. They bite from dawn to sundown. A tuna boat works those hours, often nonstop, and more.

Most San Diego tuna clippers are owned and operated by Portuguese or Italian families. No one works for a wage. Each receives a share of the catch, which makes the effort doubly personal and justifies the toil and danger.

Newcomers learn early that tuna fishing is not an MGM pirate movie. Errol Flynn won’t swoop down from the yardarm, teeth agleam, to rescue someone swept overboard. French horns or frantic violins won’t endorse your adventure. You’re a speck in a seemingly infinite, endlessly predictable, tuna go where they want, when they want. But, some say with teeth slightly agleam, that’s the adventure.

Next time: Let’s Catch Us Some Tuna!  ■ Jeff Smith

**Sources:**

Crane, Edgar E., *West Coast Fisheries*, 1931.


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**Eagles in Ramona**

_Eagles in Ramona_ continued from page 43

Bald eagles are a species that require many different resources to survive, and they are being studied in Ramona to learn more about their needs. Researchers are monitoring the eagles to understand their behavior and how they interact with their environment. This information will help conservation efforts to protect these birds.

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**New York Times**

continued from page 2

Republican’s

Longtime local GOP operative to leave party to become an independent Clairemont — The sting from the November election continues for some members of San Diego County’s Republican Party.

Bob Filner’s win, Scott Peters’s defeat of GOP congressman Brian Bilbray, the election of David Roberts to the County Board of Supervisors, and the debacle in D.C. over the fiscal cliff have caused some GOP faithful to question their party — and has even sent some running for the nearest exit.

That appears to be the case with longtime GOP volunteer, member of the Juvenile Justice Commission, and president of the Clairemont Town Council, Ryan Trubco, who announced that he was leaving the GOP in order to register as an independent.

In a January 3 blog post on ryantrubco.com, Trubco listed his reasons for jumping ship.

“There hadn’t been much thought about re-registering until recently, while watching the fiscal cliff debate play out over weeks on..."
end. Speculation. Finger-pointing. The constant will-they-won’t-they approach to politics. Quite honestly, it was sick...

“The selfish behavior of those who would rather bring our country to its knees, rather than face the challenges ahead of us have drug the party away from me. The constant kowtowing to the Tea Party and like-minded ideologues have damaged the brand, the mission, and the spirit of the Republican Party.

“Look at California. The Republican Party, here, is a mess. Enough said.”

Dorian Hargrove, January 3

Botch job
Two stolen vehicles recovered after crash
Escondido — A woman heard her car start and looked out her apartment window in time to see her car being driven away on Sunday night, December 16.

She also noticed a Honda Accord with a bike rack on the roof following closely after her car. It was after 10 p.m. when the woman and her mother jumped into her mother’s car and took off after her stolen vehicle. As they pursued the stolen car and the closely following Honda on northbound freeway 15, the younger woman described the situation by cell phone to an Escondido police dispatcher.

Escondido police quickly found the line of cars on the freeway but were not able to get between the stolen vehicle and the Honda, according to officer Marvin Jabro, who testified in San Diego’s North County Superior Courthouse today.

The stolen car and the Honda exited the northbound highway and then re-entered freeway 15 going south. Both cars exited the freeway and the lead vehicle crashed at Country Club Drive into the center median. The driver of the smashed car fled into a nearby golf course. A police canine was able to locate the fugitive after about five minutes, and that person was arrested.

Police officers were speaking with the owner of the stolen vehicle at the crash site about 45 minutes later when the woman shouted out, “That’s the vehicle that was following!” The woman pointed to a 1990 Honda Accord with a bike rack that was just pulling up, and officers rushed the vehicle.

Ignoring orders to stop, the driver put the vehicle into reverse and drove backwards about 15 feet, Officer Jabro said. One officer broke a side window and then the Honda halted.

Pedro Manriquez Jr., 18, was identified in court today as the Honda driver. The car had been reported stolen from San Diego some days prior, according to testimony.

Four other persons were removed from the Honda, during which time a fight broke out and one officer’s knee was seriously injured.

A gang specialist testified that Pedro Manriquez Jr. and the driver of the other stolen vehicle were both “documented” members of the Diablo street gang.

Eva Knott, January 2

COMMENTS
Visda Jan. 2, 2013 @ 8:24 p.m.
Pedro is lucky to be alive. When the cops see a car moving forward/in reverse toward/away from them they often empty their service weapons into the car. After doing that, they make some attempt to determine why the driver was not heeding their orders/directions.

Woman escapes kidnapping
Sheriff releases sketches of three suspects, reward for information offered
Encinitas — Sheriff’s deputies are looking for three men wanted for an attempted kidnapping in Encinitas on the afternoon of New Year’s Eve.

continued on page 46
ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH EMOTIONAL OVEREATING?

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DIARY OF A DIVA
continued from page 8

does when he wants to pave the way for a big delivery. “There are some things that you’re good at and some things that I’m good at.”

“So, what you’re saying is I should go sit over there and sip my wine so you can have your kitchen back and finish making dinner?” David nodded. “I’m cool with that,” I said.

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

NEWS TICKER
continued from page 45

An unidentified 18-year-old female was walking north on the 500 block of Saxony Road around 3:30 Monday afternoon when she was approached by three men in an older black pick-up with orange stripes. One of the three, possibly a teenager with a thin build, forced the victim into the truck occupied by two other men.

The victim proceeded to punch the driver and bite another one of her attackers, at which point they released her and she fled to a nearby residence seeking help.

The San Diego sheriff’s department released a sketch, along with the following descriptions:

“Suspect #1 — Hispanic Male Adult, 25–35 years old, thin build; Suspect #2 — Hispanic Male Adult, 30–40 years old, heavy build; Suspect #3 — Hispanic or White Male Juvenile, thin build.”

A reward of up to $1000 is being offered for information leading to arrest.

Heading for Hollywood?

Media speculate next Chargers coach may have to have L.A. star power. San Diego — Yahoosports, quoting “multiple sources with an understanding of the Los Angeles and Chargers situation,” says the Chargers — now that they have fired coach Norv Turner and general manager A.J. Smith — may look for a new coach that will play well in Los Angeles.

The earliest the team would move would be in 2014, reports Yahoosports. A team source is quoted as saying “Everybody knows that [owner Dean Spanos] wants to be in San Diego. That has always been his priority.” We have heard those words from Chargers flack Mark Fabiani numerous times. The story goes on to say that new mayor Bob Filner promises there will be no “sweetheart” deal for the Chargers, thus complicating the situation.

Yahoosports polled 2614 people on what kind of new Chargers coach would fit most snugly into Los Angeles: 47 percent agreed, “a big name with a big personality.” One-fourth said a coach with “rising talent and trendsetting ideas.”

Don Bauder, December 31

COMMENTS
SurfPuppy619, January 1 @ 1 a.m.
Chargers are not going anywhere, no $$ left to scam from L.A. or anyone else. Glad Filner is not caving in to them...

Baja murders drop

State attorney general reports lowest number of homicides in five years Baja — Official numbers were released today, January 2, by the state attorney general’s office that showed a large decrease in homicides for the Mexican state of Baja California. To date, 643 homicides were recorded in 2012, compared to 761 in the previous year.

Speaking in Mexicali, the attorney general of the state, Rommel Moreno Manjarrez, applauded all levels of law enforcement for working hard in increasing safety. Yearly homicide counts for Baja California: 2012, 643; 2011, 761; 2010, 1050; 2009, 909; 2008, 1076.

K. Mennem, January 2

Welcome to the neighborhood

Little Saigon cultural district would span several blocks of El Cajon Boulevard City Heights — The Little Saigon Foundation of San Diego this week began circulating an online petition seeking official recognition for the Vietnamese community of the region by establishing a stretch of El Cajon Boulevard running from Highland Avenue to Euclid Avenue in City Heights as the Little Saigon District.

The group is already active in cultivating such a district, albeit unofficially at present, through sponsoring street clean-ups, cultural events, and other promotions, such as the Taste of Little Saigon. They’ve also developed a ten-year plan for improvements to sidewalks and signage as well as the installation of plants, benches, and culturally relevant artwork.

Dave Rice, January 2

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### Thursday | 10

**LUNAFEST FILM FESTIVAL**
This festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through nine short films by women filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama and cover topics such as women’s health, motherhood, body image, aging, cultural diversity, and breaking barriers. Food and cocktails will be served. Age 21+. $20.

**WHEN:** 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** Co-Merge, 330 A Street, downtown. 619-255-9040; lunafest@jlsd.org

### Friday | 11

**ART-A-THON**
Distinction Gallery and ArtHatch present 25 local artists creating for 24 hours straight, a marathon of creation to benefit the nonprofit art center’s teen program. Painting, drawing, collage, print, and photography will be among the featured media, with participating artists ranging from emerging to seasoned professionals. As works are finished, they will be added to the ArtHatch gallery space and auctioned off for a one-month period following the event. The reception for the exhibition will be held at the end of the event on January 12, with live music and beer, compliments of Stone Brewery.

**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** ArtHatch, 317 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. 619-781-5779; distinctionart.com; arthatch.org

### Saturday | 12

**SUSHI + JAPANESE BEER**
Ogawashi and Brews Up have created a menu to showcase some of the best craft beers from Japan with the best sushi in San Diego. From first-timers to connoisseurs, all are welcome to meet a few new people, try a few new brews, and learn how to pair them with food. Seating is limited to 50, and all attendees will receive a commemorative Ogawashi/Brews Up glass. Ages 21+. $40.

**WHEN:** 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Ogawashi, 1100 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-696-3333; ogawashi.com

### Sunday | 13

**HOT GUYS DANCING**

**WHEN:** 8:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Boulevard, University Heights. 619-220-0097; diversionary.org

### Monday | 14

**WHALE WATCHING**
Birch Aquarium hosts twice-daily cruises to locate gray whales on their round-trip migration from their Alaska feeding grounds to Baja California. Search for seals, sea lions, dolphins, migrating birds, and more. $37–$42.

**WHEN:** 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla. 619-234-4111; aquarium.ucsd.edu

### Tuesday | 15

**THE ARTIST’S WAY**
Free your inner artist. This 12-week course by instructor Jill Hall is for novices and working artists of all types, including writers, visual artists, actors, dancers, and musicians. Weekly readings, exercises, and discussions will tap your imagination and increase productivity. Bring a copy of *The Artist’s Way* (by Julia Cameron) and an 8.5-by-11-inch unlined sketch diary. No arts experience required. $268–$312.

**WHEN:** 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays through April 9.
**WHERE:** Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Road, Studio 206, Point Loma. 619-223-0058; bravoschoolofart.com

### Wednesday | 16

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA**
Tom’s Big Fat Trivia Party promises pop-culture trivia, games, and laughs. Happy-hour specials until 1:30 a.m. include $4 draft beers and 25-cent wings with spicy buffalo sauce or sweet-and-spicy chili sauce.

**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** U-31, 3112 University Avenue, North Park. 619-584-4188; u31bar.com
Gather No Moss

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

One Night in the French Quarter
By Ken Jackson

Before Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the State of Alabama sent me and two other newly appointed law clerks to attend a conference there. We were given a prepaid twin room at the Hotel Monteleone.

The conference ended on a Friday, and after we had dined on muffalettas and Barq’s root beer, we wound up at Pat O’Brien’s bar for “one last drink.” It really was the last drink for one of the guys because he was driving us back early the next morning. The other clerk left a little later because he wanted to stake out our room’s last bed and leave me on the floor, again.

It was just midnight and Pat’s had dropped the price of Dixie beer to two for a dollar. I still had four bucks in my pocket and no bed in my near future. Standing at that bar alone was about as good as life was going to get that night, so I handed the bartender a dollar and collected two Dixies.

Right then, a chestnut-haired girl in a Tulane T-shirt stepped into the vacancy left at the bar by my bed-hound colleague. She ordered something expensive and foreign. With some rebuke about Louisiana loyalty, I offered her my other Dixie. She took my beer and cancelled her order, and that’s how I met Stephanie.

She said she was a nurse or a doctor’s assistant or something. I said I was a lawyer or a judge’s assistant or something. We told each other the people we’d come with had gone home, but we didn’t know them that well anyway. And then we said whatever you say to someone you’ve just met when you’re afraid they’ll leave if the conversation dies.

Eventually the beer prices went back up, or my four bucks ran out, or we just decided we needed air and we went outside. On Chartres Street, we bumped into three seamen from the French navy. These sailors imagined their mother tongue might be a useful aid to conversation in the French Quarter. A couple of Oklahoma tourists were proving them wrong when Stephanie turned up.

Stephanie was either born speaking French or she had breathed the language in whole in her childhood. She spoke in such a comfortable and colloquial way that as soon as I heard her, I knew those sailors would follow us wherever we went. We wandered all over the Quarter with Stephanie explaining the sights and me vainly trying to construct French sentences that didn’t include the word merde.

We came into Café du Monde for caffeine and chicory at three in the morning. And there and then, in one of those transcendental intersections of space and time that reaffirms the existence of God, three French girls appeared at our table, sat down with the sailors, and dismissed...
ROAM-Ø-RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

LAKE MURRAY KIowa
A walk at an important lake where waterfowl are plentiful

Distance from downtown San Diego: 12 miles. Allow 20 minutes driving time to Mission Trails Regional Park. From I-8, exit north on Lake Murray Blvd., then left at Kiowa Dr. Wheelchair accessible, water, and facilities. The gates are open sunrise to sunset, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s day.

Hiking length: 6.4 miles to dam and back. Please keep a “passing lane” available for the multi-purpose use of hikers, runners, and bicyclists. There is shore-fishing, plus private boats are allowed as the water level allows. Dogs on a leash permitted. • Difficulty: Easy, with little elevation gain/loss on paved surface of the perimeter road.

La Mesa’s Lake Murray offers a great place to take a walk amid chaparral and coastal sage scrub while pondering the role of imported water in San Diego’s history.

Lake Murray, at the southern end of Mission Trails Regional Park, is a great place to enjoy chaparral and coastal sage scrub with its easy access path along the lakeshore. It is also a great place to think about water and its role in the county’s history. Water was key to the growth of San Diego County. In 1850, the county consisted of land east and south of Los Angeles, with major portions of what is now Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, and, until 1897, Imperial County. Prior to California statehood, an estimated 2000 to 5000 people resided in this large area. The population grew in relationship with the larger manmade water-resource facilities built from 1888 through 1897, including the Sweetwater Dam and the Lower Otay Dam. San Diego County’s population was just under 35,100 people in 1900, according to the census. Prior to the Lake Murray Dam, there was a project by the San Diego Flume Company that completed the La Mesa Dam in 1895. Water was diverted from the San Diego River via a canal, and then, by an innovative process, was pumped with silt to the dam site for a pond, creating a compacted core by allowing the water to seep into the ground. The upstream side was strengthened by two layers of wood planks that were caulked and swabbed with asphalt, thus having “controlled” leakage estimated to be 100,000 gallons per day.

The major 20th Century projects, supporting the post WWII population growth of just over 550,000 in 1950, started with Lake Murray’s hollow gravity multi-arch dam. Completed in 1918, it was built downstream of the La Mesa Dam for the cost of $1.21 million. This was followed by replacements for Lower Otay and Barrett, earthquake-safety improvement for Henshaw, and new dams built at El Capitan, Hodges, San Vicente, Loveland, and Sutherland. Bring your binoculars and cameras, as the wind currents along the edge of the lake allow great viewing of turkey vultures and hawks as they hover. Near the softball fields is an osprey nest, easily found by the guano spray on the road. Cormorants, ducks, sparrows, and wren-tits are among the greater than 140 species of birds sighted at the lake or among the coastal sage plants. California sagebrush (Artemisia californica, not a true sage), fist-top buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum), black sage (Salvia mellifera), and deerweed (Lotus scoparius) are among the indicator plants for this endangered habitat.

Lake Murray Reservoir, with its multiphase inlet/outlet tower that allows the flexibility to choose the layer with the best temperature and water quality to enter the filtration system, is at the southern end of Mission Trails Regional Park, one of the largest urban parks in the country. Park usage information can be found at mtrp.org/lake_murray.asp

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website.

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

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Rhyme & Verse
My Grandmother’s Love Letters
A poem by Hart Crane

There are no stars tonight
But those of memory.
Yet how much room for memory there is
In the still girdle of soft rain.

There is even room enough
For the letters of my mother’s mother,
Elizabeth,
That have been pressed so long
Into a corner of the roof
That they are brown and soft.
And liable to melt as snow.

Over the greatness of such space
Steps must be gentle.
It is all hung by an invisible white hair.
It trembles as birdie wings wabble the air.

And I ask myself:

“Are your fingers long enough to play
Old keys that are but echoes:
Is the silence strong enough
To carry back the music to its source

And back to you again
As though to her?”

Yet I would lead my grandmother by the hand
Through much of what she would not understand;
And so I stumble. And the rain continues on the roof
With such a sound of gently pitying laughter.

Harold Hart Crane (1899–1932) was an American poet whose work is distinguished by a remarkable degree of verbal and lyrical intensity, a poetry far more Dionysian in spirit than that of his American contemporaries. The son of a successful Ohio businessman, Crane was homosexual at a time when such an orientation was not acceptable. He acquired a serious alcohol problem and was an anguished spirit, but he was also the most ecstatic and mystical American poet of his generation. Returning from a year in Mexico under a Guggenheim Fellowship, Crane committed suicide by jumping from the SS Oriza, the ship on which he was returning to the United States. “My Grandmother’s Love Letters” was composed in 1919 and appeared in Crane’s 1926 collection White Buildings.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry
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the lion’s share of the finances. I
work. I never got anywhere
ways to get to heaven. I tried to
but then he asked me to come
back a couple days later, and he
gave me the option of denying
my faith to be accepted by the
family. Millions of dollars were
at stake because my family was
very wealthy, and he is the old-
est male in the family, which
meant that he would get the
lion’s share of the finances. I
said to him, “Dad, God is real,
and if you want to deny me my
faith, it would be like my stand-
ing in front of you right now
and denying you.” That would
be ridiculous and I could never
do it. So that’s one of the rea-
sons I can say with confidence
that I know.

SDR: Where do you go when
you die?

P: I believe that the Bible
says that God gives everyone
a choice, like a testing ground
here on Earth. There’s only
one way to heaven, accord-
ing to the Bible. You have
option A, and that’s it…
And that’s why my husband
and I are so passionate about
sharing our faith in Christ.
We want everyone to know
about God — and not just for
the afterlife, but for here on
Earth. It’s a lonely life without
God. We emphasize that God
has a good life for you wait-
ing. Jesus never came preach-
ing hell. He came preaching
good news. That’s our main
emphasis. We believe there
is a hell, and there are some
people who are saying there
is no hell. But even if you look
at war and the other bad stuff
on Earth, that’s a reflection
of what hell is about. The
evil thing that happened at
Sandy Hook Elementary is
a good example. I think that
people who deny that evil is
real are creating a danger for
themselves and their children.

Joseph O’Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns
at SDReader.com/worship/
Includes introduction to the fundamentals of art: line, light, color, value, hue, texture, composition, space, and design. Each class will be accompanied by classical music and a discussion on great works of art.

Instructor Orna McCann. A list of art supplies will be given upon registration. Ages 3 to 6. 619-223-0058.

Handel’s Messiah

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Includes introduction to the fundamentals of art: line, light, color, value, hue, texture, composition, space, and design. Each class will be accompanied by classical music and a discussion on great works of art.

Instructor Orna McCann. A list of art supplies will be given upon registration. Ages 3 to 6. 619-223-0058.
Estuary Clean Sweep Volunteers needed to walk or ride sections of the three-mile San Diego River Trail from Dog Beach to the upper San Diego River estuary and remove trash along the way. A limited number of kayaking spots are also available to remove trash from the water. Teams, groups, clubs and individuals welcome. Contact: volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or 619-297-7380. Saturday, January 12, 9am; free. San Diego River Estuary

Naturalist Walk Enhance your appreciation of this watershed community of native plants and wildlife. Learn about the history and culture of the indigenous people who lived in this area during prehistoric times. Walks are led by docent Donna Walker. Walks are offered the second, third, and fourth Sundays of each month. 760-632-4212. Sunday, January 13, 10am; free. Elin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Waterfall Restoration Planting: The Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve seek volunteers to help plant native trees at the waterfall in Los Penasquitos Canyon. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves if you have them. 858-484-3219, Saturday, January 12, 9am; free. Del Mar Mesa trailhead, 7107 Park Village Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Special Events

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“Verbal Revolution — A Showcase of the Vocal Arts” Showcase for spoken word artists, singers, comedians. Open mike. Artists invited to exhibit paintings and drawings during show. 858-413-7467. Friday, January 11, 7pm; $5. Culture Shock Dance Studio, 2110 Hancock Street. (OLD TOWN)

Pirate Murder Mystery Voyage Expect dead pirates, missing treasure, and a ship full of suspects in this interactive murder mystery voyage. Swords are pointed, accusations are thrown, and everybody is guilty until proven innocent. Attendees will have the option of participating in the mystery as a character/suspect or sleuth/innocent bystander. 619-781-8013. Saturday, January 12, 6:30pm; $69. 18 and up. Pirate Ship Adventures, 1450 Harbor Island Drive. (HARBOR ISLAND)

International Music and Arts Festival San Diego Chinese Art and Cultural Society presents evening by “a diverse pool of artists and musicians, ranging from classical and jazz ensembles, to Latin style and hip-hop dancing, to the ancient Chinese art of face changing.” Exhibition of paintings by children and adults. Tickets: 858-759-9581 or 619-421-5964. Saturday, January 12, 11am-5pm. Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade, West Harbor Drive at West Market Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Love’s in the Air! Ages 40-60ish. Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage, and more, offers a dance/mixer with a live band, the Brokers Band, playing blues, rock & roll, and high-energy dance music, lock & key icebreaker, prizes, photos an more! Dress is upscale casual (no jeans or shorts). $15 prepay, $20 door, self-parking $5, valet $10. Sign up at 818-577-6877 or SimplyTheBestSingles.com. Saturday, January 19, 7:30pm to 11:30pm, Del Mar Marriott, 11966 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

SPOKEN WORD

Galato Poetry Series Harry Cruz will feature an open mic on January 17, 2013 only. An open mic will follow. 760-434-1240 Friday, January 11, 7pm; free. Korky’s Ice Cream & Coffee, 2375 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)
The Caravaggio effect

Peter clutches his hands to his chest and cocks his big, ruddy, rough peasant’s head.

In his 20s, in Rome, in the first decade of the 17th Century, Caravaggio — born Michelangelo Merisi in the Lombard town of Caravaggio — was already so innovative a painter that some of his contemporaries began to borrow his manner of exagerating flesh by casting on it a single source of light and allowing other pictorial elements to creep and seethe and emanate from a cellar darkness, though none of the painters called “Caravaggisti” had his gift of making flashy technique so stunningly immediate an expression of physical pain, moral anguish, and carnal delight. Twenty years after his death in 1610 at age 38, Caravaggio’s innovations had become a sharable idiom that extended to France, the Netherlands, and Spain.

The 21-year-old Caravaggio arrived in Rome in 1592, when the Counter Reformation Church was encouraging a naturalistic art that emphasized the human-ness in Old and New Testament events and the lives of the saints. It wanted art to answer, with an intensified realism, to the human passions narrated in sacred story. This was consonant with Caravaggio’s genius for dramatizing extremity of feeling. In his best known religious images, such as those in Santa Maria del Popolo — Saul blinded and thrown from his horse on his way to Damascus; St. Peter being crucified upside down — the body is a bearer and register of terror, jumpy with religious meaning. And Caravaggio was free to showcase personality and eccentricity. His St. John the Baptist is a slightly petulant teenager whose inarticulate discontent looks just this side of adult righteousness, and the light that wedges down from offstage, carving the Baptist’s features out of an arboreal darkness, looks like a bestowal of responsibility.

All these pictures (except those in Santa Maria del Popolo, which never travel) are among the eight Caravaggio canvases included in Caravaggio and His Legacy, a world-class exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art that documents what the catalog calls “the Caravaggio effect” among the painter’s contemporaries and others who were, however indirectly, beneficiaries of his practice. The Caravaggio pictures show how he loved scenes of confrontation — of accusation, appeal, disclosure — and how he made of biblical scenes an ardent pictorial moment, not something taken out of time but an extension of real time and space. His theatricality created a believable and often uneasy intimacy among souls and gave an embodied momentum to the dynamics of expectation and deliverance.

One of the great confrontation scenes in literature is Peter’s denial of Christ. Caravaggio’s execution crafts a complicated drama. The serving woman who challenges Peter points at him while denouncing him to a soldier whose presence is mostly delineated by the light burnishing his helmet and armor. Peter, in a gesture anybody who has been to Italy will recognize, clutches his hands to his chest and cocks his big, ruddy, rough peasant’s head. The two auxiliary pictures are only partially illuminated — the woman’s suspicious, accusatory eyes are weirdly masked by light — but Peter is a guilty thing surprised: his defensiveness is compounded of duplicity, trepidation, and shame.

Caravaggio and His Legacy is, among other things, a scholarly probe. It displays treatments by other artists of scenes and themes Caravaggio depicted. It sets his Denial, for instance, in relation to two other renderings, one by Nicolas Tournier made in 1630, another by a mysterious painter called Pensionante del Saraceni (because he was somehow associated with a Caravaggista named Carlo Saraceni). In Pensionante’s version, Peter’s denial is a mild-mannered “who me?”; the painting’s urgency comes entirely from the maid-servant’s angry, astonished facial expression and beseeching hands. In Tournier’s treatment, our attention is pulled away from the act of Peter’s denial to a self-contained genre scene of boisterous
of terror, confusion, and anger and could orchestrate multiple figures in scenes that have Caravaggio’s paused velocity of action. The best of these is Christ Expelling the Merchants from the Temple, which pulls our attention in different directions. Most of the commotion is deposited on the right, where the merchants are reacting with consternation to Christ’s anger. Their action draws us to its source: flailing a whip, Christ looks inflamed, a man to be feared. The marvelous moment, however, belongs to the serving woman whose back is turned to the action: balancing a workaday bundle on her head, she’s indifferent to the violence occurring right there behind her back. Manfredi was himself so influential that his way of painting, the Manfrediana Methodus, was applied to compositions inspired by his powerful example, especially the work of French painters such as Tournier (of the Denial picture) and Vouet, whose version of Saint Jerome at his writing desk being visited by the angel of death catches the saint with a hand raised in a gesture of both abandon and protest while the other hand is still writing.

This kind of big-tent show frees the curators to arrange smart match-ups — three “Denials” and two “Crown of Thorns” hang side by side in the same gallery — and to bring together masterpieces fairly remote from Caravaggio and his Rome. Jusepe de Ribera (1591–1652), a painter of ripe, juicy agonies, was born in Valencia but lived his adult life mostly in Naples. His Saint Mary of Egypt (a reformed prostitute who lived in penitence as a desert hermit) concentrates the withering effects of old age into a look of severe expectation of deliverance. Velázquez, who learned much from Ribera’s practice, gives us a St. Thomas not in Christ’s presence demanding to see His wounds, but alone, carrying a book and staff, like a hermit: his hands are clenched with skepticism, his peasant face stunned by uncertainty. The grandest picture in the exhibition, for me, is of Saint Serapion, a little-known martyr of the Mercedarian Order, by Velázquez’s contemporary, Francisco de Zurbarán. It’s heart-stoppingly vivid. Serapion’s arms are strung up. His head drops to his right shoulder with the massive weight of his death, and with it droops his right hand. Zurbarán paints the completedness of death with his characteristic grave and dignified composure. The rucked, weighty folds of Serapion’s rough woolen habit — it looks as if it’s been boiled in faint yellow-green dyes — hang heavy on the corpse and seem full of the faith the saint died for.

Caravaggio’s The Denial of St. Peter, 1610

Caravaggio’s The Denial of St. Peter, 1610

collection, featuring a broad variety of media from many different cultures, continues through Sunday, February 17. Free. 7th Annual Youth Exhibition,” a juried selection of artwork showcasing creativity and artistic expression of SD’s youth. Closes Sunday, January 27.

“Soapbox! The Audience Speaks” is the museum’s first crowd-sourced exhibition that uses engaging new technology and interactive processes to allow visitors the opportunity to rate images both online and in the gallery.” Visitors selected pieces from a random selection of 120 images from museum’s permanent collection. Through Sunday, September 22. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Kazoo: More than Just an Annoying Party Favor” Exhibit showcases the kazoo’s African and American roots, plots its place in Americana, reveals its role in the early jazz age, catalogs its classical repertoire, and peaks at its popular music successes. Exhibit runs through January 30, on the lower level, west wing of Geisel Library at UC San Diego. Free. UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Ray at Night Explore “heart of North Park art and culture” during gallery walks featuring over 25 neighborhood galleries, businesses. 6pm-9pm Saturday, January 12, 6pm; free. Circles Gallery, 3803 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Philip Melnick: Small Seduction Reception with artist, Saturday, January 12, 6pm. Approximately 50 black and white vintage prints. This will be the first solo show in Southern California in three decades for the artist who “was part of a pivotal generation of photographers working in L.A.” in the 1970s. Exhibition closes February 23. Joseph Bellows Gallery, 7661 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)
mm... the Naughty Constables are great and spicy, but popping okra pods in your mouth is the best. Little liquid explosions with a tang that kicks the sausage flavor to life.

Naughty Constables is the name for these little round discs of salami (okay, salami!) I’m chomping into. They’re “Thüringer Cervelot-style” sausage spiced with caraway and juniper,” according to the menu. But it’s combining them with the house-pickled okra that makes them happen.

They’re part of my late-late brekky here at the Village. Like, 2:00 in the afternoon. And it’s not just me. The danged place is filled with java-juicing laptoppers.

Place took over from Java Joe’s a year and a half ago. Now the welcome mat reads “Village 631.” Name makes you think of a gulag in Siberia, but, hey, far too nice. And the full name over the door is “The Village @ 631.”

So, here I was, passing by, when I noticed this gal Megan sitting outside in the sunshine, in a big comfy red chair under a black umbrella, pounding away at her laptop. “This is my hangout,” she said. “I live at the hostel nearby.”

Next minute, I’m inside the big ol’ arch-roofed hangar of a place. “Used to be a glass factory,” says Sarah-Dawn, the lady behind the counter. “All that timber up there and the brick walls are from the 1920s, at least.” Beautiful painted-glass lamps shades hang over the counter. Looks like they’re from the same era.

I check the menu. For breakfast, they have nuts-and-twigis, like the “Fit Bowl,” which is egg whites, brown rice, marinated tofu, and Swiss chard, $8.95. Uh, even at this hour, hard to face. Also, egg-ham-cheese-tomato-stuffed croissants for $7.95. Also, scrambles, like the pesto (with ham, asparagus, kale, spinach, parmesan, and “arugula almond pesto”) for $6.95.

Then — uh-oh, I see what I don’t want to see: “Breakfast till 1:00 p.m.” I’m too late. Oh, well.

Actually, what I want (need!) is a basic cuppa coffee. I croak my request to this other gal, Judi, then while I wait, start back into the menu. Salads, like the spinach, run to $6.75. Sandwiches, such as the Croque Monsieur (with ham, egg, and cheese), are mostly $8.95.

Then there seems to be a separate “wine bar” menu. Small bites, $5 each. Some items, like the plate of warm mixed nuts, or gorgonzola-stuffed dates, or bacon popcorn — ain’t gonna fill the bill. But I see more serious choices, like “Meatmen Sausages.” They come on a baguette with “smashed potato salad” and “house-made” dill pickle. These kind of dishes are $9. The Cheddar Wurst has melted onions and whole-grain mustard. The Sweet Italian comes with provolone, roasted peppers, and pesto. The Kaservkrainer has gouda and aioli.

They also have flatbreads. Like the “Beef and Bleu” ($8), grilled steak with gorgonzola, melted onions, and arugula. Ooh...maybe that’s the one.

Except, Sarah-Dawn says it’s only served at the wine bar, in its own section at the back of the place. Kinda cool-looking area with art on the walls. Problem: wine bar doesn’t open till 4:00 p.m.

So, I’m back to the menu. Mulling that Croque Monsieur (mostly because I like the name the French gave to a toasted ham-and-cheese sandwich), or maybe the Porto Panini (also $8.95), with portobellos mushrooms, eggplant, zucchini, roasted red peppers, and mozzarella. All veggies, but luscious possibilities.

In the end, guess what? A bit of whining on my part, three trips to the kitchen on Sarah-Dawn’s part, and the chef says I can have one of the sausage-cheese boards from the wine-bar menu, even though it’s no way four o’clock.

The cheapest is $13. That’s for the small board. But can’t backtrack now. So: more choices to be made. You choose three of five different salami sausages. Each has a crazy name.

There’s that Naughty Constable. And Juicy Scandal, a dry, spicy-hot salami from southern Italy. And Flagrant Seeds, a finocchiona salami with an anise flavor that comes from fennel seeds. Tasty Treason is a salty French sausage with “a sweet punch of cardamom and orange.” And Spicy Pepperoni is spiked with cayenne, basil, and fennel.

Sarah-Dawn says, “If you go for the $18 one, you can have all five.”

But I choose only three: Naughty Constables, Tasty Treason (never quite worked out what these names are about), and Spicy Pepperoni.

Judy brings them on a wooden board, neat little rows of salami, each with different pickled veggies on top. Pickles, carrots, and that pickled okra. I ask for bread and get a thin-sliced chunk of baguette.

At first I think, 13 bucks? That’s a lot. But then I discover how much you’re getting here. Would’ve been nice to have a glass of vino, but the coffee (the “small” for $2 is served in a sizable white ceramic cup) is a great counterpart to all the saltiness.

I look around. The brick and timbers are beautiful. So’s the winter sun coming through where the glass doors are folded back. But most people here don’t notice; their heads are down in their laptops.

“We get students from the Thomas Jefferson law school, the New School of Architecture, social-networking companies, and the fitness community,” says Sarah-Dawn. “They come work here, have meetings... this is their other office.”

Hmm... price of a coffee; it’s way cheaper than renting space. Why not ditch the first office? Be a regular Joe with a cuppa regular joe, her office? Be a regular Joe with a cuppa regular joe, working here until you get a regular job. There are worse places to spend your day.  

The Place: The Village @ 631, 631 Ninth Avenue, downtown, 619-255-9405.
Prices: Breakfast: Fit Bowl (egg whites, brown rice, marinated tofu, and Swiss chard), $8.95; egg-ham-cheese-tomato-stuffed croissant, $7.95; pesto scramble (with ham, cheese, veggies), $6.95; spinach salad, $6.75; Croque Monsieur, $8.95; Cheddar Wurst sausage on baguette, $9; Beef and Bleu flatbread (with grilled steak), $8; small salami board, $13.
Hours: Saturday–Tuesday, 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Wednesday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
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**Zombie breakfast**

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Clayton’s delivers: Coronado’s morning after comfort food

Some come for the food.

Me, I come for the cash register.

Okay, not quite true. Came here to recover from yesterday with some home-cookin’ food.

But this classic machine is always the first thing I notice: a still-working NCR mechanical cash register with the metal leaves that pop up with the dollar amount. It first started clackin’ up the prices nearly 70 years ago — 1944 — three years after Clayton’s opened its doors.

The boys were off at the Second World War, launching D-Day.

“It still works great,” says Cheryl. She’s registering my cash — $12.12 — for Carla and my breakfast. Two eggs over easy, two sausage patties, home fries, and an English muffin. We’re gonna share.

Oh, and a bottomless cup of joe while I waited for the to-go order.

“Morning after” days like today are when you need warm, familiar comfort places like this. Clayton’s Coffee Shop diner (979 Orange Avenue, Coronado, at corner of Tenth Street, 619-435-5425), with a horseshoe counter to sit around like zombies, crash on, listen to soothing music from the juke box.

“So here we are, in the Tijuana jail, ain’t got no friends, to go our bail.”

Kingston Trio. One of them, Nick Reynolds, was a Coronado boy. Used to come in here. Died just a few years ago.

Carla and I have come to see the Christmas get-up and lights at the Del. Us and 10,000 other shuffling post-holiday tourists.

But first, she wants to have this breakfast in the sun on the beach. And, yes, it’s a mess by the time we hump it down there. But a beautiful lake-warm scramble, with my coffee still warm, just.

We’re out here among woolly-dressed turistas and hovering gulls waiting for a toss of our English-muffin leftovers. And kids building doomed sandcastles at the edge of the water.

Best part is the yellow-egg home fries gunge that’s left at the bottom, scooping it up with the muffin.

Sorry, gulls.

’Course there’s that cutting breeze here. But nothing a cuddle can’t help.

by Ed Bedford

**Wings for North Park**

The North Park outlet of New York Buffalo Wings is (I believe) the fourth store for the local mini-chain, heretofore restricted to the South Bay and East County. They’ve occupied the old Zia’s building, selling primarily wings and ribs. Sure, they’ll put some boneless wings on a salad or cram them into a sandwich, but I admire the brazen limitations of the menu. The sign says “wings and ribs” and, dammit, that’s what you get!

I passed on ribs, but an order of 15 wings and a half-dozen breadsticks set me back less than $20 with a couple of drinks. That amount of food turned out to be a sizeable snack for a party of three, and the wings themselves were on the better side of good! The skin was crispy and crunchy under the bright orange sauce. The drumettes and flats had been fried hard enough that even the cartilage and crispy bits at the end of the bone had become scrumptious. The sauce was probably Frank’s-based, and I actually approve of the hugely tangy kick that sauce has. It reminds me of North Carolina barbecue, which is the odd bird of barbecue, for sure, but the eye-watering burn of vinegar and chili peppers can be awesome to behold. Tempered with butter, it just about beats all in a buffalo wing.

Somebody at NY Wings loves sports. All of them. In all the cities. The hodgepodge decor pays homage to sports teams of every stick and ball persuasion from across the nation. Call me crazy, but I would almost prefer a collection of Buffalo, NY, tchotchkes or somesuch, as the general purpose sports theme seems weird; like, are they trying to please all the fans?

That’s a minor point of contention, however, and the wings were very good. I didn’t get a chance to try any ribs, but I saw a few racks go out and they looked enormous. Personally, I will go with the hot wings every time.

New York Buffalo Wings, 2940 El Cajon Boulevard.

by Ian Pike

**A Spike joint**

Ever heard of a guy named Spike Africa? Me neither, but soon, the name of this mid-20th-century seafarer (known by some as the “president of the Pacific Ocean”) will adorn the façade of a new restaurant in the Gaslamp Quarter. Scheduled to open in January, Spike Africa’s Fresh Fish Grill Bar will be located at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Broadway (411 Broadway, downtown).

The eatery is a product of Seafaring Ventures, LLC, which is perhaps best known for developing the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurants. While a focus on sea fare provides a common bridge between that chain and this new venue, Spike Africa’s will embrace a different theme based on its namesake. Executive chef Paul Rinaudo will steer the ship, sourcing product from around the world, including fish, shellfish, and produce from local fishermen and farms.

The menu has yet to be unveiled, but sample dishes being leaked out include an entrée of seared scallops with Italian sausage, citrus sauce, and navy beans. Spike Africa’s will also offer a Port Townsend Seafood Simmer — scallops, mussels, shrimp, and fish in a tomato-based broth. Simply prepared fish will also be available with seasonally changing accompaniments.

Visually, the interior will utilize en vogue components such as reclaimed wood, exposed brick, and faux-worn materials in tandem with marine hardware and other oceanic touches to create a space that offers a hybrid urban and nautical motif. In addition to the main dining room, the 4200-square-foot space will offer an 18-seat bar serving beer, wine, and spirits. Definitely an upgrade from the space’s previous identity as a Payless shoe store.

by Brandon Hernández
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San Diego Reader January 10, 2013 59
“Yeah, I bet rent’s not cheap in La Jolla,” I said.

“At that’s just one part — some of the cost is due to the quality of ingredients. They might have USDA prime dry-aged steaks that we couldn’t buy at Vons. There are foods sourced specifically for a high quality beyond what we can find in our local shops.”

Our expectations were high when we entered the restaurant. We were joined by good friends and fellow foodies Mia and Kerry. The last expensive meal I had was in September, when David and I went to Napa to celebrate our tenth anniversary and we dined at Redd in Yountville, a town known for its culinary geniuses. It was one of the best meals we’d ever had.

The problem with high expectations is that the smallest letdowns are amplified. Things began on a high note — the room was cozy, we were able to find a reasonably priced bottle of Leal’s Threeosome, a smooth Rhone-style blend.

I didn’t try the amuse bouche — David is my taster, and though he liked the bite, he knew I wouldn’t care for the fish flavor of the tuna.

David and Kerry were pleased with the plate. They got the platter of three: chicken liver, duck and pistachio, and potted beef short rib. The chicken liver was the most flavorful. The others, while nice, seemed to be a little underseasoned, especially considering their being served cold.

I ordered the “butternut squash soup with lobster and blood orange reduction.” But what I received tasted like blended raw ginger with a hint of squash. The smell of ginger overwhelmed the table. Even Mia, who loves ginger, said it was so unbalanced as to be inedible. Our server (who was great, by the way, but this is to be expected at a place like this) agreed that it was strangely heavy on the ginger, especially for a flavor not even mentioned in the menu’s description, and removed the dish from our bill.

The next disappointment came in the form of Miš salad — “roasted apple, prosciutto, burrata, pickled butternut squash, arugula, pepitas, and a cider reduction.” This was described by our server as a “warm salad,” so we were expecting the apples to be roasted all the way through. And warm. Instead, they were lightly browned on the outside but still cold and crunchy, as though fresh. The pickled squash was also crunchy. The burrata, which we expected to be cool and fresh in contrast to the other warm items, was room temperature. After being passed around the table twice, this dish still had plenty of bits left on it when it was removed from the table.

Mia ordered the sea bass, served with spaghetti squash, ginger (there’s that flavor again), snap peas, and pearl onions in a brown butter. I had a bite of it. Our server as a “warm salad,” it was nice. And, most importantly, Mia was very happy with what she ordered.

Kerry ordered veal cheeks. I tried a bite, even though David tried to stop me. I spit out what felt like a ball of slime onto my plate as David sighed and Kerry and Mia laughed. “Veal cheeks are a fatty cut, you know,” David said. He’s all too familiar with my texture aversions. Kerry, who also has no problem with oysters, loved every bite of it.

The birthday boy ordered the “oak fire roasted Niman Ranch pork loin,” served with house-made sauerkraut, double-smoked bacon, and roasted carrots and apples. After his first bite, a perplexed look came over my man’s face. “This tastes just like ham,” he said. “I like ham, but when I order pork loin, I’m not expecting it to taste like ham.” The pork itself was tender and well prepared, but one bite and I agreed: it totally tasted just like ham.

My entrée was a big step up from my ruined appetizer. I ordered the scallops with shaved brussels sprouts, lamb bacon, and squash. I loved the sweet bits of the grilled squash in contrast with the salty, rich bacon. The bacon sauce on the brussels sprouts was a little heavy for the dish. But the scallops were cooked to just the right temperature and texture (meaning not overcooked and perfectly pan-seared).

Overall, it seems like things may have slipped since the restaurant received all those local and national accolades in 2009. When you save up your pennies to experience an amazing meal on a special occasion, you hope the restaurant will live up to the hype. In this case, unfortunately, it didn’t.

by Barbarella Fokos

### Chennai style

A back, I lavished some praise on Punjabi Tandoor for its hearty curries. Since then, I’ve had the vegetable curries of southern India on my mind, so I went back to Miramar in search of Madras Café, which I’d heard was a fountain of Tamil food served on the caractère stainless steel plates of India’s southern states (I suppose fresh banana leaves would be out of the question). After a few trips up and down Black Mountain Road, I spotted the café in a mini-mall with a grip of other Indian businesses.

Midweek, the restaurant serves thali — roughly the Indian equivalent of a Hawaiian plate lunch. For about $9, a two-course meal of starters, curries, rice, and soups provides ample, all-vegetarian sustenance. Yup, that’s right, Madras Café serves no meat. I didn’t miss it, either.

First course in the thali consisted potato-stuffed dosa and chickpea fritters, both of which were excellent when swished...
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through the tangy, tamarind-based sambar that came alongside. I also tried an order of idli soaked in sambar. I love the little cakes of fermented rice and lentils that are a staple breakfast food and snack in southern India, and Madras' idli didn't disappoint. The were spongy, delicate, and fun to eat.

The curry dishes were a bit hit-or-miss. Stewed cabbage with coriander was a clear favorite and reminded me of the popular Ethiopian dish atakilt in some ways. A mushroom gravy was the only real downside of the meal, as its funky, heavy flavor didn't gel with the fresh, tangy zest of the other foods. The other unidentified vegetables were just adequate. The rasam soup was too salty and not rich or tangy enough. Spreading liberal amounts of (coarse sugar) that was incredible (molecular gastronomy terms).

The words, “vapor,” “powder,” and “balsamic caviar,” leap from the page. This wasn't just cooking — this was food science. My curiosity had been piqued.

I was there with a girlfriend. Neither of us cared for salmon in general, but after our server described a special — “maple-cured salmon on blinis with dill mariscapone and cucumbers” — we decided to be bold and try it out. We each managed one, and they were tasty (especially if you like salmon). Had there been something other than salmon on there, I would have gone for the third. So far, the only sign of chemistry was evidenced in the foam atop our blinis.

My favorite flavors of the evening arrived in the “mushroom ravioli with grapes” dish. I think the excellent combination of gravy in savory dishes is underused (one of my favorite pizzas features fontina, bacon, and champagne grapes). With the lightly sweet and savory combinations and a delectable richness that didn’t cross the “too heavy” line, the mushroom ravioli, with grilled corn and arugula, is one of those, “give me a piece of bread so I can sop up every bit of that sauce” deals.

It’s no secret I’m not a fan of truffle oil. I cannot wait for this truffle-oil–everywhere-trend to end. But I’ve learned to accept that it is — at least for now — a staple on every menu, funk up everything from burgers and fries to soup and steaks. I know it’s meant to be luxurious, but despite my love of mushrooms, I find the stuff too funky for my mouth. Still, because I had to see what the vapor was all about, I ordered the “forest vapor mushroom bisque,” with wild mushrooms and — I’d sigh — white truffle oil. Here’s how it works: the soup is served on a big plate and encircled with aromatic greens such as rosemary, sage, and thyme. Once it’s on the table, a server pours boiling-hot water onto the plate around the bowl, and all the green, earthy aromas rise in the steam, so that you are breathing in the “forest” as you taste the mushroom soup.

I’d been dying to try some real “caviar.” Not fish eggs, ew. I mean the chemistry kind — using the process of “spherification” to create tiny balls of gel-encased liquid. In the case of the “grilled vegetable tart” I ordered, the liquid would be balsamic vinegar. I’d heard how these little balls “burst” in the mouth, the interior for the liquid inside. My understanding is that, for the interior of the balls to remain liquid, these things have to be served immediately. Otherwise, the gelification process continues and instead of balls of liquid, you end up with balls of jelly. That was the case with the balsamic caviar that was served atop the

Calendarsection

Empire House Brunch

I’ve said nice things about Empire House before, mostly because I think the kitchen there manages above-average execution of the staple dishes that makes up the menu. It took me forever and a day to make it into EH for brunch, but I had the chance to put the restaurant’s breakfast credentials to the test over the weekend. As with dinner, the menu was on the shorter side, though all the important bases were covered. I tried to wrap my head around the idea of a “Benedict burger” ($13.95), but I wasn’t prepared for a hamburger with an order of eggs benedict on top. Since I already know EH’s burgers are too funky for my liking, I reverse-engineered the problem by trying the normal eggs benedict ($10). The eggs were delicately poached, and the ham had been sliced thickly. The hollandaise, while imperfect, was still better than average (which says much of the typical quality of of hollandaise sauce) and could at least claim rich flavor and a luxurious texture. Perhaps the biggest surprise was that the side of home fries was served hot. Time and time again, I’m served cool, but not outright cold, sides of potatoes with my breakfast. Getting a piping-hot pile was a delight.

Double, double, stir in trouble...

My beer pick of the week: A brewski with, uh, roasted green chilies in it.

Talking about Karl Strauss’s Green Chili Big Barrel Double IPA.

I discovered this by accident. Was sitting here at Karl Strauss’ original downtown joint, the old, old brick one covered in vines (1157 Columbia Street, 619-234-2739). This was a tonight-only cask beer. It’s flatter and warmer than most cervezas. No CO2. The ale’s sucked out of the cask by a “beer engine,” a kinda siphon pump.

Also, this one’s cheaper: $4 a pint, and it’s not even happy hour. Also, quite a bang for your buck: 9 percent alcohol.

But what sets this apart: its load of roasted green chilies brewed into it. The first sip flanges around your gills like electricity. Makes you think cactus, nopal paddles. You check your tongue for spikes.

And you wonder what’s this being done in a cerveza? But, quicker than you realize, it begins to lay on you like a warm blanket... okay, with some claws coming through, but seductive, like cat-woman.

Partly it’s that this is a one-off cask beer. Yes it’s spicy-hot. But its flavors are fatter. Jeff, the p.m. (perpetual motion) bartender, says it was their head brewer Paul Segura’s idea to do the chill thing. They’re roasted first, then dunked into this hoppy beer.

Have to say, Karl S. is coming out with some good stuff these days.

by Ed Bedford

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$2 off entree


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I must try that benedict-smothered burger. Perhaps someday when I have someone to drive me home afterward.

Surfing the menu, I liked the look of the “Ninja’s Nest” (fries covered in bacon, cheese, and a fried egg for $8), as well as the "Poor Man's Scramble,", which made use of hot dogs, potatoes, and cheddar cheese in a self-consciously white-trash departure from conventional breakfast meals. Interestingly, El Jefe’s brunch plates often include side dishes, which normally command an additional premium at the restaurant during dinner hours. The agreeable pricing only serves to strengthen my recommendation of Empire House as a solid destination, now for any mealtime.

Empire House, 127 University Avenue.

by Ian Pike

**Gualberto’s Fish taco replaces cow’s hoof?**

Honestly, it was the cow’s hoof. That’s the only reason I hopped off the Orange Line trolley at Encanto and headed for the rack of stores beneath the clay cliff that runs up the valley here.

I remembered Caribbean Taste (Caribbean Taste Jamaican Restaurant, 6171 Imperial Avenue, 619-795-1772) does a kind of cow's hoof stew. And, yeah, once you get used to the idea, they have a squelchy but kinda nice savory taste to them. And any Jamaican will tell you, they beat Viagra 10-1, heh-heh. But disaster strikes again. “We’re out! You have to come soon,” says this guy outside. “Just do it” consumption. I confess, I began scooping up the spicy, lime-juice-soaked shrimps with fried tortillas, but I gradually to just eating them with a fork.

Ahi tuna and red snapper tostadas are both must-haves. The ahi comes dressed with soy sauce, fried onions, and avocado, while the snapper is a cleaner presentation that lets the delicate fish be king. I found the tostada “de la reina” something of a flop, as the sea of carrot juice in which the whole thing floated was too weird to overcome. Would that I could have gotten a dozen oysters in its stead! It matters little, however, since a meal for moderate eaters barely broke $30... and that included a few of the fun mezcalt-based cocktails that the bar mixes up.

Anybody looking for a TJ mariscos quickie should follow Mr. Del’s lead and get to La Corriente on the double.

by Ian Pike

**Chinese BBQ in City Heights**

There’s not much to Tom’s BBQ in City Heights. The storefront comprises a counter, register, display case, and a table that looks like it isn’t for sitting at; at least, not for customers. All of this is slammed into a strip mall with a couple Mexican stores and a laundromat. In the display, the Chinese barbecue hangs from hooks and slings, crisping in the bright heat of high-powered lamps. It’s the grim and beautiful scene of roasted meats — Hellraiser combined with Food Network — characteristic of siu mei shops in Hong Kong and the world over. There are no side dishes and no beverages. Cash is the only allowable currency. And it’s damn good.

I got in late, when all the char siu pork was gone, but I did manage to acquire a half pound of roast pork with crispy skin and some fried buns. The pork was fatty and beautiful, rich in flavor and seductively tender, but the skin had been roasted to a crispness that almost hurt my teeth. The dumplings were sweet, almost like a doughnut, but stuffed with an ambiguous meat paste. I ate three without batting an eyelash.

The cost of entry is marvelously low. Barbecued meats are in the $10/pound region, with bits of offal and other garily pieces available much cheaper. Pork intestines and chicken feet? If you’re on a budget, go for it! The whole, roast ducks are less than $20, which is about what a duck costs to buy in the supermarket, and the golden-brown birds at Tom’s look better than most people can do at home.

Since Tom’s only does the BBQ, it’s no good for getting a whole meal. Well, you can eat just barbecued pork, but if you want a vegetable or something you had better cook it at home. Realistically, add a little steamed bok choy, some rice, and a bottle of Hoisin sauce and you’d have yourself one hell of a meal on the cheap.

Tom’s BBQ, 4414 University Avenue.

by Ian Pike

**Ceviche jackpot**

I have got to start bringing my phone with me when I go to Mexico. I always try to travel extra-light, but there are too many things to take pictures of. For example, it’s a shame that I didn’t get a snapshot of the lounge at La Corriente Cevicheria Nais when I went there last week. The following recommendations of TJ-savvy Reader staffer Chad Deal. While the front of the restaurant is the spitting image of the Krusty Krab from Spongebob Squarepants, the hipster barroom out back bears Victorian trappings in the form of wingback chairs around coffee-table seating and taxidermied animals on the walls.

Seriously, it’s very cool and a mere hop, skip, and a jump from the border; on Sixth Street, just east of Revolución. One can easily park and walk to ensure an even quicker trip from SD to TJ for some bomb ceviche.

La Corriente produces exceptional aguachiles, on tostadas or served right in an enormous molcajete for “however do it” consumption. I confess, I began scooping up the spicy, lime-juice-soaked shrimps with fried tortillas, but I graduated to just eating them with a fork.

Ahi tuna and red snapper tostadas are both must-haves. The ahi comes dressed with soy sauce, fried onions, and avocado, while the snapper is a cleaner presentation that lets the delicate fish be king. I found the tostada “de la reina” something of a flop, as the sea of carrot juice in which the whole thing floated was too weird to overcome. Would that I could have gotten a dozen oysters in its stead! It matters little,
Thursday 10
From the mythical city of Tijuana, borderland goth-punk band Dancing Strangers will visit their beats-borne take on ‘90s post-punk (Joy Division, JAMC) on the Tin Can Ale House. Astronauta Jackson (Nño Casas) and Eric Curiel (Electric Healing Sound/Shanetle) are curators and instigators in a TJ scene that is swelling with adventurous artists adding fresh-ground Latin beans to an old idea of future pop. What the what... Any- way, get to the interwebs and check out fist-pumper “The Politician” off of last year’s Power. Sex. Cor-ruption or more recent release Lost in Lust, from which “Secrets in Denial”super-effectively channels Ian Curtis. Legs will open. Giggily... Speaking of Joy Division, did you see that Peter Hook’s going to be M—Theory signing copies of his book Unknown Pleasures on February 2 at 2? Put that date in your smutty device... fanboys and girls.... Back to Thursday: Denver’s rock-steady Repercussions will drop reggae-informed punk numbers and take down the Shakedown after local “post-crunk” duo Killer Party and pop-punk politikos Castoff. Updwn, San Diego’s soul sister at Lady Dottie & the Diamonds will do their weekly thing at the Tower Bar... whilst the Rock ‘n Roll Preservation Society DJs Diana Death, Heather Hardcore, and Miss Kylee spin for your rock- roll estimation at Ti-Two in University Heights. There’s no quiz this week, but your book reports on Johnny Thunders: In Cold Blood are due.

Friday 11
Experimental shapeshifters Primitive Noyes will celebrate a CD release at Eleven on Friday. Near as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called. The Neverwinning folks are due. So take that with a grain.... Speaking to the mouth of Joy Division, did you see that Peter Hook’s going to be M—Theory signing copies of his book Unknown Pleasures on February 2 at 2? Put that date in your smutty device... fanboys and girls.... Back to Thursday: Denver’s rock-steady Repercussions will drop reggae-informed punk numbers and take down the Shakedown after local “post-crunk” duo Killer Party and pop-punk politikos Castoff. Updwn, San Diego’s soul sister at Lady Dottie & the Diamonds will do their weekly thing at the Tower Bar... whilst the Rock ‘n Roll Preservation Society DJs Diana Death, Heather Hardcore, and Miss Kylee spin for your rock- roll estimation at Ti-Two in University Heights. There’s no quiz this week, but your book reports on Johnny Thunders: In Cold Blood are due.

Saturday 12
The Howls will take the stage at Casbah Saturday night for their part in the Middletown mainstay’s 24th anniversary month. The Stoner all-country act will be joined by Mrs. Magician, whose reverbering garage-punk majik opens the show. I think Strange Heaven’s the only local release from last year still popping up in the truck’s carousel. But I’m wicked lazy, so take that with a grain.... There’s another anniversary happening downtown at House of Blues, where 91X will celebrate its 30th year with, um, cutting-edge-of-rock locals Slightly Stoopid, P.O.D., Buck-O-Nine, the Ragbumps, and Vokab Kompany... At any rate, the other other other band, I’m calling as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called as I can tell, the new “electroiscape” collection is called. The Neverwinning folks are due. So take that with a grain.... Speaking to the mouth of Joy Division, did you see that Peter Hook’s going to be M—Theory signing copies of his book Unknown Pleasures on February 2 at 2? Put that date in your smutty device... fanboys and girls.... Back to Thursday: Denver’s rock-steady Repercussions will drop reggae-informed punk numbers and take down the Shakedown after local “post-crunk” duo Killer Party and pop-punk politikos Castoff. Updwn, San Diego’s soul sister at Lady Dottie & the Diamonds will do their weekly thing at the Tower Bar... whilst the Rock ‘n Roll Preservation Society DJs Diana Death, Heather Hardcore, and Miss Kylee spin for your rock- roll estimation at Ti-Two in University Heights. There’s no quiz this week, but your book reports on Johnny Thunders: In Cold Blood are due.

Sunday 13
“I’m thinking about burning the Walmart down.” That’s the opening to this week’s Daydream Nation opens the show.... Daydream Nation delivers L.A. psyche-pop band Nightmare Air to the Griffin for a trio of dates this month. With alt-rock brainiacs Kenseth & Brandon (Sleeping People) turn up at Eleven... and after a couple of sell-out sets at House of Blues last week, Social Distortion is back downtown for two more nights of tarty SoCal punk ‘n’ roll. Red Devil Squadron up first on Tuesday, while Wednesday works in one of my favorite blues-punk duos, Sean Wheeler & Zander Schloss. My editor went to one of the Social D shows last week, but if I wrote what he said, he’d just delete it. I’ll put it on my Facebook page because it was pretty funny and he doesn’t “do Facebook.” BUT HE’S THE COOLEST GUY. AND SEXY.

Monday 14
San francis-blue-punk band Spider Head drops in on Eleven Monday night. The four-piece is touring in support of its new EP, Under the Gun, which apparently will make you want to “surf and break mailboxes at the same time.” Huh. Tournées Happy and local boy Dumest Ani- mals (love the Lego video!) are also on the bill... a couple blocks east, psych/surf beast Barbar- ian continues its Monday residency at Soda Bar. Parquet Courts and Ditches dig in first this week.

Tuesday 15
The technique Tycho plugs in at Belly Up on Tuesday. Synth-driven chillwaver Scott Hansen's taking a break from recording his follow-up to clerk's Dive to stretch out the new material. Doombird opens the show.... Daydream Nation delivers L.A. psyche-pop band Nightmare Air to the Griffin for a trio of dates this month. With alt-rock brainiacs Kenseth & Brandon (Sleeping People) turn up at Eleven... and after a couple of sell-out sets at House of Blues last week, Social Distortion is back downtown for two more nights of tarty SoCal punk ‘n’ roll. Red Devil Squadron up first on Tuesday, while Wednesday works in one of my favorite blues-punk duos, Sean Wheeler & Zander Schloss. My editor went to one of the Social D shows last week, but if I wrote what he said, he’d just delete it. I’ll put it on my Facebook page because it was pretty funny and he doesn’t “do Facebook.” BUT HE’S THE COOLEST GUY. AND SEXY.

Wednesday 16
Eleven stages the Rich Hands, whom the esteemed San Antonio Current last year called... their city’s most underrated band, describing the quartet's sound as “60s garage-rock concentrate with a heavy dose of white-boy soul.” I don't know how underrated they are anymore, but the rest is spot-on. Go here to hear some fresh-faced Texas twang: theirenhands.bandcamp.com. Dark Thirty opens the show.... Harlem hip-hop duo Cannibal Ox is down the street at Soda Bar in advance of their tour-secret new CD. Chicago “electromanjican” Keith Masters splits the bill... It’s back-to-school up at the U, where Ché Café welcomes Italian screamo band Reain. Loma Prieta, Birdbrain, Lybur- num, and Haruka fill that bill... while across campus (and the musical spectrum) indie-folkies Sea Wolf lay some Old World Romance on the Loft.... In case you haven’t heard. Gilbert Castellanos has found a new home for his Wednesday-night jazz jam — Seven Grand in North Park. I have not been yet, but the word is the room sounds great and the bar stocks premium jet fuel. I am cirding.

— Barnaby Monk

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“I was building a reputation for ‘puttin’ on a clinic,’ in the streets and in the studio.”

Born and based in Clairemont, 31-year-old songwriter/producer Joseph Sardina, aka Lil’ Joe, founded Non-Stop Records in 2005. “Before having any thoughts of being an artist, and being the youngest brother of four, I was given the name Lil’ Joe by the older crowds,” says the former James Madison High student.

He released his debut album, Starvin’, in 2005, followed by Playin’ My Cards Without a Queen in 2010, both under his Lil’ Joe name. “I’d describe my music as commercial or mainstream, with an underground twist. It’s 1990s-style hip-hop, positive swag with a West Coast feel, no racial slurs, not trendy, and done from a playa’s P.O.V.”

Sardina now calls himself the Clinic. “After years of producing albums for myself and others, and doctoring music for people, I was building a reputation for ‘puttin’ on a clinic,’ in the streets and in the studio, with the sound I deliver.” His full-length debut under a new title, Playareally, was released in spring 2012, while his follow-up, Big Stang Theory, came out on December 21.

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?
1. Tupac, All Eyez on Me. “You can never play out this album.”
2. First Degree the D.E., Planet Zero. “I was always a fan of this album. He creates his own beats.”
3. The Game, LAX. “This one has a real hard sound and kind of pumps you up.”

No Fun (If the Homies Can’t Have None) are both spent about $250, which included dinner and drinks in Old Town and a hotel room at the Hilton Mission Bay.”

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THE YOUNGER YOU?
“Long-term success doesn’t come overnight.”

WHO SHOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE?
“Jason Statham — he’s always a badass in his films.”

WHAT REMAINS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?
“I want to tour the world, showcasing and vacationing, go to a Super Bowl, and visit NASA. I also really want to visit Italy and Amsterdam.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?
“I love cooking, I work full-time in telecommunications, and I’m interested in astronomy.”

MUSIC
JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Best Advice You Ever Got?
“A graduate of the Musicians Institute in Hollywood named Gary once told me, “You’re only as good as your last song.”

Most Visited Websites?
“I check Facebook, ReverbNation, and Twitter for status updates, Yahoo for news, and ESPN for sports. I’m a huge NFL and MLB fan, of the Chargers and the Padres, of course.”

Greatest Win?
“$4000 on a football bet.”

Brush With Fame?
“I opened up for the Game, D1 Quik, Rappin’ 4 Tay & Spice 1, Kokane, and Lil’ Flip.”

Mac Or PC?
“Mac, for sure. I work my magic on there with Pro-Tools recording software.”

What’s Your Poison?
“Jack Daniel’s.”

First Book?
“Dr. Seuss.”

Topic Forbidden At Your Funeral?
“My will and what I would leave behind.”

If You Could Read Our Minds?
“I’d immediately try to earn money with such a talent and become a magician, or maybe the world’s most famous mind-reader.”

Worst Movie?
“The Langoliers was the most annoying movie ever, as well as the most disappointing Stephen King film. And I like most of his movies.”

Most You Ever Spent On A Date?
“ Probably about $250, which included dinner and drinks in Old Town and a hotel room at the Hilton Mission Bay.”

Biggest Lie You Ever Told?
“How much I spent on a date.”

Law That Should Be Changed?
“The alcohol ban on the beach should be lifted. It’s senseless.”

What’s In Your Music Player?
1. Snoop Dogg, Doggystyle. “I’m a huge Snoop fan of this album. He creates his own beats.”
2. First Degree the D.E., Planet Zero. “I’ve been a fan of this kid for years. He produces his own albums, and I’m interested in astronomy.”
3. The Game, LAX. “Not the best Game album, but it definitely party jams.”

What’s In Your Music Player?
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“Dr. Seuss.”

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“The alcohol ban on the beach should be lifted. It’s senseless.”

Makeover Tuesday

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?
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3. The Game, LAX. “This one has a real hard sound that kind of pumps you up.”

4. Snoop Dogg, Doggystyle. “Gin and Juice’ and ‘Ain’t No Fun (If the Homies Can’t Have None) are both spent about $250, which included dinner and drinks in Old Town and a hotel room at the Hilton Mission Bay.”

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“Jason Statham — he’s always a badass in his films.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?
“I love cooking, I work full-time in telecommunications, and I’m interested in astronomy.”

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www.buddha-for-you.com
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- **1/31** The Wood Brothers w/ Kenny Eng and Rob Deez, Robert Bondurant Band
- **1/29** The Acoustic Spot pres. Kopelman of Dining Out SD w/ Jorma Kaukonen
- **1/27** FM 94.9 Presents Son Fous-Fous Five

**Recent Performances:**

- **1/25** The Credentialed w/ Jimmy Woodward Trio
- **1/19** 9 PM on Saturday
- **1/18** 9 PM on Friday
- **1/15** 9 PM on Tuesday

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BY DAVE GOOD

They can make a whole song out of two major chords. This means that something very entertaining must also be going on simultaneously. Not that it happens all the time in the Red Wanting Blue songbook, but two major chords can sap a band's ability to remain interesting. This is where Scott Terry comes in. As RWB's front man and occasional guitarist, Terry is not so over-the-top as he is a pent-up frenzy of energy. When he sings, he looks as if about to rupture a throat artery. You feel his inner whup-ass wanting to come out in a song. That it never does not meant as criticism. Many other middle-of-the-road one-hit-wonder bands such as Hootie and the Blowfish have had huge pop-music careers by mining a similar vein: that the singer should sound as if on the edge of an emotional breakdown of some kind. Otherwise, Red Wanting Blue seems like a band of decent enough guys without vices or even the thought of, say, smashing up a hotel television set. RWB is a Columbus, Ohio, band with a 20-year history and thousands of road shows under their belt. They have released nine full-length CDs to date, including last year's From the Vanishing Point. A band with zero in the way of radio support or chart-toppers, they are still waiting for that breakthrough album to arrive. So is their label and management, the same group that handles Coldplay and Dave Matthews. Red Wanting Blue, by the way, is not a political concept. "It means going after something you weren't meant to be," Terry once told an interviewer. Might this be the underlining story of Red Wanting Blue and their deserved fame? Perhaps. But for those days when you really need a feel-good song? This band is the hot ticket. The Darrors also perform.

RED WANTING BLUE: the Griffins, Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. 619-684-1816. $10 advance/$12 door

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Moshe Kasher
From Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham"

Friday & Saturday January 11 & 12 • 8 & 10:30 pm

El Cajon Brewing Company: Wednesday, 6pm — Robin Henkel Blues Trio. Free.

Eleven: Friday, 9pm — Primitive Noyes, Psicomagia, Mystery Cave. $5. Sunday, 5pm — Gentleman and Lights in the Sky. $3. Monday, 9pm — Spider Heart. $4.

Tuesday, 9pm — Kenseth & Brandon, Reverter, Ana. $5. Wednesday, 9pm — The Rich Hands. $5.

Moshe Kasher
From Comedy Central’s “Live at Gotham”
San Diego Reader
January 10, 2013

Thursday, Jan. 10 7pm
PLATO SOUL (DANCE)

Friday, Jan. 11 5pm
LOTUS THE BAND (JAM BAND)
9pm
DETROIT UNDERGROUND (MOTOWN & DANCE)

Saturday, Jan. 12 5pm
NOISY TOYS (JAZZ FUNK)
9pm
RISING STAR (DISCO & DANCE)

Sunday, Jan. 13 9pm
JASON BROWN (SMOOTH JAZZ)

Monday, Jan. 14 7pm
BLUE LARGO (BLUES)

Tuesday, Jan. 15 7pm
JESSE DAVIS (SMOOTH JAZZ)

Wednesday, Jan. 16 7pm
MAJOR INTERVAL (R&B)

HAPPY HOUR
½ off food and beverage
5pm-7pm every day of the week (excludes Holidays)

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January 1-30 • 72 Lucky Guests get $1,000 in Cash
Five Points Per Entry • Drawings Every Wed. & Sat. at 9pm

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**Battle Born**

**The Killers**

By Meghan Roos

Nevada’s finest is back in action with guns blazing. After nearly four years, the Las Vegas-based alt-rock band the Killers released their fourth studio effort, *Battle Born*. After the band's previous release, *Day & Age*, which dropped in 2008, the Killers toured extensively, took a brief hiatus, and explored various side projects. *Battle Born* is a progressive next step for the group, reflective and mature, even as it retains the grand flourishes and heavy synth trademarks the band is known for.

On tracks such as “A Matter of Time,” “Miss Atomic Bomb,” and the first single, “Runaways,” the Killers deliver the kind of energetic pulses and deep sonic layers that made “Mr. Brightside” and “Read My Mind” hits in the past. “Here with Me” and “Deadlines and Commitments” are slower, more serious, evidence of the group’s evolution as musicians and maturation as songwriters. New developments aside, *Battle Born* delivers the traditional sounds and narrative lyrical styles that fans and critics have grown to expect, revealing a comprehensive work that is another triumph for the Killers.

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**Soda Bar**

Tuesday, 8:30pm — Translation Audio, Damn Riot, Elektric Monk.

Friday, 8:30pm — Boy King, Ho Ho Silver Oh, Mothlight.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Barbarian, Parquet Courts, Ditchcites.

Tuesday, 8:30pm — Digital Jammer, 2B, Joshthebear. $8.

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**Gallagher’s Pub & Grill:**

*Thursday* — Reggae Thursday.

*Wednesday*, 9pm — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

*Gran Tapas:*

*Thursday* — Dusty Brough & Eva Scow. Free.

*Grant Grill:*

Friday, 8pm — Jonathan Karrant, Danny Green, Ben Wanicur.

*Griffin:*

*Thursday* — Red Wanting Blue.

Friday, 8pm — Her Crimson Love.

Saturday, 8pm — The Nards.

Sunday, 8pm — Choirs, Vignette, Roxy Moonslinger. $7.

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**House of Blues:**

*Friday*, 7pm — Sin.

*Saturday*, 9pm — 145th Street.

*Friday* — Element of Soul.

*Saturday* — Love.

*Thursday* — Club.

*Friday* — Jesse Davis. $5.

*Thursday* — Gallagher’s Pub & Grill:

*Friday* — Little Fowl, Podunk Nowhere. $5.

*Friday* — Aaron Fein.


*Saturday* — The Reckless.

*Monday*, 9pm — Deejha and The Dads. $8.

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**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:**

*Thursday*, 7pm — Plato Soul. $5.

*Friday*, 7pm — Detroit Underground. $12.

*Saturday*, 7pm — Rising Star. $12.

*Sunday*, 10am — Stelita.

*Sunday*, 8pm — Jason Brown. $12.

*Tuesday*, 7pm — Jesse Davis. $5.

*Wednesday*, 7pm — Social Distortion. $30-$52.

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**Jett Gallery:**

*Saturday*, 8pm — The Midnight Pine, John Meeke, Pigion Lord.

*Jumping Turtle:*

*Saturday*, 7:30pm — The Toven. $10-$12.

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**Keller Gallery at Point Loma Nazarene University:**

*Friday*, 7:30pm — Millotones Orchestra. Free.

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**Kensington Club:**

*Saturday*, 8pm — The Touched, Globosnax, the Sek’s. $3.

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**Kraken:**

*Saturday*, 9pm — Blasting Idiots. Free.
Upcoming Shows

January 18 — Carea Lynnett, Sunday Hustle, As the Crow Flies.
January 20 — Fred Benedetti plays Cat Stevens and Simon & Garfunkel.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
January 26 — The John Jorgenson Quintet.
February 1 — Ray Wylie Hubbard.

January 18 — Hargro.
January 28 — Hausmann String Quartet.

Beaumont’s: 5662 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-0474.
January 16 — Mike Myrdal.
January 19 — Cougar Canyon Band.
January 21 — Jones Revival.
January 23 — Allegro.
January 24 — Simeon Flick.
January 25 — Fish & The Seaweeds.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
January 17 — Femi Kuti and The Positive Force.
January 18 — Dead Man’s Party.
January 19 — Tower of Power.
January 20 — Kelley James.
January 22 — Lee Coulter and Michael Tierman.
January 23 — Beer Fest with the Tit.
January 23 — Cash’d Out, Jonny Two Bags, Salvation Town.

January 24 — Nicki Bluhm and The Gramblers.
January 25 — Joe Bonamassa.
January 27 — Jorma Kaukonen.
January 28 — Battle of The Chef Bands rock & roll benefit to fight domestic violence.
January 31 — The Wood Brothers.

Block 16 Union & Spirits: 334 7th Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-501-4600.
January 31 — Josh Abbott Band.

Boar Cross’: 390 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-2989.
January 17 — Acoustic.
January 19 — Jon Goodhue.
January 21 — One of the Best.
January 24 — Paul & Paula.
January 26 — Sprung Monkey.
January 27 — Tailspin.
January 28 — Frank Harmon & Trailer Park Rockstar.
January 29 — The Aristocrats and Travis Larson Band.
January 31 — The Cro-Mags.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Blvd, Escondido, 760-839-4138.
January 26 — Best of Doo Wop.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-221-4335.
January 15 — The Doo Wops.
January 16 — Titus Andronicus.
January 17 — He’s My Brother She’s My Sister and Kera & the Lesbians.
January 19 — Cadillac Tramps, Creepy Creeps, Widow.
January 21 — Family Wagon, Rusty Maple, Schizophrenics.
January 22 — Coda Reactor, the Fuzz Bombs, Oddball.
January 24 — Shake Before Us and Social Club.
January 26 — Dead Meadow, Daqqa Bloom, Harsh Toke.
January 27 — Cody Chesnutt.
January 28 — Family Wagon, Great White Buffalo, Jupiter.
January 29 — Niki & the Dove and Vacationer.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311.
January 17 — The Parmesans and Sledging With Tigers.
January 18 — Agonizing Blight, Puberty Wounds, Burnt.
January 19 — Branch.
January 20 — St. Ranger and the Frights.
January 24 — Ancient Alien Jamboree Festival Day 1.
January 25 — Ancient Alien Jamboree Festival Day 2.

January 22 — She’s My Sister and Kera & the Lesbians.

Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD: Russell Lane at Gilman Dr., La Jolla.
January 23 — Takae Ohnishi.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-235-0804.
January 18, January 19 — Brian Stokes Mitchell.

January 18 — The Aristocrats and Travis Larson Band.
January 19 — The Cro-Mags.

The Edge: 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd., Santee.
January 19 — Robin Henkel with MC "Shotgun" Tom Kelly.

January 20 — Family Wagon.

Escondido Center for the Arts: 350 North Escondido Blvd, Escondido, 760-839-4138.
January 26 — Best of Doo Wop.

January 20 — All Kids Good.
January 21 — The Outlaws.
January 22 — Brixton Beat.
January 23 — Nashville Pussy.

January 20 — Stallion.
January 23 — Backyard Babies.

January 21 — Spring Monkey.
January 22 — Les Claypool’s Neurosis.

January 20 — Booty Bassment.
January 21 — The Parmesans.
January 22 — Days to Change.

January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

Hubbard: 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd., Santee.
January 19 — Robin Henkel with MC "Shotgun" Tom Kelly.

January 21 — The Parmesans.

January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

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January 20 — The Parmesans.
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January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

Cafe and Court: 334 7th Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-232-4355.
January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

January 19 — Robin Henkel with MC "Shotgun" Tom Kelly.

January 20 — The Parmesans.
January 21 — Days to Change.

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January 21 — Days to Change.
January 21 — Deja and Walter’s jazz jam.
January 22 — Walter’s Chicken Jam.
January 23 — 14th Street.
January 24 — Johnny Vernazza.
January 25 — Mystique Element of Soul.
January 26 — Family Style.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:
45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 851-693-1819.
January 18, January 19 — Sharon Cuneta.

Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier:
1000 North Harbor Dr., Downtown San Diego.
February 16, February 17 — Legends on the Bay 2013: Tribute to the Reggae Legends.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
15418 Espola Rd., Poway, 858-748-0565.
January 18 — Clint Black.

Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center:
3935 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147.
January 17 — Rob Bondurant.
January 24 — The Jim Ryan Project and Unpaved Highway.
January 25 — Jonny Diamond.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
January 18 — Paul D’Anno.
January 19 — Michael Sweet of Styx.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:
777 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-713-6777.
January 22 — Supertasty.
January 23 — Wednesday Jazz with Kice Simko & Friends.
January 29 — Supertasty.
January 30 — Wednesday Jazz with Kice Simko & Friends.

Robbie’s Roadhouse:
530 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-634-2365.
January 30 — Cowboy Jack.

The Rock Bar:
7745 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-741-6677.
January 19 — Underworld: Industrial, Elektro, Darkwave.

Ruby Room:
1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
January 21 — Sundrop Electric and Without Papers.

San Diego Civic Theatre:
1100 Third Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-570-1100.
January 26, January 29, February 1, February 3 — The Daughtry of the Region.

San Diego History Center:
February 8 — Bach Collegium San Diego “When Cupid Strikes.”

The Shakedown Bar:
3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
January 18 — Oddball and the Natives.
January 19 — Stealth By Starlight and Cantina Renegades.
January 25 — Personal Conflict and Arab Spring Radar.
January 26 — Idols Plague.

Smoky’s Lake Wohlford Cafe:
25484 Lake Wohlford Rd., Escondido, 760-749-6858.
February 9 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

Soda Bar:
3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
January 14 — Lasting Field, Ugly Boogie, the County Fair.
January 18 — The Flowerthief and Ralsea Little.
January 19 — Subsurfer, the Atomic Age, Grand Tarantula.
January 20 — Glossary and Future You.
January 21 — Barbarian, the Abigail, Idyl Wild.
January 22 — Rob Solito, Keith Sweaty, Dream Buddies.
January 23 — Wovenhand, Heart Beat Truck, Octa-grape.
January 24 — Old Tiger, River City, the Midnight Pine.
January 25 — Cowcos Chaos and Incan Abraham.
January 26 — Wax Tailor.
January 27 — Ken Stringfellow, the Maldvives, Rookie Card.

Space 4 Arts:
325 15th St., East Village, 619-269-7230.

San Diego’s #1 Live Concert Venue | WE’RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Upcoming Shows: 2/23 - Molly Hatchet • 5/31 - Paul D’Anno • 7/13 - Josh Blue

February 19 — Teagan Taylor Trio.
January 26 — Unidentified Fusion Orangeman.

V Lounge:
January 18 — FX5.
January 19 — Makat.
January 25 — Party Quake.
January 26 — Caliber.

Valley View Casino Center:
January 21 — Muse.

Whistle Stop Bar:
2236 Fern St., South Park, 619-284-6784.
January 17 — Makeout Weird.
January 18 — Fking the Bushes.
January 19 — 80s vs 90s.
January 23 — Vinyl Snobs with Kah Love & Sweetchuck.
January 25 — Royal Fam Crew.
January 26 — Booty Bassment.

Winstons:
1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
January 18 — The Pink Floyd Experience.
January 20 — Joe Sinatra hosts O.B.-o-ke.
January 21 — Electric Waste Band.
January 23 — Open Mic with Jefferson Jay.
January 27 — Joe Sinatra hosts O.B.-o-ke.

Zél’s Del Mar:
1247 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-0076.
January 26 — Robin Henkel.
CLAREMONTE
Blaney Stone Pub: Monday-Fri., 4-7pm. $5 off all drinks.

COLLEGE AREA
Casa Machado: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm. $5 off 97 specialties, $3.50 drinks. $3.50 wells, margaritas. Free chips & salsa.

CORONADO
Bistro d’Asio: Daily, 3-6pm. $3 beer, $3.50 Gekkeikan sake, $4 wine, $5 sake-tini. Sushi specials, $5 chicken sliders, vegetable spring rolls, wings.

EL CAJON
Main Tap Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm. $1 off 16-oz. pints, $2 off pitchers, $3.50 wells.

ENCINITAS
3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: Local draft beer, $3. House wine, $4, Sangria, $4/ glass and $4/carafe. Well drinks, $5 10pm-1am. $10 food specials. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-1am. $100 food specials.

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

Monkey Paw: Daily, 5-8pm. $1 off local draughts and drinks.

EASTLAKE
Chili’s: Monday-Sunday, 3pm-close: $1 off drinks, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese.

HARBOR ISLAND
The Boathouse: Daily, 3:30-5pm. $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

HILLCREST
Busalchic’s A Mudo Mio: Monday-Friday, 6pm-8pm. $12 off Wine Bottles. Saturday, 3-6pm. $4 liquor, 4-6pm. 40% off. All margarina live. Live Music Thursday, 4pm-6pm. 360p. Live Music Saturday, 9pm-11pm. $2 Mimosas. Live Music. 4pm-6pm. Sunday, Breakfast 9am-2pm. $2 Mimosas. 4pm-6pm.

Wine Steals: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm. $4 for 8 different glasses of wine. $2 select pizza slices. Saturday, 6-4pm. $10 wine tasting of 10 wines. Sunday, 11am-corn, 12-2off all white wine flights, $10 for 6 all glasses wine.

IMPERIAL BEACH
The Salty Frog: Tuesday, 6-6pm: “Toss it Tuesday” — each drink has 50/50 chance of costing a quarter. Thursday-Friday, 9pm close. $1.50 Jager bombs and Fireball shots. Sunday, 1-4pm: $4 bloody mary bar; $3 Smirnoff flavors.

KEARNY MESA
94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $2.75 glass wine, draft beer; $3.50 domestic & imported bottles. $3.50 margaritas. Free buffet: pizza, quesadillas, veggie rolls.

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

LA JOLLA
Aloha Sushi Hawaiian Grille: Daily, 4-6pm: $2.50 small sake, $4 large sake, $1.50 select hand rolls, $3 cucumber roll, $3.50 California, spicy tuna, veggie roll

Barbarella: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3.50 all drafts (Stella Artois, Heineken, Miller Lite, Trumer Pils), bottles (Corona, Newcastle, Moretti), wells, select wines by the glass. $7. Barbealla mantinis. 1/2-off appetizers.

LA Jolla Brew House: Friday, Saturday, 10pm-1am: $2 Off Pints; $3 Wells & Wines, Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

SU Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells and appetizers (excluding seafood & guacamole).

Sushi on the Rock: Daily, 5-6:30pm. $2 sake, Goyo Light; $3 sake; $4 Soju spritz, $5 house wine. $1.75 vegetable roll, $2.75 spicy tuna roll, $4.75 spicy salmon roll.

Whisknadel: Daily, 5-7pm: 25% off all bottles of wine; $20 shot of picanha. 5pm-close: $3.50 Catalina shrimp, marinaded chickn, salted almonds.

LA MESA
The Go Lounge: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday, 7-7pm: $3 draft beers, Smirnoff shots, glasses of wine, and well drinks. $2 jack shot with beer purchase. Tuesday, 2-7pm: $3 draft beers, Smirnoff shots, glasses of wine, and well drinks. $2 jack shot with beer purchase. 9-11pm: $2 you-call-its.

Rivera Supper Club & Turf Room: Monday, Thursday-Sunday, 6-9pm & 9pm-1:30: $1 off cocktails, drafts; 1/2-off onion/cheese combo sliders. 3:30-7pm, all day: $10 food specials. Friday-Saturday, 6-4pm: $1 off cocktails, drafts; 1/2-off onion/cheese garlic bread, tater tots, onion rings.

LAKEVIEW
Dirk’s Niteclub: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 5:30 off all drinks $10.50 or less, 6:30pm-2am: $15 off beer and wine.

LEUCADIA
Bar Leucadian: Monday-Wednesday, 4pm-6pm: $2.50 large drafts, domestic-12 oz. $3. $10 off 12-oz. bottles, $6.50 6 oz. pitchers.

Coo Coo Club: Monday-Friday, 6:30-8:30pm: $2.75 doughnut, doughnut hole, bottles (Budweiser, Miller Lite, Coors), $1 off draft beer.

LEMON GROVE
Dirk’s: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 5:30 off all drinks $10.50 or less, 6:30pm-2am: $15 off beer and wine.

LEUCADIA
Bar Leucadian: Monday-Wednesday, 4pm-6pm: $2.50 large drafts, domestic-12 oz. $3. $10 off 12-oz. bottles, $6.50 6 oz. pitchers.

Coo Coo Club: Monday-Friday, 6:30-8:30pm: $2.75 doughnut, doughnut hole, bottles (Budweiser, Miller Lite, Coors), $1 off draft beer.

LINDA VISTA
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

LITTLE ITALY
98 Bottles: Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $4 draft beers and house wines, $5 off bottles of wine, $2 off sake samplers, big bottled beers, and flatbreads, $1 off wine and sake by the glass and rice bowls. Wednesday, 5pm-midnight: $4 draft beers and house wines, $5 off bottles of wine. $2 off sake samplers, big bottled beers, and flatbreads, $1 off wine and sake by the glass and rice bowls.

El Camino: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3:30-7pm: $3 margaritas, sangria, Corona Light, 1/2-off quesadillas and nacho plates. Tuesday, 5pm-1am: $3 margaritas, sangria, Corona Light, 1/2-off quesadillas and nacho plates. Wednesday, 3:30-7pm: $3 margaritas, sangria, Corona Light, 1/2-off quesadillas and nacho plates.
Perhaps ample spectacle space is only to be expected from a trio of owners including the former owners of the Cygnet Theatre in Old Town and Hjerling, whose eclectic history most recently saw him managing the traveling cadaver anatomy exhibit, Bodies, in Hawaii.

The Back Room’s lineup includes regular installments of Painting and Vino — an art class paired with wine — trivia, CD-release parties, fashion shows, private events, and jazz nights, many formerly presented by the renowned Dizzy’s (check out Robert Bush’s Jam Session blog reviews for more).

Ditch the cover charge for a free monthly concert presented by the Homegrown Hour, San Diego’s longest running local-music radio show, showcasing up-and-coming talent. This month’s presentation features Caresa Lynnett, Sunday Hustle, and As the Crow Flies on Friday, January 18.

Street parking is readily available and is free after 6 p.m. and all day Sunday. Airport Parking Garage is a few blocks away at Kettner and Laurel ($9/24 hours).

—Chad Deal

Find more Here’s the Deal columns at Sandiegoreader.com

2nd Saturday with Big Sky Brewing!
Dueling Casks: Hound Dog Imperial Powder Hound vs. Chipotle Porter

ON TAP:
2011 Biere De Noel 4 Roses Barrel | Double Ipa Dry Fly Barrel | Berliner Weiss
All Souls Dark Tripel | 2010 All Souls Imperial Saison | 2010 Ivan Imperial Stout
2011 Old Bluehair barley Ale | 2011 Ivan Imperial Stout | Buckin Monk Tripel
2011 Barrel Aged Ivan Imperial Stout | Hound Dog Imperial Powder Hound
Biere De Noel | All Souls Imperial Saison | Super Drolp | Ipa | Trout Slayer Wheat
Cowboy Coffee | Powder Hound Winter Ale | Wheat Wine
Scape Goat Pale | Moose Drolp Brown

COMPLIMENTARY FOOD PAIRING:
Smoked Venison Bbq, Lobster Mac & Cheese, Elk Sausage With Red Beans and Rice, Bison Shepherds Pie, Cooked Greens and Celebration Cake! All food freshly hunted and caught for this event!

Here’s the Deal
98 Bottles 98 bottlessd.com

Taking their name from a twist on the drawn-out folk song (the 99th bottle presumably being the one in your hand), 98 Bottles lends its own flourishes to the bottle-shop/beer-lounge arrangement that is on the rise around town — especially in its Little Italy neighborhood.

The lounge invites you to choose from about 20 rotating taps, bottled-brew six-packs ($1.75 to $7.99 each), sake, wine, soju, agave wine, and local, organic appetizers (including some of the best homemade kimchi I’ve ever had at $2 a plate) to enjoy in their polished living-room atmosphere, but it’s the Back Room that sets 98 Bottles apart from other shops in the area.

“My business partners are from the theater world,” says co-owner Chris Hjerling. “They used to perform on Broadway. Back in the day, lots of clubs had live-music places behind their bar. We wanted a big back-room space where there is something always going on.”

Choose from about 20 rotating taps, six-packs, sake, wine, soju... agave wine, and local, organic appetizers

Hours:
TUESDAY–SATURDAY, 5 P.M. ’TIL MIDNIGHT. LAST CALL FOR TO-GO BEER, 10:30 P.M.

Happy:
5 TO 7 P.M., TUESDAY–SATURDAY AND ALL DAY WEDNESDAY — $5 OFF BOTTLES OF WINE; $4 DRAFTS AND HOUSE WINE; $2 OFF SAKE SAMPLERS, BIG BOTTLED BEERS, AND FLATBREADS; $1 OFF WINE AND SAKE GLASS AND RICE BOWLS

Cards: COOL
las and nacho plates. 5-11pm: 1/2-off taco plates. Sunday, 10am-4pm: $1 mimosas.

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

MIDWAY DISTRICT
Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 French fries, $4.50 chicken wings.

MISSION MESA
Bamboo Hut: Daily, 3-6pm: Buy large beer, get small house sake free. $2.75 small beer, $3.25 house wine, $2.95 gyoza, $4.95 lumpia, $5.50 tempura crab roll.

MIRAMAR
The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-close: $4 margaritas, $5 you-call-its; $6 Jayne's Starlite.

MISSION BEACH
Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4pm-11pm: $2.95 gyoza, $4.95 lumpia, $5.50 tempura calamari, tempura avocado, more.

MISSION VALLEY
The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: Daily, 4-7pm: Margaritas.

NATIONAL CITY
Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: Friday, 3pm-sunset: $3 domestic beer, $3 import and local beer, $5 house wine, mimosas, bloody marys.

NESTOR
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thursday, All day: $3.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two for one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

NORMAL HEIGHTS
The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $3 draft, bloody marys, $5 you-call-it; $6 Jayne's Gastropub fare.

NORTH PARK
Bar Pink: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $1 off drafts and calls.

Imig’s Kitchen and Bar: Monday, 4:30-6:30pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 beers; $4 well cocktails. 5-9pm: $5 burger and a draft beer. Tuesday, 4:30-6:30pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 beers; $4 well cocktails. 5-9pm: 1/2-off bottles of wine. Wednesday-Thursday, 4:30-6:30pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 beers; $4 well cocktails. Friday, 5-10pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 beers; $4 well cocktails. 6pm: Live music. Sunday, 7am-3pm: $5 bottomless mimosas; $22 bottomless mimosas with brunch item; $5 bloody marys.

Lips Restaurant: Sunday, all night: Industry Night; $3.50 wells, $5.50 calls, 25% off entrees & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

OCEAN BEACH
Mother’s Saloon: Monday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks, 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: $3 Jägermeister shots. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks. Tuesday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks; 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: $3 Fireball shots; $1.50 tacos. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks. Wednesday, 7pm-close: $5 Rolling Rock and shot; $1.50 TJ dogs. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks. Thursday, 9pm-close: $3 you-call-its; $5.10 sliders. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks. Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks, 1/2-off appetizers; $2.75 well. 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks. Saturday-Sunday, 11pm-close: $2.75 well; $1 off drinks.

OCEANSIDE
Aryana at Holiday Inn: Daily, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, wells, $3 premium, glass of wine. Appetizer specials.

OLD TOWN
Old Town Mexican Cafe: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $3 drafts, wells, $1 off other. Sunday, all night: $5 mules. $15 off wine bottles.

SAN MARCOS
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines. $1 Taco Tuesday, 5pm-6:30pm: Wings Wednesday, $1 off pitchers. Thursday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2 off wines by the glass; $3 house wine, $3.50 drafts, wells.

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

SOLANA BEACH
The Saddle Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

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

TIERRASANTA
JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 wells, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.

UCSD
Porter’s Pub at UCSD: Daily, 11am-7pm $3 Menu; 4-7pm $1 off all beer.

TIERRASANTA
JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 wells, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.

MISSION VALLEY
The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-close: $4 margaritas, $5 you-call-its; $6 Jayne’s Starlite.

MISSION MESA
Bamboo Hut: Daily, 3-6pm: Buy large beer, get small house sake free. $2.75 small beer, $3.25 house wine, $2.95 gyoza, $4.95 lumpia, $5.50 tempura crab roll.

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SOLANA BEACH
The Saddle Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

SOUTH PARK
Hamilton’s Tavern: Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local drafts.

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

TIERRASANTA
JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 wells, domestic drafts, $3.25 house wine.

UCSD
Porter’s Pub at UCSD: Daily, 11am-7pm $3 Menu; 4-7pm $1 off all beer.

UNIVERSITY CITY
Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-30-6:30pm: $3 oazo aperitif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
Small Bar: Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local draughts and drinks.

VISTA
Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexicali Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic imports, $2.75 margaritas $3 wells, microbrews, $4 Leaping Horse wine. 3-5pm: $1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.

Vista Entertainment Center: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic and $3 premium drafts; $3 wells.
San Diego Reader
January 10, 2013
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Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

**THEATER LISTINGS**

**An American Story**  
Hershey Felder’s world premiere drama tells the story of Abraham Lincoln’s last day and of Dr. Charles Augustus Leale, the 23-year-old Union Army medic who was the first to reach the presidential box at Ford’s Theatre.

BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, 8PM TUESDAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 3.

**Death at the Doo-Wop**  
In the Murder Mystery Company’s interactive dinner-theater show, the “class of 1957 is having one killer prom!” Mention the San Diego Reader and receive a reduced rate.

SAN DIEGO HALL OF CHAMPIONS, 2131 PAN AMERICAN PLAZA, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-2544. 7PM FRIDAYS, 7PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 18.

**A Feminine Ending**  
Scripps Ranch Theatre presents Sarah Treem’s “bittersweet romantic comedy.” A young woman, engaged to an almost famous man, meets up with her first love. Jill Drexler directed.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 10.

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**  
Presenting the Shakespeare play with an ’80s twist. Gods mix with mortals, a feuding king and queen unleash magical practical jokes on one another, spells yield improbable love affairs and a band of comical tradesmen wander into an enchanted wood and are transformed in the most unlikely ways.

SAN DIEGUITO ACADEMY, 800 SANTA FE DR., ENCINITAS. 760-752-1121. 7PM FRIDAYS, 7PM SATURDAYS.

**National Comedy Theatre**  
The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.”

NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 MIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 9:45PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM AND 9:45PM SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

**Night Stage to Big Shaft**  
Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. “When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect.”

MIKKI’S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

**South Pacific**  
Welk Resort Theatre stages the popular Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about the developing relationship between a Frenchman and a girl from Arkansas. Joshua Carr directed.

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM AND 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 1PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN. THROUGH MARCH 17.

**Truth Values**  
Are women inferior to men in math and science? NYC writer/performer and “recovering mathematician” Gioia De Cari offers a woman’s perspective on this question.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 8PM SATURDAY.

**Welk Resort Theatre stages South Pacific through March 17.**

**Clybourne Park**  
by ARICE BRIGGS
directed by SAM WOODHOUSE
Jan. 12 - Feb. 10, 2013

A Comedy about Race, Class, and Real Estate in America.

**WINNER**

2012 TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY
2011 PULITZER PRIZE

“SMART, ABRASIVELY FUNNY AND FIENDISHLY PROVOCATIVE.”

–LA Times

“SUPERB, ELEGANTLY WRITTEN, AND HILARIOUS.”

–New York Times

THE 100th anniversary production of George Bernard Shaw’s modern masterpiece starts Saturday.
Gangster goulash

Judging by the dewy exhalation that sigthed forth from at least half the audience in attendance at the prerelease screening, it may be that the opportunity to put sensitive, handsome Ryan Gosling in a suit and fedora was reason enough to make Gangster Squad. (Poor Emma Stone; it’s hard to play a gorgeous gun moll when your costar is just as pretty as you are.) Then again, judging from the gasps and winces that came later in the screening, it may have been the opportunity to bring Herschell Gordon Lewis—levels of gore to the gangster genre: people getting ripped in half by cars, hands snapped off by elevators, bits of brain matter floating in a pool beside a corpse. Judging by the more pedestrian indicators of story and dialogue, however, the point here is that The War Is Over, But The Battle Goes On. Our boys have traded their Army uniforms for police badges, but things prove trickier on the homefront. Corruption abounds, thanks to ruthless gangster Mickey Cohen (a glowering, guttural abounds, thanks to ruthless gangster...)

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Gangster Squad — not so much hardboiled as boilerplate

FILM FESTIVALS

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA LIBRARY
2001 Newcastle Ave., Cardiff 760-733-4027

Teen Movie and Munchies Snacks and fun at the library with a feature film on the big screen. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cardiff Library. 760-733-4027. Saturday, January 12, 12:00pm.

Dinner and a Movie Bring your own dinner and enjoy a screening of The Big Chill. Presented by the Friends of the Cardiff Library. 760-435-1000. Wednesday, January 16, 6:00pm.

ENCINITAS LIBRARY
540 Cornish Dr., Encinitas 760-753-7376

Co-Merge 330 A St., Downtown San Diego 619-255-8940

Lunafest Film festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through nine short films by female filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, motherhood, body image, aging, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. Food and cocktails will be served.

Thursday, January 10, 6:00pm

Timothy Green A couple buries a box in their backyard with all of their wishes for an infant. A child is born, though Timothy Green is not all that he appears. (PG) 125 minutes. 760-753-7376. Tuesday, January 15, 4:00pm

The Bourne Legacy This film is the latest in the Bourne series. It introduces a new hero whose stakes have been triggered by the events of the previous three films. (PG-13) 135 minutes. 760-753-7376. Tuesday, January 29, 4:00pm

THE GRAUER SCHOOL
1300 South El Caminito Real, Encinitas 760-944-6777

Documentary: Miss Representation Film screening and post-film discussion of the 90-minute film written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. The film, which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, reveals how all forms of media contribute to the under-representation of women in American leadership positions and an over-emphasis on youth and beauty. Grauer@grauerchool.com or 760-944-6777.

Thursday, January 17, 6:00pm

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHC ARTS
1681 El Prado, Balboa Park 619-238-7559

Nessuno mi può giudicare (Escape in Love) Directed by Massimiliano Bruno, this 2011 film stars Paola Cortellesi as a housewife and a mother to nine-year-old Filippo (Giavanni Bruno) enjoying a luxurious home and lifestyle in a posh part of Rome until her husband dies in a car accident. Includes “over-the-top comedy, romantic sentimentality and just a dash of social commentary.”

Friday, January 18, 7:00pm

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
820 E St., East Village 619-238-5800

Film Movement: Hospitality Mikio Kobayashi lives quietly with his wife, daughter, and divorced sister in downtown Tokyo. One day Kagawa appears, claiming to be the son of a financier who once helped Kobayashi’s company. In return for his family’s past help, Kagawa requests to move in, and Kobayashi’s quiet lifestyle is quickly forgotten when Kagawa invites his wife and a myriad of eclectic and foreign visitors to join him in the cramped apartment. Saturday, January 26, 12:00pm

Fine print: Schedule subject to change. For the purists in the crowd, it’s best to call the theaters ahead of time to check on the format.

— Scott Marks
The war continues. Lincoln visits a battlefield and gazes upon the vast array of corpses. Lincoln visits Grant, who notices that the President looks deeply shaken. Lincoln grants the point. Then the war ends, then we get a happy interlude with Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln. Only then do we get the assassination and the fade to the second Inaugural.

Here’s my take: the turning point of the film, it’s dramatic highlight, comes when Lincoln changes his mind about the telegram being sent to the men bringing the Southern delegation and its offer of peace to Washington. Initially, he asks that they be brought to the city. Once there, they will offer their terms, and it is likely that the war will end. And if the war ends, we are told, the amendment is not likely to pass in the aftermath.

Lincoln discusses first principles with the telegram operators, ponders his place in history, and makes a fateful decision. He changes the telegram, and instructs the men to keep the Southern delegation outside the city until further notice. This becomes a crucial step in getting the amendment passed, because he is able to tell his opponents that there is no Southern delegation in Washington prior to the historic vote. Lincoln gets his win because he changed the telegram.

But you know what else happens because he changed the telegram? The war goes on longer than it would have if the Southerners had been allowed to come to Washington and make their peace offer. That battlefield Lincoln visits would never have received its rain of American blood. Lincoln prolonged the war to get slavery abolished, and men died because of his decision. That’s the real story of Lincoln. That’s why the film cannot end until we see that Lincoln sees the consequences of his decision.

“But wait!” you say. “Surely the voting scene on the amendment was the dramatic high point of Lincoln?”

I don’t think Spielberg thinks so, and I think he lets us know — quietly but certainly. Throughout the film, Lincoln discusses two things: the amendment and how to get votes for it, and preserving the lives of soldiers (his son foremost among them). But at the final hour, with two votes still to go, do we see the masterstroke moment of genius that allows the president to get those precious votes? No. We just see him demand that his people get those votes. And lo and behold, the next day, he gets them. It’s a dramatic cheat — unless getting those votes isn’t the point. Unless the point is what comes after: the death of American soldiers because Lincoln prolonged the war.

In the very final scene, what part of the second Inaugural does Spielberg give us? This: “Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman’s 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3000 years ago, so still it must be said ‘the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.’” Lincoln is here expressing his willingness to prolong the war and shed additional blood in order to free the slaves. Though in the end, it is his judgment, not the Lord’s, that he is asking us to affirm as true and righteous.

— Matthew Lickona
Gangster Squad — Reviewed this issue. — M.L.

Generation P — A post-Soviet Russian poet (Vladimir Epifantsev) discovers his own usefulness to a generation that can only be seduced and sold a job at a kick, selling condoms and cigarettes to the newly capitalist masses. It’s not long before the world of buyable crap gets to him and he “reading his customers’ hands to determine just how much he can short-change them. Naturally, he winds up ad man.

But because this is Russia, his best work is also his most cheerfully nihilistic. The film never fails to congratulate itself on its bleak, black humor but plunges steadily deeper into the machinery of manipulation — politicians are products, too, after all, and nations are just brands. And all the while, his hero gradually ascends his own personal Tower of Babel, there to beset the godfather and unravel the terrible mystery at the heart of life. Director Victor Ginsburg works hard with what he’s got, but he’s not sold a trick. The intellectual equivalent of courting death in order to feel more alive. 2011. — M.L.

The Guilt Trip — Babs dearest. Barbra Streisand could write her own first-class ticket on any project in Tinseltown, but instead, she redeems her nod to Reagan in this terminal cutie justification for matricide. Rogen — an uptight ticket on any project in Tinseltown, but here, he’s reading his customers’ hands to deter-mine just how much he can short-change them. Naturally, he winds up ad man. And just because this is Russia, his best work is also his most cheerfully nihilistic. The film never fails to congratulate itself on its bleak, black humor but plunges steadily deeper into the machinery of manipulation — politicians are products, too, after all, and nations are just brands. And all the while, his hero gradually ascends his own personal Tower of Babel, there to beset the godfather and unravel the terrible mystery at the heart of life. Director Victor Ginsburg works hard with what he’s got, but he’s not sold a trick. The intellectual equivalent of courting death in order to feel more alive. 2011. — M.L.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas and selling us a ticket to the Ring trilogy’s pro-gram. It’s not a knock on the first instalment, but a pro-gram. And the second instalment, the 1.5 hours of Ari Graynor as Streisand’s Kathy Najimy, Miriam Margolyes, and Olivia Williams, Elizabeth Marvel, so does his subtle talent. As a rich, French quadriplegic, he is all sharp, suave nuances as a new cocky newcomer (Omar Syl) in his limited cheerful wheelie-car with fun and warmth. So overlays dude-ness, but the two are amusing and touching together, and the story is not too sappy. There is a priceless moustache joke near the end. 2012. — D.E.

★ ★ ★

Jack Reacher — “A Tom Cruise Production” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know. Here, he plays Jack Reacher, an irreverent, invisible genius who appears out of the mists of chicle to investigate a rogue sniper’s shooting spree. (The opening sequence, in which Reacher — first pedestrian and then another and then another, is both chilling and promising, as the dialogue-free investigation of what comes after. Then, suddenly, we’re deep in TV procedural territory.) Reacher teams up with the sniper’s lawyer (Rosamund Pike) who’s told to a smart crusader-type out to hear her dad the death penalty.

★ ★

Django Unchained — Quentin Tarantino’s film is a time machine for the contemporary American — he’s reading his customers’ hands to deter-mine just how much he can short-change them. Naturally, he winds up ad man. And just because this is Russia, his best work is also his most cheerfully nihilistic. The film never fails to congratulate itself on its bleak, black humor but plunges steadily deeper into the machinery of manipulation — politicians are products, too, after all, and nations are just brands. And all the while, his hero gradually ascends his own personal Tower of Babel, there to beset the godfather and unravel the terrible mystery at the heart of life. Director Victor Ginsburg works hard with what he’s got, but he’s not sold a trick. The intellectual equivalent of courting death in order to feel more alive. 2011. — M.L.
Les Misérables — Sincere story of answered prayers, mostly those of one Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman), an ex-con who tastes mercy and tries to break free from his criminal past (even after the death of his wife, who provided the formula of bread). But the reformed man is pursued by Javert (Russell Crowe), a lawman who does not believe reform is possible. Jackman and Crowe are both game, but when almost every line is sung, the voice must do the work, and neither is quite up to the task. Crowe lacks the requisite menace, and Jackman can’t quite manage the controlled vocal acrobatics. So it’s up to Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter to steal the show. Crowe is a couple of naughty, bawdy scallywags. (The story is set in France, but the culture it portrays smells English, except there are more guns than knives.) They have the show stolen from them by Eddie Redmayne’s Marius, a young nobleman with a head full of populist ideas and a heart full of love for Valjean’s adopted daughter. (In general, the kids carry the day here.) Director Tom Hooper (The King’s Speech) builds a rich world, full of muck and majesty, but can’t resist prolonging closeups come solo time. And solo time comes often. With Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried. 2012. — M.L.

Lincoln — Score four and a half minutes ago, Steven Spielberg shifted into his John Ford mode with a film bolstering Golden Book of a movie. As the Civil War rages on, we open with a moment lifted from Saving Private Ryan: a shorter, but equally anonymous, casualty. (In fact, the kids carry the day here.) Director Tom Hooper (The King’s Speech) builds a rich world, full of muck and majesty, but can’t resist prolonging closeups come solo time. And solo time comes often. With Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried. 2012. — M.L.

Texas Chainsaw 3D — With six Chain- saw films to reflect upon, one would hope that director John Luessenhop (Takers), eager to decorate the Leatherface family tree with crisp teen body parts, would at least unearthen a fresh meat hook or two upon which to hang his tale. The story picks up where Tobe Hooper’s 1974 original ends: a淋 mob torches the farm leaving Leah’s and her newborn cousin, Hunter, as the only Sawyers to survive the opening flashback. Ingenuity begins and ends with the jokey premise — Leatherface’s cousin grows up to be a hotshot (Till Death) and leads his gang of screenwriters leave every stone unturned in their dogged effort to inflict more of the same. Whatever images you mind can arouse of Leatherface running roughshod over a packed carnival are bound to be more satisfying (and creative) than what’s splattered across the screen. Leadup character appears to give his leading lady one expert piece of direction: keep your nipples covered and belly-button exposed at all times. With the exception of a few screen-piercing lunes, the 3D effects are negligible. With Richard Riehle, Chainsaw veteran Bill Moseley, Scott Eastwood, and Tania Raymonde as the designated skank. 2013. — S.M.

Zero Dark Thirty — Spoiler alert: it ends with the bad guy getting killed. More hurt from Kathryn Bigelow in this documentary (read: hand-held camera) account of the hunt for Osama Bin Laden. From its conception to execution, the American government’s “Yippee ki yay!” murder of Bin Laden had Hollywood blockbuster written all over it. For its first 30 minutes, Zero Dark Thirty plays like torture porn, jigsaw waterboards, jihadists in Saw VIII. Jessica Chastain stars as Maya, a prototypical Bigelow heroine, initially reserved but quick to grow an icy set of balls when needed to cut it in a man’s world. She is a “Hawksian” professional of the highest order: the real-life person upon whom the character is based spent 12 years — her entire career with the CIA — doggedly pursuing the mission at hand. The Agency accuses the film of taking “signif- icant artistic license, while portraying itself as historically accurate” and its depiction of the government-sanctioned waterboarding of a messenger as a means of obtaining the vital clue needed to pin down the exact location of Osama Bin Laden is Bigelow juggling the facts or exposing truths many hold to be self-evident? When it comes to establishing and maintaining tension, there wasn’t a better American genre picture released this year. Refrain from viewing it as historical record and you won’t leave disappointed. 2012. — S.M.
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the machine and dashed into the stockroom to get more. The single-serve coffeemaker ran out of cups and espresso-making abilities for passing coffee machine and demonstrated its coffee-sized Starbucks pulled out their new Verismo employees at the Fashion Valley mall's under-

Busy store, busy hands

Starbucks coffee machine swiped at the mall

During the days leading up to Christmas, employees at the Fashion Valley mall's undersized Starbucks pulled out their new Verismo coffee machine and demonstrated its coffee-and espresso-making abilities for passing patrons and customers.

On one of those days, a Starbucks employee who was offering samples from the single-serve coffeemaker ran out of cups and dashed into the stockroom to get more. When the employee returned, the machine had disappeared.

Someone had walked off with the coffee machine, priced at around $200. The Verismo is the Starbucks version of the Keurig single-serve coffeemaker. Starbucks reportedly entered the market in September, after Keurig’s patent on the single-serve “pods” expired.

I phoned the store today, December 31, and asked an employee whether or not they had found the missing Verismo. The busy barista sighed heavily and replied, “No.”

Comments

VISDUH DEC. 31, 2012 @ 8:51 PM.

For a lousy $200 coffeemaker? There are far bigger fish to fry every day, especially at that mall.

LA MESA

Lost in the fire

Blaze breaks out next door, woman gives a first-person account

December 26 started out in a horrible and terrifying way. I was awake for less than ten minutes when someone started pounding on my door and screaming for me. It was a neighbor, telling me that smoke was coming from my house; actually, it was coming from the Granny flat behind my house, where a single father and his two children live. He and the children were not home, but I knew he had a dog that was in there, Andie.

The dog was accessible only through one window, as the gate was locked. As I contemplated breaking it, the neighbor shouted at me not to attempt it, as it could make the fire worse or cause a backdraft.

Frightened and feeling helpless, I ran back to my house, which is less than 15 feet away, to get my cat out in case the fire spread.

My neighbor began to help me move a few items out of the house. (I was in the process of moving, and all my stuff was already in boxes.) It started pouring rain.

Thankfully, the fire department arrived in less than ten minutes and put the fire out pretty fast.

Less than five minutes later, firefighters brought out Andie and started working on her in my driveway. It was excruciating to witness, but the effort they put into trying to save her is something I will never forget. They worked on her for over ten minutes, doing CPR. Sadly, Andie succumbed. They covered her with a blanket and I began to cry. I felt like she might have made it.

My poor neighbor was going to be home any minute (I had called my landlord, who alerted him), and his beloved pet was in my driveway.

When I saw him walking up, my heart sank. A few minutes later, after speaking with the firefighters, he came to the driveway and knelt over her. I hugged him and we cried.

Thanks to my next-door neighbor’s quick action, my house was safe. As horrible as this situation was, my faith in our society was renewed by it.

My neighbor began filtering through his damaged possessions the same day; he lost almost all of his and his children’s belongings. Churches of La Mesa have found him temporary housing as well as gifts for the kids and clothes.

GAIL POWELL, DEC. 31

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 90

she’s looking forward to not cooking and practicing piano. She’s working on swapping her grand piano for an upright that she can put against a wall in her apartment.

CARLOS BEY, DECEMBER 31

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East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
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South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campó • El Cajon • Imperial Valley
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1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking you posted online each week to /Reader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it in to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answer to the puzzle along with your name.
3) The puzzle-auto-tracing, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489; or mailed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92138-8003; or delivered through our mail list at 1700 India Street in Little Italy; or scanned and emailed to puzzle@ reader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in PDF form to a file named Mailbox (subject: Mailbox
5) No entry forms or email submissions will be accepted; you must submit your entry on the weekly mail-in print.
6) All entries must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.
9) One entry per person per week or if you will be disqualified.
10) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

ACROSS
1. Dance recklessly
2. Dog collar danger
3. ______ cava
4. Numerical prefix
5. Words before a deadline
6. Neural transmitter
7. Play the lead role
8. Dominatrix’s activity
10. Classic Christmas Carol
11. _________ note to follow sew ...
12. Sinister stare
13._______, cava
14. Dance to light
15. Dance, “Before”
16. Attack with snowballs
17. Some like it hot
18. Proceed to Las Vegas, maybe
19. A numeric prefix
20. Enjoy an evening at home
21. Your, of yore
22. Enjoy an evening at home
23. _________, cava
24. _________, Baja California, Mexico
25. _________, cava
26. _________, cava
27. _________, cava
28. _________, cava
29. _________, cava
30. _________, cava
31. _________, cava
32. _________, cava
33. Nay’s opposite
34. Wild guess
35. Not entirely wrong
36. “People Will Say We’re in Love”
37. Nightfall, in poetry
38. “Sounds about right to me”
39. Slightly
40. Former White House family
41. “Yes, Sir!”
42. _________, Baja California, Mexico
43. _________, cava
44. Watch out for snake
45. _________, cava
46. _________, cava
47. _________, cava
48. _________, cava
49. _________, cava
50. _________, cava
51. _________, cava
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54. _________, cava
55. _________, cava
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61. _________, cava
62. _________, cava
63. Cabinet dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
64. _________, cava
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86. _________, cava
87. _________, cava
88. _________, cava
89. _________, cava
90. _________, cava
91. _________, cava
92. _________, cava
93. _________, cava
94. _________, cava
95. _________, cava
96. _________, cava
97. _________, cava
98. _________, cava
99. _________, cava
100. _________, cava

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

61. Philosopher who opined “the errors in religion are dangerous, those in philosophy only ridiculous.”
62. “Er...um...”
63. Cabinet dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
64. 1492, e.g.
65. Bygone monarchs
66. Bygone political divs.
67. 1st Kind Rewind" actor
68. 6 x 9-inch book size
69. Enjoy an evening at home
70. 1971 film character who says “I like you, Maude”
71. “Sounds about right to me”
72. One of the Allman Brothers
73. The only U.S. state whose name rhymes with “batting.”
74. Gamaal _______ Nasser, Egypt’s president from 1956-1970
75. One who mounts and dismounts a horse
76. Explorer Cabeza de _______
77. Indie director who directed the Oscars winning film “12 Years A Slave”
78. “People Will Say We’re in Love”
80. NHK or HBO or Showtime
81. Hawaiian album
82. Dance recklessly
83. 1 Bedroom Apartments
84. One of the Allman Brothers
85. Dog collar dangler
86. Stove, refrigerator
87. At 90 mph.
88. For a graphic designer
89. “Glee” actress ________ Michele
90. Rescue financially
91. Some stubble...or this puzzle’s theme
92. Rio Madril rival, onscoreboards
93. Brie alternative
94. Real Madrid rival, onscoreboards
95. Bygone monarchs
96. Dog collar dangler
97. Coffee maker
98. Bed & linens
99. Wardrobe
100. Bed & linens

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DOWNTOWN, $800. 1BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! All utilities paid! Beautiful, extra large studio located in gated building, gorgeous wood floors, walk-in closet, built-in dresser in powder room, large eat-in kitchen with built-in table and bench, tons of cupboards, on-site laundry. 1747 5th Avenue #2. Debra, 818-797-4878. www.HughesManagement.net.

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

1) Completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our coming contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDR.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 1:00 pm Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark any puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing out all of the incorrect puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified.

3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever submissions will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 1:00 pm Monday. Late entries will not be considered.

4) Employees of the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified.

5) Late entries will not be considered.

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

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

8) Prizes will be available for pickup at 1072 E. Madison Street, 619-804-3325. No pets. Excellent location across from Petco Park, Gaslamp and Horton Plaza.

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

10) Winners a week!
What is your New Year’s resolution that you’re going to follow through on for real this time?

BY ANDY BOYD

OFF THE CUFF

Greg Santos
Hollywood
Comedian

M y continuing New Year’s resolution has always been to not have a New Year’s resolu-
tion. It’s really easy and impossible to follow through with at the same time.

Dan Venti
Ocean Beach
Comedian

I’d like to get a professional full-nude spread of myself published in Time. It would be in Time magazine’s first fully nude magazine, and I get the centerfold.

Billy Bonnell
Los Angeles
Comedian

I plan to win between three and five real rap battles. I’ll get started on the streets of L.A., which would be the best place, but eventually I want to move up to the larger clubs.

Michael Doud
City Heights
Comedian

It’s gotta be to get rid of these cigarettes. Since I was 15 when I started these, it’s the one thing that’s been on my back and I know it’s killing me.
NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires all plumbers engaged in the repair or installation work in jobs that total $500 or more to be licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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We Don't Ban
p.39 “Vago” should be “Vage,”
News Ticker
p.41 Funke should be Funcke
Happy Hour
p.68 m3 should be $3
David Batterson (North Park) $30

We Don't Ban
p.3 “shanty” should be a “shanty”
Diary of a Diva
p.8 conversational should be conversationalist
Marc Richard (Downtown) $25

We Don’t Bang
p.3 he was he should be he

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/style idiosyncrasies. Exp: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 p.m. for the issue to appear Thursday. First identification of errors wins $10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winnings limited to $3000/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 8883, San Diego, CA 92116; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).
LEAD STORY
— For years, U.S. senators Ron Wyden and Mark Udall (of the Select Committee on Intelligence) have been asking the director of National Intelligence to disclose how often the government might be “overcollecting” information on U.S. citizens by too enthusiastically applying the Patriot Act, but the director’s office has maintained that such information, whether or not it reveals wrongdoing, is classified. In July, the office finally declassified one fact: it said that senators were told that the government had “on at least one occasion” overcollected information in violation of constitutional protections — but that’s all. The number of times, and all other details, remain classified.

Are We Safe?
— In August, the former director of Homeland Security’s office in charge of shoring up the nation’s chemical plants against terrorist attacks told CBS News that, five years after Homeland Security started the chemical program, “90 percent” of the 900 most vulnerable plants have still not been inspected. The official, Todd Keil, said that when he left the job in February, $480 million had been spent, but that no plant had a “site security plan” and that management of the program was a “catastrophic failure.” (A July Government Accountability Office report confirmed that 4400 chemical plants had not been properly inspected.)

Overachievers
— (1) KETV (Omaha, Neb.) reported in September that local mother Andrea Kuby had decided to give away her stored-up breast milk to a family in greater need. She had amassed a freezer-full of 44 gallons for her now-eight-month-old child. (2) Tokyo police arrested Miyabi Kuroki, 43, in September and charged her with forgery a medical license in 2009 and subsequently treating patients at a Tokyo hospital, providing, among other things, examinations and electrocardiogram counseling. Hospital officials estimate he “treated” 2300 patients before being caught.

People Who Are a Mess
— Ihor Stetkewycz appeared in court in Warren, Mich., in June to answer for an indecent exposure incident, brought on, he told the judge, because his pants, purchased by his mother, were “ten sizes” too large. According to police sources, Stetkewycz had also recently dumped large sections of a tree in the middle of a Detroit street; had been spending, but that no plant had a “site security plan” and that management of the program was a “catastrophic failure.” (A July Government Accountability Office report confirmed that 4400 chemical plants had not been properly inspected.)

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Great Art!
— Photographer Clayton Cubitt’s video-art exhibit Hysterical Literature (the first installment of which was reviewed in August) features an attractive woman sitting at a table reading mainstream literature aloud (“everything from Walt Whitman to a science book on fungus”), but in a sexy voice and accompanied by squirming in the chair prompted by unspecified activities of a “distractor” agent supplied by Cubitt. After a few minutes, it’s clear that the woman is experiencing an orgasm. Cubitt told Salon.com that he was mocking the “quack Victorian medical theory of ‘hysteria’ in women.”

— Without the work of scientists Gregory Gage and Tim Marzullo, we might never know the effect of playing a loud hip-hop song to create vibrations that make squids’ pigmented cells change colors. The men’s Backyard Brains setup involved a 1993 Cypress Hill hit (“Insane in the Brain”), an iPod nano, and a “suction electrode to jar a squid’s muscles to reveal its the ‘chromatophores’ that are either red, brown, or yellow.

— Canadian artist Taras Polataiko’s two-week-long live re-creation of Sleeping Beauty was featured through early September at Ukraine’s National Art Museum in Kiev, with an unexpected outcome. Five women had been chosen to fall asleep daily, and by signed contract, to agree to marry the first man who awakened them with a single kiss (thus to witness “the birth of love,” according to Polataiko). Only one awake during the exhibit, but since that payoff kiss was applied by a female gallery-goer, the contract could not be fulfilled in that Ukraine forbids same-sex marriage.

Least Competent Criminals
— Dakoda Garren, 19, was arrested in Vancouver, Wash., in September on suspicion of stealing an antique-coin collection in May that was estimated to be worth $100,000. Garren and his girlfriend were identified after spending some of the coins at a movie theater and a pizza restaurant, using rare Liberty Head quarters (worth from $5 to $18.50) at their face value.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92116 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com
OPEN LETTERS BY JORY JOHN & AVERY MONSEN

To the New Year,
No joke, New Year — you’d better improve last on year. 2012 was a bust for so many reasons. When that Mayan apocalypse was approaching, I was actually rooting for it. “Bring it on, Quetzalcoatl, you feathered serpent-god of Mesoamerican lore,” I said. “Do your worst.” Yeah. The year was just that bad.

So consider this a call to action, 2013. Do a better job than your predecessor. We’re all pretty tired of bad days. Let’s make this year a good one. Sorry I rooted for the apocalypse for a second.

Sincerely,
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NAME: Verna Clark
CAR: 2005 Chevy Cavalier

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR CAR? It gets good gas mileage.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT? It's kind of a piece of junk, but it's affordable.

And none of my gauges work, so I'm never really sure how fast I'm going or how much gas I have left. It's kind of an adventure.

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DRIVEN? I drove a 1983 Toyota Taurus for a long time and a Mitsubishi Eclipse. That was my fun car.

WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO WHILE YOU DRIVE? The radio. Music, typically.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DRIVE IN SAN DIEGO? I really like driving the Sunrise Highway up to Mount Laguna.

WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVORITE DRIVE? The 15, between, like, Mira Mesa and Normal Heights, so Mira Mesa to University or Adams Avenue. It's pretty awful. That's where I hit the worst traffic. There and, when I lived in Sunset, driving from there up the 25 was pretty awful.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TICKET OR ACCIDENT STORIES? I think I've actually only gotten fix-it tickets in the last 12 years.

I was stopped at a stoplight, exiting a freeway, and a 19-year-old kid rear-ended me. So we pulled over and got out, and the kid was freak ing out. He kept saying, "Oh, my gosh. Oh, my gosh. My dad's going to kill me. Oh, my gosh." He was in his dad's car. He had no idea what he was doing or where his insurance was. I reminded him that insurance is normally kept in the glovebox, so we ran over to check there, and there it was. I asked if he wanted my insurance and he said, "No." I strongly recommended that he take my recommendation, and then he asked me what to do with it. So I handed him a pen and a piece of paper and told him what to write down. It amazed me that you let your kid drive your car without knowing what to do after an accident because they were texting.

He was very lucky I was his first accident, not someone who was trying to get away.

Also, I once hit a surfboard on the freeway. The truck in front of me ran over it and went airborne. There was nothing we could do. It was terrifying. And it left surfboard was all down the side of my car.

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM CAR? I want a (Porsche) Cayenne and I want it to be a hybrid. It's pretty and it goes fast and it's a hybrid.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SHORTCUT IN SAN DIEGO? I say I know my way! My smart phone tells me where to go.

You said you lived:

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